



# Medicine: cabotegravir (brand name: Vocabria®)

ViiV Healthcare

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed cabotegravir prolonged-release injection for the treatment of adults infected with the human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1). It is used together with another medicine called rilpivirine prolonged-release injection, where:

- antiretroviral medicines (medicines to treat HIV-1) have kept the virus at a low level, and
- where the virus is not suspected to be resistant to certain medicines called non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs) and integrase inhibitors (INIs).

This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

## What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted cabotegravir used together with rilpivirine to treat adults infected with HIV-1 as described above.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of cabotegravir and rilpivirine.

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

If your healthcare professional thinks that cabotegravir 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 cabotegravir used for?

Cabotegravir is used to treat adults infected with HIV-1. If untreated, this virus causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). In some cases, the HIV can become resistant to certain medicines because of changes (mutations) that happen in the genetic material of the virus. Cabotegravir (an INI) together with rilpivirine (an NNRTI) is used to treat people with HIV-1 infections where the virus has not developed resistance to NNRTIs and INIs.

## How does cabotegravir work?

Cabotegravir blocks a process that is important for HIV-1 multiplying inside infected cells. This helps reduce the amount of HIV-1 in the blood and keeps it at a low level. Cabotegravir and rilpivirine are

administered by injection into a muscle, by a healthcare professional, every two months. This is the first long-acting injectable treatment for HIV-1.

## 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 only those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of cabotegravir by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2376).

## More information

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

### HIV Scotland



<https://www.hiv.scot>



0131 558 3713

### National AIDS Trust



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



0207 814 6767

### Waverley Care



<https://www.waverleycare.org>



0131 558 1425

You can find out more about cabotegravir (Vocabria®) 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>