



## Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee Outcome Statement 4 April 2025

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 114<sup>th</sup> meeting on 4 April 2025.

DUSC has a national focus of excellence in collecting, analysing and interpreting data on the utilisation of medicines in Australia for use by the PBAC. Review of the utilisation of medicines is an essential management tool in facilitating the objectives of the National Medicines Policy.

The PBAC is also committed to understanding consumer perspectives and integrating them into consideration of medicines and vaccines. Consumers are able to provide their views about medicine utilisation reviews to the PBAC [via the Office of Health Technology Assessment \(OHTA\) consultation hub](#).

### Submissions to the PBAC

DUSC considered two category 1 submissions which will be considered at the May 2025 meeting of PBAC. The agenda for the May 2025 PBAC meeting can be found on the [PBS website](#). DUSC provided detailed advice to the PBAC on projected usage and financial cost for the submissions where there was high cost, uncertain utilisation, first medicine in class or quality use of medicines concerns.

### Utilisation of PBS Listed Medicines

DUSC regularly examines utilisation of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) items when there is at least 24 months of prescription data available and where DUSC or the PBAC has highlighted items of interest. When an analysis of utilisation is to be undertaken sponsors are notified and provided with a copy of the report and an opportunity to comment prior to the DUSC meeting. Reviews to be considered by the PBAC are also published in the [PBAC meeting agenda](#). All reports, sponsor comments and DUSC assessment of the reports are subsequently provided to the PBAC.

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of the following PBS medicines in April 2025:

#### Single inhaler triple therapies for severe asthma

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of the following single inhaler therapies for the treatment of severe asthma: fluticasone furoate + umeclidinium + vilanterol, beclomethasone + formoterol + glycopyrronium and mometasone + indacaterol + glycopyrronium. Government expenditure on inhaler therapies had remained at similar levels after the introduction of the single inhaler triple therapies which was a result of a decrease in the utilisation of the constituent medicines within the triple therapy products. DUSC considered a potential quality use of medicines issue could arise if the convenience of a single inhaler triple therapy product was leading to less use of traditional step-wised approaches to treatment resulting in an overexposure of patients to higher concentrations of ingredients than necessary for symptom management.

#### Gastrointestinal stromal tumours

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of imatinib, ripretinib and sunitinib for the treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GIST). In 2022, 1,371 patients were supplied 9,406 prescriptions for the treatment of GIST and in 2023, 1,431 patients were supplied 9,940 prescriptions. DUSC noted the number of initiating patients in the metastatic setting had

remained relatively stable, whereas there was an increase in the number of initiating patients in the adjuvant setting.

**Zanubrutinib for Waldenström macroglobulinaemia**

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of zanubrutinib for the treatment of Waldenström macroglobulinaemia. In 2022-23, 413 patients were supplied 2,463 prescriptions and in 2023-24, 723 patients were supplied 4,962 prescriptions. More males than females were dispensed zanubrutinib at a ratio of approx. 5:3 which DUSC noted mirrored the incidence of Waldenström macroglobulinaemia in the Australian population.

DUSC requested that the utilisation reports be provided to the PBAC for consideration.

An outcome statement will be available following each meeting of DUSC. For further information, please contact the DUSC Secretariat at [DUSC@health.gov.au](mailto:DUSC@health.gov.au).

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