



NCPE Plain English Summary

Drug name: Fremanezumab (*pronounced: free-ma-NEZ-ue-mab*) for the prevention of migraine in adult patients who have migraine on four or more days each month.

Brand name: Ajovy®

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 fremanezumab used for?

Fremanezumab is a medicine used to prevent migraine in adults who have migraines on four or more days each month.

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider funding fremanezumab for patients who have migraine on eight or more days each month. We have also recommended that fremanezumab should be funded for patients who have migraines on four to seven days each month if its cost effectiveness (value for money) can be improved. All patients must have tried at least three other different preventive medicines, which have not worked, before being prescribed fremanezumab. 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 the Migraine Association of Ireland about fremanezumab 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 concluded that fremanezumab should be considered for reimbursement for patients who have migraine on eight or more days each month. All patients must have tried at least three other different preventive medicines, which have not worked, before being prescribed fremanezumab. We believe that, for these patients, fremanezumab may work as well or better than other ways to manage this condition, and we believe the medicine is value for money.

For patients who have migraine on four to seven days each month, we recommend that the HSE consider providing this medicine if the HSE can agree a suitable price reduction with the pharmaceutical company. All patients must have tried at least three other different preventive medicines, which have not worked, before being prescribed fremanezumab. We believe that, for these patients, fremanezumab may work as well or better than other ways to manage this condition. However, the price of the medicine is too high compared to other ways to manage this condition, and we believe that the medicine is not value for money for these patients.

Next steps

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

Where can I get more information?

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

- the NCPE Technical Summary Document
- Ajovy® European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – [Summary for the public](#) or
- searching for fremanezumab on our website (www.ncpe.ie);
- searching for fremanezumab on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website (www.ema.europa.eu).

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

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