



Medicine: solriamfetol (brand name: Sunosi®)

Jazz Pharmaceuticals

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed solriamfetol for improving wakefulness and excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS) in adult patients with obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA). It is for use in patients who have not been satisfactorily treated with treatments such as continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has not recommended solriamfetol for improving wakefulness and EDS in patients with OSA as described above.

SMC was unable to accept solriamfetol because the evidence provided by the company was not strong enough to satisfy the committee that it offers value for money to NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

Solriamfetol should not normally be prescribed on the NHS in Scotland for use as described above. If a patient's healthcare professional thinks a particular patient would benefit from it, they can make a request to prescribe solriamfetol. All health boards have procedures in place to consider these requests. For further information see:

Medicines in Scotland: What's the right treatment for me?

www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx



What is solriamfetol used for?

Solriamfetol is used to help people with OSA to improve EDS and wakefulness. OSA is a condition where people suffer from frequent interruptions to their breathing during sleep because the airways become blocked when the throat muscles relax intermittently. A person's sleep is very interrupted leading to problems such as EDS. This may cause increased risk of accidents and some people may not be allowed to drive. One of the main treatments for OSA is CPAP which uses an air pump to apply air pressure through a mask to a person's airway to help keep the airway open. Solriamfetol is used when treatments such as CPAP have not satisfactorily improved EDS.

How does solriamfetol work?

Solriamfetol acts by helping to increase the amounts of chemical messengers in the brain called dopamine and noradrenaline. These carry signals between neurons and help to make people feel more awake.

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 solriamfetol by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2419).

More information

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

Sleep Apnoea Trust Association



<https://sleep-apnoea-trust.org>



0800 025 3500

The Sleep Charity



<https://thesleepcharity.org.uk>



03303 530 541

You can find out more about solriamfetol (Sunosi®) in the Patient Leaflet by searching for the medicine name on the electronic medicines compendium (EMC) website.



<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/>