



NCPE Plain English Summary

Drug name: Apalutamide (pronounced: A-puh-LOO-tuh-mide) for the treatment of non-metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer in adult men who are at high-risk of developing metastatic disease.

Brand name: Erleada®

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 apalutamide used for?

Apalutamide is a cancer medicine used to treat men with cancer of the prostate (a gland of the male reproductive system). It is used when the cancer is not responding to treatments that lower testosterone levels (castration resistant) and is at high risk of spreading to other parts of the body. It can also be used when the cancer has spread to other parts of the body (metastatic) but responds to treatment that lowers testosterone levels (hormone sensitive). Apalutamide is used in combination with a treatment called androgen deprivation therapy.

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding apalutamide unless its cost effectiveness (value for money) can be improved. 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 although we believe the medicine may work, the price of the medicine is too high compared with other ways to manage this condition, and therefore we believe that the medicine is very poor value for money. We recommend that the HSE consider **not** providing this medicine unless the HSE can agree a suitable price reduction with the pharmaceutical company.

Next steps

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

Where can I get more information?

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

- the NCPE Technical Summary Document

- Erleada® European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) –or [Summary for the public](#)
- searching for apalutamide on our website (www.ncpe.ie);
- searching for apalutamide 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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