



## NCPE Plain English Summary

**Drug name:** Vericiguat (*pronounced: Veri-ciguat*) for the treatment of adults with symptomatic chronic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction who are stabilised after a recent decompensation event

**Brand name:** Verquvo®

### 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 vericiguat used for?

Vericiguat is administered as one tablet daily for the treatment of adult patients with chronic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (demonstrated by echocardiography) whose condition has been stabilised following an admission to hospital for the treatment of heart failure or where outpatient intravenous diuretics were required. Its beneficial effects in

chronic heart failure include an alteration in vascular function. It will be used as an add-on to current chronic heart failure treatment.

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

We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding vericiguat for the treatment of chronic heart failure as it is not a cost-effective (value for money) treatment option when compared with other available treatments. 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.

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

After reviewing the data presented by the pharmaceutical company, we recommend that the HSE considers not providing vericiguat. This is because we believe the medicine does not work as well or better than other available treatments.

### **Next steps**

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

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

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

- the NCPE Technical Summary Document
- Searching for vericiguat on our website ([www.ncpe.ie](http://www.ncpe.ie));
- searching for vericiguat 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.

**Date published: July 2022**