

Plain English Summary

Selexipag for treating pulmonary arterial hypertension

What does the guidance say?

Selexipag is not recommended for government subsidy for patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Why was selexipag not recommended for subsidy?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Selexipag was not recommended for government subsidy because its benefits do not justify its cost. If you need selexipag for treating pulmonary arterial hypertension, you can speak to a medical social worker to find out if there is other financial assistance available to help with the cost of treatment.

What is pulmonary arterial hypertension?

Pulmonary arterial hypertension is a progressive condition that worsens over time. It is characterised by narrowing of blood vessels from the heart to the lungs, which leads to abnormally high blood pressure (hypertension) and eventually right heart failure. Most forms of pulmonary arterial hypertension develop in adults. Symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath, fainting spells, chest pain and a rapid heart rate.

What is selexipag?

Selexipag belongs to a group of medicines called prostacyclin receptor agonists. It increases the amount of a substance known as prostacyclin in the lungs, which dilates the blood vessels and reduces blood pressure. It is taken orally as an add-on therapy when pulmonary arterial hypertension is not adequately controlled with other treatments.

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Is this the right treatment for me?

There are different types of treatments available for pulmonary arterial hypertension. Your doctor may recommend selexipag if other drugs cannot adequately control your condition. Your doctor should give you clear information, listen to your views and concerns, and talk to you about your treatment options.

Some of the questions you may want to ask your doctor when making decisions about your care are:

- How will the treatment affect my day-to-day activities?
- How well does it work compared to other treatments?
- What are the side effects and risks of treatment, and how likely are they?
- How much does the treatment cost?
- How long will I need to be on the treatment for?
- What happens if the treatment stops working?
- What happens if I do not want to have treatment?

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The Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE) was established by the Ministry of Health (Singapore) to drive better decision-making in healthcare through health technology assessment (HTA), clinical guidance and education. It publishes guidances on diagnosing, treating, and preventing different medical conditions based on the latest research information available worldwide.

This summary is not, and should not be regarded as, a substitute for professional or medical advice. Please seek the advice of a qualified healthcare professional about any medical condition.

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