

Plain English Summary

Tafamidis for treating transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy

What does the guidance say?

Tafamidis 61 mg capsule is recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy for patients with transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy who meet certain clinical criteria.

Other strengths of tafamidis are not recommended for government subsidy for this condition.

What is transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy?

Transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy (ATTR-CM) is a rare, progressive condition that occurs when a protein called transthyretin builds up abnormally in the heart muscles. Normally, transthyretin helps to transport the thyroid hormone and vitamin A throughout the body. However, when it becomes unstable and breaks down due to gene changes (mutations) or ageing, it forms deposits, mainly in the heart.

Over time, these deposits can cause the heart muscles to become thick and stiff. This makes it harder for the heart to pump blood effectively to the rest of the body and may eventually lead to heart failure. Symptoms of ATTR-CM usually develop slowly and can include difficulty breathing, fatigue, swelling in the legs or abdomen, and an irregular heartbeat.

Abnormal transthyretin proteins can also build up in the nerves and other organs, causing other symptoms such as pain or numbness in the hands, lower back and legs.

What is tafamidis?

Tafamidis belongs to a group of medicines called transthyretin stabilisers. It attaches to the transthyretin protein and prevents deposits from building up in the body. It is taken orally.

Your doctor will regularly assess if tafamidis is working for you and if you are likely to benefit from continued treatment.

Who can have tafamidis?

Patients with transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy can have tafamidis if they meet certain clinical criteria for starting and continuing treatment.

Your doctor can advise if tafamidis is a suitable treatment for you.

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Why was tafamidis recommended for subsidy?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Tafamidis was recommended for subsidy for certain patients with transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy as it was considered to be an acceptable use of healthcare resources at the price proposed by the company.

What does listing on the MAF mean for me?

The MAF helps people pay for treatments that are clinically effective and cost effective. If your doctor prescribes tafamidis 61 mg capsule for you, and you meet the MAF criteria, your treatment cost will be subsidised by 40% to 75%.

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 Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE  Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)

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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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