

# NCPE Assessment

## Plain English Summary

**Drug name:** Atezolizumab  
(pronounced *ay-tez-o-liz-u-mab*) for adjuvant treatment following complete resection and platinum-based chemotherapy in adult patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with a high risk of recurrence whose tumours have PD-L1 expression on  $\geq 50\%$  of tumour cells and who do not have *EGFR* mutant or *ALK*-positive mutations.

**Brand name:** Tecentriq®

**HTA ID:** 22036

## What is the NCPE?

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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?

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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 atezolizumab used for?

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Atezolizumab is a medicine used to treat a number of different cancers. Atezolizumab may be used on its own or in combination with other treatments for cancers that are advanced or have spread to other parts of the body. In some cases, it is used after surgery or after other cancer treatments. The doctor may need to confirm that the cancer cells produce a certain amount of a protein called PD-L1, and that particular genetic mutations known to reduce the medicine's effectiveness are not present (for example EGFR or ALK mutations).

In this report we are considering atezolizumab, given on its own, for the treatment of lung cancer (specifically, non-small cell lung cancer). Atezolizumab should be given after treatment with surgery and chemotherapy, for patients whose cancer cells produce a certain protein called PD-L1, and who do not have particular genetic mutations (EGFR or ALK mutations).

## **What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?**

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We have recommended that the HSE should not consider funding atezolizumab unless 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?**

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After reviewing the data presented by the pharmaceutical company, we recommend that the HSE consider not providing atezolizumab unless the HSE can agree a suitable price reduction with the pharmaceutical company. This is because we believe the medicine may work as well or better than other ways to manage this condition. However, the price of the medicine is too high compared with other ways to manage this condition, and we believe that the medicine is very poor value for money.

## **Next steps**

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

## **Where can I get more information?**

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

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

- searching for atezolizumab on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website ([www.ema.europa.eu](http://www.ema.europa.eu)).

Please refer to the NCPE website for updated information on the reimbursement status of this medicine