

NCPE Assessment

Plain English Summary

November, 2024

Drug name: Imlifidase (pronounced [*im-lif-idase*])
for desensitisation treatment of
highly sensitised adult kidney
transplant patients

Brand name: Idefirix

HTA ID: 23041

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 imlifidase used for?

Kidney transplantation is considered the treatment of choice for patients with end-stage kidney disease as it improves survival and quality of life. Unfortunately, for some patients access to renal transplantation is hindered by the development of antibodies from prior exposure to blood products, previously failed transplants or pregnancies. These antibodies can lead to graft rejection and a failed renal transplant and patients are often referred to as being 'highly sensitised'. Imlifidase is used before renal transplantation and greatly reduces

the level of these antibodies which then enables renal transplantation to proceed in patients who otherwise would not have been able to benefit.

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider funding imlifidase as it has been shown to be cost-effective. 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?

We recommend that the HSE considers providing this medicine as it enables sensitised patients with end-stage kidney disease to benefit from kidney transplantation. Without access to kidney transplantation these patients would remain on long-term dialysis. The NCPE assessment indicates that imlifidase treatment is cost-effective (value for money).

Next steps

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

Where can I get more information?

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

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