

# NCPE Assessment

## Plain English Summary

July 2025

**Drug names:** Tremelimumab in combination with durvalumab (pronounced treh-meh-LIM-yoo-mab) in combination with (pronounced dur-VAL-yoo-mab) for the first-line treatment of adult patients with advanced or unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma.

**Brand names:** Imjudo® in combination with Imfinzi®

**HTA ID:** 23073

## 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 tremelimumab in combination with durvalumab used for?

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Tremelimumab and durvalumab are cancer medicines used to treat adults with hepatocellular carcinoma (a type of liver cancer) who have not been treated before and whose disease is advanced or unresectable (cannot be removed by surgery).

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

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We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding tremelimumab in

combination with durvalumab. 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 concluded that it is not clear that tremelimumab in combination with durvalumab works as well or better than other medicines that are used to treat this condition. Although the cost of tremelimumab in combination with durvalumab is similar to other medicines used to treat this condition, tremelimumab in combination with durvalumab does not appear to be good value for money.

## Next steps

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When the HSE receives our recommendation, it will look at all the relevant data about tremelimumab in combination with durvalumab. The HSE makes the final decision on reimbursement.

## Where can I get more information?

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You can get more information about tremelimumab in combination with durvalumab from the following online options:

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