

NCPE Assessment

Plain English Summary

September 2026

Drug name:

Trastuzumab deruxtecan
(pronounced: tras-TOOZ-ue-mab
DER-ux-TEE-kan) as monotherapy for
the treatment of adult patients with
unresectable or metastatic hormone
receptor-positive, HER2-low or HER2-
ultralow breast cancer who have
received at least one endocrine
therapy in the metastatic setting and
who are not considered suitable for
endocrine therapy as the next line of
treatment

Brand name:

Enhertu®

HTA ID:

25039

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 trastuzumab deruxtecan used for?

Trastuzumab deruxtecan is a cancer medicine that is used to treat a number of different types of cancer. In this submission, we are considering the use of trastuzumab deruxtecan for hormone receptor-positive, HER2-low or HER2-ultralow breast cancer that is metastatic (the cancer has spread to other parts of the body or is not responding to other treatments) or unresectable (the cancer cannot be removed by surgery). Hormone receptor-positive, HER2-low and HER2-ultralow breast cancers have proteins called hormone receptors and

HER2 on the surface of cancer cells. These proteins can help the cancer cells to grow. Trastuzumab deruxtecan is a HER2-targeting therapy (it destroys cancer cells by attaching to HER2 proteins on their surface).

Trastuzumab deruxtecan is currently used, in Ireland, to treat individuals with hormone receptor-positive, HER2-low and HER2-ultralow breast cancer after they have received chemotherapy. This submission proposes using trastuzumab deruxtecan earlier in the treatment pathway, before chemotherapy, in individuals who have previously received at least one endocrine therapy for unresectable or metastatic breast cancer and who are not considered suitable for endocrine therapy for their next treatment. Endocrine therapy is used to block the effects of hormones that can help hormone receptor-positive breast cancer to grow.

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding trastuzumab deruxtecan as proposed in the submission 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 UCAN (United Cancer Advocates Network) about trastuzumab deruxtecan 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 recommend that the HSE consider not providing trastuzumab deruxtecan as proposed in the submission unless the HSE can agree a suitable price reduction with the pharmaceutical company. This is because we believe the medicine may work as well or better than chemotherapy to manage this condition. However, the price of the medicine is too high compared to chemotherapy, 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 trastuzumab deruxtecan. The HSE makes the final decision on reimbursement.

Where can I get more information?

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

- the NCPE Summary Document
- Enhertu® European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – [Summary for the public](#), or
- searching for trastuzumab deruxtecan on our website (www.ncpe.ie);
- searching for trastuzumab deruxtecan 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.