

# Medicine: fostamatinib (brand name: Tavlesse®)

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The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed fostamatinib for the treatment of adults with chronic immune thrombocytopenia (ITP). It is used to treat patients who have not responded to other treatments. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

## What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted fostamatinib for use in certain patients (restricted use). The restriction means that fostamatinib may be used in patients with severe symptomatic ITP or who are at a high risk of bleeding and who have not had a suitable response to other therapies, including thrombopoietin receptor-agonists (TPO-RA), or where use of a TPO-RA is not appropriate.

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

Fostamatinib is used to treat chronic ITP, a long-term condition where the immune system destroys platelets in the blood. Platelets are needed to help form blood clots and stop bleeding. Patients with ITP have low platelet counts and can suffer from fatigue and bruise and bleed easily. SMC has accepted fostamatinib for use in patients with severe symptomatic ITP or who are at a high risk of bleeding, where other treatments have not worked well enough or the patient is not able to have them.

## How does fostamatinib work?

Fostamatinib blocks the activity of an enzyme in the body called spleen tyrosine kinase (SYK). SYK plays a role in the destruction of platelets by the immune system. By blocking SYK fostamatinib can help to reduce the destruction of platelets and increase the platelet count, reducing the risk of severe bleeding.

\*<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/how-we-decide/pace/>

## 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 fostamatinib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2300).

## More information

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

### The ITP Support Association



<http://www.itpsupport.org.uk>



01234 376559

You can find out more about fostamatinib (Tavlesse®) 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>