

# NCPE Assessment

Plain English Summary

December 2024

**Drug name:** Voclosporin (pronounced VOE-kloe-SPOR-in) in combination with mycophenolate mofetil for the treatment of adult patients with active class III, IV or V (including mixed class III/V and IV/V) lupus nephritis

**Brand name:** Lupkynis®

**HTA ID:** 23003

## 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 voclosporin used for?

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Voclosporin is a medicine used to treat lupus nephritis, a manifestation of a disease called systemic lupus erythematosus. In lupus nephritis, the immune system (the body's natural defences) attacks the kidneys, causing inflammation and kidney damage. Voclosporin is used together with another medicine called mycophenolate mofetil in adults with active class III, IV or V lupus nephritis, which are severe forms of the condition.

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

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We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding voclosporin 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?

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After reviewing the data presented by the pharmaceutical company, we recommended that the HSE consider **not** providing this medicine unless the HSE can agree a suitable price reduction with the pharmaceutical company. We believe it is not clear that the medicine works as well or better than other ways to manage this condition.

## Next steps

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

## Where can I get more information?

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

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