



NCPE Plain English Summary

Drug name: alpelisib (*pronounced: [AL-peh-LIH-sib](#)*) used with fulvestrant to treat postmenopausal women, and men, with hormone-receptor positive, HER2-negative breast cancer that is advanced or has spread, and has a mutation (change) in the PIK3CA gene. It is used in patients whose cancer got worse during treatment with hormone therapy.

Brand name: Piqray®

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 alpelisib used for?

Alpelisib (Piqray[®]) is a cancer medicine used to treat men and postmenopausal women with breast cancer that is locally advanced or has spread to other parts of the body. Alpelisib can only be used when the cancer cells have receptors for certain hormones on their surface (HR-positive) and do not have large quantities of another receptor called HER2 (HER2-negative). The cancer cells must also have been shown to have a specific mutation (change) in the gene called 'PIK3CA'. Alpelisib is used with the medicine fulvestrant (hormone treatment for breast cancer) after hormone treatment used alone has failed.

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding alpelisib. 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 concluded that it is not clear that alpelisib works as well as or better than other ways to manage this condition, and we believe that the medicine is very poor value for money.

Next steps

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

Where can I get more information?

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

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