

NCPE Assessment

Plain English Summary

May, 2026

Drug name: Belzutifan
(*pronounced bel-ZOO-tee-fan*) for the treatment of adult patients with von Hippel-Lindau disease who require therapy for associated, localised renal cell carcinoma, central nervous system haemangioblastomas or pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours, and for whom localised procedures are unsuitable

Brand name: Welireg®

HTA ID: 25020

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 belzutifan used for?

Belzutifan is a medicine used to treat renal cell carcinomas (kidney cancers) and specific tumours that arise due to a rare disease called Von Hippel-Lindau disease (VHL disease). This assessment considers belzutifan for VHL disease only. VHL disease causes the growth of cysts and tumours in organs which can lead to the development of health issues or cancers. Belzutifan can be used by adult patients with VHL disease if they have developed certain tumours on their kidneys (renal cell carcinomas), their central nervous system (central

nervous system haemangioblastomas) or their pancreas (pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours). Belzutifan is used in adults who can no longer receive localised procedures to manage their tumours (including resections, radiation therapy and ablations).

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should not consider funding belzutifan unless the 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 VHL UK/Ireland about belzutifan 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 including the most recent clinical trial results, we believe that the price requested for this medicine is too high for the expected health benefits. We have recommended that the HSE consider not providing belzutifan *unless* the HSE can agree a suitable price reduction with the pharmaceutical company. This is because we believe the current price of the medicine too high, and we believe that the medicine is very poor value for money at the current price.

Next steps

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

Where can I get more information?

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

- the NCPE Summary Document
- Welireg® European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – [Summary for the public](#)
- Searching for belzutifan on our website (www.ncpe.ie);

- Searching for belzutifan on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website (www.ema.europa.eu).

Please refer to the [HSE website](#) for updated information on the reimbursement status of this medicine.