What is fampridine used for?
Fampridine is used for the improvement of walking in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) who have walking disability. MS is an autoimmune disease that causes the immune system, which normally fights infection, to start attacking healthy cells. In MS the immune system attacks the brain or spinal cord, resulting in damage to the protective coating around the nerve fibres. This damage means that electrical signals that are passed along the nerves to stimulate the muscles are not transmitted properly. This can lead to muscle weakness, stiffness and difficulty walking.

How does fampridine work?
Fampridine acts on the damaged nerves, allowing the signals to continue along the nerves to stimulate the muscles, which can make it easier to walk.

What has SMC said?
SMC has not recommended fampridine for the improvement of walking in adults with multiple sclerosis who have walking disability.

Why has SMC said this?
SMC looks at how well new medicines work compared with current treatments available in Scotland and in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer (for example, if the medicine has to be given at a clinic or side effects have to be monitored).

SMC carefully considers every new medicine to make sure it benefits patients and is considered to be an acceptable use of the limited resources in NHSScotland. When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not just those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

To do this SMC consider the following:
- Clinical trial and economic evidence from the company that makes the medicine.
- Advice from healthcare professionals about any benefits of the new medicine compared to current treatment, along with how the new medicine is likely to be used.
• Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.

After careful consideration, SMC decided the evidence provided by the company was not strong enough to be certain that fampridine offers value for money to NHSScotland.

What does SMC’s decision mean for me?
Fampridine should not normally be prescribed on the NHS in Scotland for use as described above. Your doctor should talk to you about other treatment options available to you. If your doctor believes that fampridine would be of benefit, he or she can make a request to prescribe it for you. All health boards have procedures in place to consider these requests. For further information see: Medicines in Scotland: What’s the right treatment for me? www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx

More information
The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with multiple sclerosis and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

MS Society

https://www.mssociety.org.uk 0808 800 8000

Multiple Sclerosis Trust

https://www.mstrust.org.uk 0800 032 38 39

Revive MS Support

http://www.revivemssupport.org.uk 0141 945 3344

You can find out more about fampridine in the European public assessment report (EPAR) summary for the public by searching for the medicine name on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website.

http://www.ema.europa.eu

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