What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has not recommended sodium zirconium cyclosilicate for the treatment of hyperkalaemia as described above.

SMC was unable to accept sodium zirconium cyclosilicate because the evidence provided by the company was not strong enough to be certain that it offers value for money to NHSScotland.

What is sodium zirconium cyclosilicate used for?

Sodium zirconium cyclosilicate is used to treat hyperkalaemia, which is a high potassium level in the blood. Hyperkalaemia occurs most commonly in patients with chronic kidney disease and can negatively impact quality of life.

How does sodium zirconium cyclosilicate work?

Sodium zirconium cyclosilicate binds to potassium in the gut. When it binds to the potassium it forms a compound that leaves the body in the patient’s stools. This removes potassium from the body which helps to reduce the level of potassium in the blood.
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 sodium zirconium cyclosilicate by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2233).

More information

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

Kidney Research UK

[hyperlink](https://kidneyresearchuk.org/) 0300 303 1100

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

[hyperlink](http://www.ema.europa.eu)