

# NCPE Assessment

Plain English Summary

March, 2026

**Drug name:** Maralixibat  
(pronounced MAR-a-LIX-i-bat) for the treatment of cholestatic pruritus in patients with Alagille syndrome (ALGS) 2 months of age and older

**Brand name:** Livmarli<sup>®</sup>

**HTA ID:** 25001

## 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 maralixibat used for?

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Maralixibat is a medicine used in patients aged two months and older with cholestatic pruritus (intense itching due to a build-up of bile) caused by Alagille syndrome (ALGS). ALGS is an inherited disease in which bile (a fluid produced in the liver that helps break down fats) cannot drain properly from the liver, resulting in a build-up of bile acid in the liver and blood. One of the symptoms of this build-up is cholestatic pruritus (intense itching).

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

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We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding maralixibat 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 Liver Ireland Support Network (LISN) about maralixibat and shared it with the HSE. This submission will form part of the data that the HSE considers.

## Why did we make this recommendation?

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After reviewing the data presented by the pharmaceutical company, we concluded that maralixibat 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. The HSE should consider providing maralixibat if they can agree a suitable price reduction with the pharmaceutical company.

## Next steps

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

Further information on this process may be found [here](#)

Further information on the status of this decision may be found [here](#)

## Where can I get more information?

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

- the NCPE Technical Summary Document
- maralixibat European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – [Summary for the public](#)

- searching for maralixibat on our website ([www.ncpe.ie](http://www.ncpe.ie));
- searching for maralixibat on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website ([www.ema.europa.eu](http://www.ema.europa.eu)).