

NCPE Assessment

Plain English Summary

January, 2026

Drug name: Enfortumab vedotin (pronounced: en-FOR-too-mab veh-DOH-tin) in combination with pembrolizumab (pronounced: pem-bro-LIH-zoo-mab) for the first-line treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic urothelial cancer who are eligible for platinum-containing chemotherapy.

Brand name: Padcev® in combination with Keytruda®

HTA ID: 24038

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 enfortumab vedotin used for?

Enfortumab vedotin is a cancer medicine used in adults for treating urothelial cancer, a cancer of the bladder and urinary tract. It is given together with pembrolizumab to adult patients whose cancer has spread or cannot be removed by surgery, and are eligible for chemotherapy.

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab. 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 enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab 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

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

Where can I get more information?

You can get more information about enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab from the following online options:

- the NCPE Technical Summary Document
- Padcev® European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – [Summary for the public](#) or Keytruda® European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – [Summary for the public](#)
- searching for enfortumab vedotin or pembrolizumab on our website (www.ncpe.ie);
- searching for enfortumab vedotin or pembrolizumab 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.