National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics
NCPE Ireland

NCPE Plain English Summary

Drug name: tixagevimab and cilgavimab *(pronounced:tix-a-gev-i-mab and cil-gav-i-mab)* for the pre-exposure prophylaxis of COVID-19 in adults and adolescents aged 12 years and older weighing at least 40 kg. **Brand name:** Evusheld®

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 tixagevimab / cilgavimab used for?

Tixagevimab and cilgavimab are two human monoclonal antibodies, targeted against the surface spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 used to prevent COVID-19. In this submission, we are considering the use of tixagevimab and cilgavimab to prevent COVID-19 in patients who are immunocompromised who may not have an adequate response to COVID-19 vaccination, or those patients who cannot have vaccination. It is not intended to replace vaccination.

Tixagevimab and cilgavimab are also used to treat COVID-19 in adults and adolescents who do not require supplemental oxygen and who are at increased risk of the disease becoming

severe. The use of tixagevimab and cilgavimab to treat COVID-19 is not considered within this submission.

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding tixagevimab and cilgavimab 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 tixagevimab and cilgavimab not be considered for reimbursement unless cost effectiveness can be improved relative to existing treatments*.

Next steps

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

Where can I get more information?

You can get more information about tixagevimab and cilgavimab from the following online options:

- the NCPE Technical Summary Document
- Evusheld European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – Summary for the Public or
- searching for tixagevimab and cilgavimab on our website (www.ncpe.ie);
- searching for tixagevimab and cilgavimab 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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*This recommendation should be considered while also having regard to the criteria specified in the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.