



## Medicine: avelumab (brand name: Bavencio®)

Merck KGaA, Pfizer Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed avelumab for the treatment of adults with advanced urothelial carcinoma (bladder cancer). It is used on its own as a maintenance treatment (continuing treatment to maintain control of the cancer), in patients whose cancer has responded to platinum-based chemotherapy (a standard cancer treatment). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

### What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted avelumab for treating adults with advanced bladder cancer as described above.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of avelumab. In addition, SMC was able to apply a more [flexible approach](#)\* in the assessment, as it is for a rare condition where patients are likely to have a life expectancy of less than three years with currently available treatments.

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

If your healthcare professional thinks that avelumab 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 avelumab used for?

Avelumab is used to treat advanced urothelial carcinoma. Urothelial carcinoma is a cancer of the bladder and urinary tract (this includes the tubes that carry urine from the kidneys to the bladder). Advanced urothelial carcinoma may be locally advanced (spread near where it started in the bladder and urinary tract) or metastatic (spread to other parts of the body).

### How does avelumab work?

Avelumab is an immunotherapy. This is a type of cancer treatment that stimulates the immune system (the body's natural defence system) to fight the cancer. Some cancer cells produce proteins that can switch off immune cells called T-cells. Avelumab can help prevent the T-cells from being switched off by these proteins, helping the immune system to fight the cancer.

\*<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 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 avelumab by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2359).

## More information

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

### Action Bladder Cancer UK



<https://actionbladdercanceruk.org>



0300 302 0085

### Fight Bladder Cancer



<https://fightbladdercancer.co.uk>



01844 351621

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



<https://www.ema.europa.eu/en>