

Medicine: lenalidomide (brand name: Revlimid®)

Celgene Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed lenalidomide for the treatment of adults with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma who have had an autologous stem cell transplant (ASCT). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

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

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of lenalidomide. 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 lenalidomide 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 lenalidomide used for?

Lenalidomide is used to treat multiple myeloma, which is a rare cancer of a type of white blood cell called plasma cells in the bone marrow. Plasma cells make antibodies which help to fight infection. In multiple myeloma the body makes large numbers of abnormal plasma cells. These cells can clump together to form tumours in the bone marrow. They also affect the body's ability to produce new blood cells, and produce high levels of abnormal antibodies that cannot fight infection properly and directly affect the bone. Lenalidomide is used to treat adults who have been newly diagnosed with multiple myeloma and have had an autologous stem cell transplant (ASCT). This is a procedure where the patient's diseased bone marrow cells are destroyed and replaced with healthy bone marrow stem cells from the patient's own body.

How does lenalidomide work?

Lenalidomide slows the development of multiple myeloma by blocking the supply of blood to the tumour, blocking the growth of the tumour and by helping the body's natural defence system to fight the cancer.

*<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/5423/pace-overview-document-v32.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 considers 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 lenalidomide by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2289).

More information

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

Myeloma UK



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



0800 980 3332

You can find out more about lenalidomide (Revlimid®) 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>