PBAC CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE DRUG UTILISATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The PBAC noted reports with associated stakeholder responses from the April 2025 Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) meeting, which were provided in items 10.03, 10.04 and 10.05 of the PBAC Agenda. DUSC minutes relating to these items were provided to the PBAC. The outcomes of the DUSC consideration of these items are available in the April 2025 DUSC outcome statement.

FLUTICASONE FUROATE WITH UMECLIDINIUM AND VILANTEROL FOR THE TREATMENT OF SEVERE ASTHMA

Outcome

The PBAC noted the rapid increase in the utilisation of the fixed dose combinations for severe asthma. The use of the triple agent regimens in children and adolescents was small relative to the overall market and the use of these products in patients of a younger age was not considered to be a concern. The PBAC considered that the utilisation review indicated that there was a potential quality use of medicines issue of patients first initiating on a triple drug regimen. The PBAC noted that there was an overlapping population of patients with severe asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The PBAC requested that its DUSC undertake a further analysis to examine if it was possible to quantify the size of the overlapping population.

MEDICINES FOR THE TREATMENT OF GASTROINTESTINAL STROMAL TUMOURS

Outcome

The PBAC noted that the utilisation of the adjuvant and metastatic gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GIST) PBS listings had been stabilising since the second quarter of 2022.

The PBAC recommended amending the circumstances under which imatinib is listed under the General Schedule for GIST, including:

- consolidating the listings for GIST into a single Authority Required (Streamlined) listing for ‘gastrointestinal stromal tumour’;
- the removal of additional clinical criteria; and
- the removal of the note ‘No increase in the maximum number of repeats may be authorised’.

ZANUBRUTINIB FOR THE TREATMENT OF WALDENSTROM MACROGLOBULINAEMIA

Outcome

The PBAC noted that the size of the PBS population supplied zanubrutinib was relatively small (723 patients in 2023-24). The PBAC noted that the majority of patients were supplied the highest strength (320 mg) which may indicate that few patients have a down titration of their dose due to toxicity. The PBAC requested for the removal of clinical criteria ‘The condition must have relapsed or be refractory to at least one prior

chemo-immunotherapy' and the introduction of separate PBS item codes for first- and subsequent- lines of therapy to be considered at a future PBAC meeting.