

NCPE Assessment

Plain English Summary

June, 2025

Drug name: Faricimab
(pronounced *far-iz-im-ab*) for the
treatment of neovascular age-
related macular degeneration in
adults

Brand name: Vabysmo

HTA ID: 22060

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 faricimab used for?

For this assessment, we are focussing on the use of faricimab to treat adults with the 'wet' form of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a disease that affects the central part of the retina (called the macula) at the back of the eye, which is the focus of the NCPE assessment report. Faricimab is also used to treat other medical conditions including impaired vision due to macular oedema (swelling) caused by diabetes, and impaired vision due to a swelling of the macula caused by retinal vein occlusion (RVO, a blockage of the

blood flow in a vein of the retina).

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding faricimab 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.

We have received a Patient Organisation Submission from Fighting Blindness about faricimab and shared it with the HSE. This submission will form part of the data that the HSE considers.

Why did we make this recommendation?

After reviewing the data presented by the pharmaceutical company for faricimab, we concluded that the HSE consider **not** providing this medicine **unless** the HSE can agree a suitable price reduction with the pharmaceutical company. This is because we believe the medicine may work as well as 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

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

Where can I get more information?

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

- the NCPE Technical Summary Document
- Vabysmo [European Medicines Agency \(EMA\) Medicine Overview](#), or
- searching for faricimab on our website (www.ncpe.ie);
- searching for faricimab 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