



Medicine: ocrelizumab (brand name: Ocrevus®)

Roche Products Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed ocrelizumab for the treatment of adults with early primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted ocrelizumab for the treatment of multiple sclerosis as described above.

This advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of ocrelizumab. In addition, SMC was able to apply a more [flexible approach*](#) in the assessment, as it is for a rare condition.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that ocrelizumab for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland.



What is ocrelizumab used for?

Ocrelizumab is used to treat multiple sclerosis (MS). MS is a life-long 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 nerves. This damage means that electrical signals that are normally passed along the nerves to stimulate the muscles are not transmitted properly. There are different types of MS. PPMS is a less common sub-type that is characterised by the gradual worsening of symptoms. Symptoms can include fatigue, weakness, walking difficulty, bladder problems, muscle spasms, visual problems and memory difficulties.

How does ocrelizumab work?

Ocrelizumab attaches to a protein (called CD20) which is on the surface of a type of white blood cell called B cells. In patients with MS, B cells attack the protective coating around the nerves causing inflammation and damage to the nerve fibres. By attaching to B cells ocrelizumab blocks their activity and reduces the symptoms of MS.

*<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/4731/pace-overview-document.pdf>

How does SMC make its decision?

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.

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Evidence from the company about how well the medicine works compared with current treatments available in Scotland, in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.
- 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.

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.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of ocrelizumab by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2223).

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.

Multiple Sclerosis Trust



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



0800 032 38 39

The Multiple Sclerosis Society



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



0808 800 8000

Revive MS Support



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



0141 945 3344

You can find out more about ocrelizumab 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>