

NCPE Assessment

Plain English Summary

April 2026

Drug name: Fezolinetant (pronounced fez-oh-LIN-e-tant) for the treatment of moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms associated with menopause

Brand name: Veoza[®]

HTA ID: 24005

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 fezolinetant used for?

Fezolinetant is a medicine used to treat moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms (also referred to as hot flushes or night sweats) associated with menopause. Fezolinetant is not a hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

The use of fezolinetant is not recommended in individuals undergoing cancer treatment for breast cancer or other oestrogen-dependent cancers. The use of fezolinetant is cautioned in

individuals with previous breast cancer or other oestrogen-dependent cancers who are no longer on cancer treatments.

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider providing fezolinetant if the HSE can agree a suitable price reduction with the pharmaceutical company.

We note that HRT has additional benefits compared to fezolinetant. Along with treating vasomotor symptoms, HRT also treats other symptoms of the menopause (such as sleeping difficulties, mood changes, sexual function, urogenital symptoms, arthralgia, fatigue, headache, cognitive effects). Therefore, HRT is expected to provide more benefits, than fezolinetant, in those who can take HRT.

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 group submission 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, we concluded that fezolinetant may work as well or better than selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (non-hormonal treatments prescribed to individuals who cannot take HRT). We did not receive enough information to clearly assess how well fezolinetant works compared to other non-hormonal treatments.

It is not clear that fezolinetant works as well as HRT in the management of moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms associated with menopause. HRT, unlike fezolinetant, also treats many other symptoms of menopause besides vasomotor symptoms. The price of fezolinetant is too high compared with HRT 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 fezolinetant. The HSE makes the final decision on reimbursement.

Where can I get more information?

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

- the NCPE Technical Summary Document
- Veoza European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – [Medicine Overview](#)
- searching for fezolinetant on our website (www.ncpe.ie);
- searching for fezolinetant 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