

# Medicine: enzalutamide (brand name: Xtandi®) for high-risk castration-resistant prostate cancer that is not metastatic

Astellas Pharma Ltd

## What is enzalutamide used for?

Enzalutamide is used to treat prostate cancer that has got worse despite treatments to decrease the production of a male hormone called testosterone. This is known as castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC). Enzalutamide is used specifically to treat patients with CRPC whose cancer is not metastatic (spread to other parts of the body), but is at a high risk of spreading.

## How does enzalutamide work?

The prostate cancer cells need male hormones to grow and survive. Enzalutamide blocks the actions of testosterone and other male hormones called androgens which helps slow down the growth of the cancer.

### What has SMC said?

SMC has not recommended enzalutamide for the treatment of CRPC as described above.



## 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 the medicine offers value for money to NHS Scotland. This was despite applying extra flexibility because enzalutamide is a medicine for a rare condition.

### What does SMC's decision mean for me?

Enzalutamide should not normally be prescribed on the NHS in Scotland for use as described above. Your healthcare professional should talk to you about other treatment options available to you. If your healthcare professional believes that enzalutamide would be of benefit, they 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](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx)



### More information

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

#### Edinburgh and Lothian Prostate Cancer Support Group



[www.elprostatecancersupport.co.uk](http://www.elprostatecancersupport.co.uk)



07933 260066

#### Prostate Cancer UK



<https://prostatecanceruk.org>



0800 074 8383

#### Prostate Scotland



<https://www.prostatescotland.org.uk>



0131 603 8660

#### Tackle Prostate Cancer



<https://www.tackleprostate.org>



0800 035 5302

You can find out more about enzalutamide 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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