



## NCPE Plain English Summary

**Drug name:** Apalutamide (*pronounced:* A-puh-LOO-tuh-mide), in combination with androgen deprivation therapy, for the treatment of adults with metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer.

**Brand name:** Erleada®

### What is the NCPE?

The National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) is a team of experts who look at the health benefits and costs of medicines. The HSE asks us to advise on whether or not a new medicine is good value for money. We give unbiased advice to help the HSE provide the most effective, safe and cost-effective (value for money) treatments for patients.

### How do we make our recommendations?

Our main focus is on the health benefits and cost effectiveness of a medicine. We look at the wider costs and health benefits associated with a new medicine, for example:

- Does the new medicine work better than other treatments available in Ireland?
- Is the new medicine easier to give or easier to take compared with other treatments available in Ireland?
- Does the new medicine reduce the need for patients to be hospitalised?
- Does the new medicine improve the quality of a patient's life over other treatments available in Ireland?
- Will the new medicine save resources elsewhere within the health system?

We review the information from clinical trials along with the cost and value for money data presented by the pharmaceutical company. We ask doctors and other healthcare professionals for advice about any health benefits of the new medicine compared with current treatments. We also ask patient organisations to send us their views on how the new drug may improve patients' day-to-day experience of living with a disease.

### What is apalutamide used for?

Apalutamide is a cancer medicine used to treat men with cancer of the prostate (a gland of the male reproductive system). It is used when the cancer has spread to other parts of the body (metastatic) but responds to treatment that lowers testosterone levels (hormone

sensitive). Apalutamide is used in combination with a treatment called androgen deprivation therapy.

Apalutamide is also used when the cancer of the prostate is not responding to treatments that lower testosterone levels (castration resistant) and is at high risk of spreading to other parts of the body. The use of apalutamide in this setting is outside the scope of this evaluation.

### **What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?**

We have recommended that the HSE should consider funding apalutamide if its cost effectiveness (value for money) can be improved. The HSE will consider our recommendation and make the final decision about reimbursement (funding). When making the funding decision, the HSE will also consider the additional [criteria](#) outlined in the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.

We have received a Patient Organisation Submission from Men Against Cancer (MAC) about apalutamide and shared it with the HSE. This submission will form part of the data that the HSE considers.

### **Why did we make this recommendation?**

After reviewing the data presented by the pharmaceutical company, we recommend that the HSE consider providing apalutamide if the HSE can agree a suitable price reduction with the pharmaceutical company. We believe the medicine may work as well or better than other ways to manage this condition. However, the price of the medicine is too high compared with other ways to manage this condition, and we believe that the medicine is not value for money. The HSE considers a number of factors along with our recommendation when deciding whether to provide this medicine. These factors are listed in the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013

### **Next steps**

When the HSE receives our recommendation, it will look at all the relevant data about apalutamide. The HSE makes the final decision on reimbursement.

### **Where can I get more information?**

You can get more information about apalutamide from the following online options:

- the NCPE Technical Summary Document
- apalutamide European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – [Summary for the public](#)  
or
- searching for apalutamide on our website ([www.ncpe.ie](http://www.ncpe.ie));

- searching for apalutamide on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website ([www.ema.europa.eu](http://www.ema.europa.eu)).

Please refer to the NCPE website for updated information on the reimbursement status of this medicine.

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