NCPE Assessment

Plain English Summary

October, 2026

Drug name: Ravulizumab (pronounced RAV-yoo-LIZ-yoo-mab) for the treatment of adult patients with neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder who are anti-aquaporin 4 antibody positive

Brand name: Ultomiris ®

HTA ID: 25013

NCPE
National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics, Ireland

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 ravulizumab used for?

Ravulizumab is a medicine that is used to treat a number of different conditions. For this Health Technology Assessment, ravulizumab is used to treat adults with neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders (NMOSD), inflammatory disorders that affect mainly the optic nerve (which connects the eye to the brain) and the spinal cord. This can lead to impaired vision, loss of sensation, loss of bladder control, weakness and paralysis of the arms and legs.

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding ravulizumab. 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 about ravulizumab 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 believe that it is not clear that ravulizumab works as well or better than current available medicines at reducing relapses in NMOSD. There is limited evidence of the impact of ravulizumab on long-term benefits including on the quality and length of life of a person living with NMOSD. We believe that the price of ravulizumab is too high compared with other ways to manage this condition, and we have concluded 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 ravulizumab. The HSE makes the final decision on reimbursement.

Where can I get more information?

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

- the NCPE Summary Document
- ravulizumab European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – Medicine Overview
- searching for ravulizumab on our website (www.ncpe.ie);
- searching for ravulizumab 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