



australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

2nd March 2020

Secretary, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)
Department of Health and Ageing
GPO Box 9848 Canberra ACT 2601
Email: pbac@health.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

Re: Dupilumab for atopic dermatitis

On behalf of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) we submit this letter in support of the most recent application from Sanofi Genzyme for dupilumab (Dupixent®) to treat adult patients with severe atopic dermatitis (AD), commonly known as eczema, who are candidates for systemic treatment. As mentioned in a previous letter sent to the PBAC from ASCIA in May 2019:

- ASCIA strongly supports the application from Sanofi Genzyme to the PBAC for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of dupilumab to treat adult patients with severe atopic dermatitis (AD), commonly known as eczema, who are candidates for systemic treatment. At the present time, if patients with AD fail to achieve a good response to topical management when compliance and adherence are adequate, the only option is to consider various immunosuppressive treatments, which have a weak evidence base, considerable possible side effects, long term effects and need frequent monitoring, including blood tests. An alternative to this situation is needed.
- Clinical immunology/allergy specialists are qualified, knowledgeable and experienced in prescription and administration of the newer biologic agents such as dupilumab, for immune-mediated and allergic disorders, and understand appropriate selection and monitoring of these patient groups. Our specialist group has a detailed knowledge of the basic and clinical science underpinning allergic skin disorders including AD, and this group of patients constitute a significant proportion of our referral patient population. Many colleagues are involved in severe eczema clinics either as a stand-alone service or as part of a multi-disciplinary team with specialised nursing staff, dietitians and dermatologists.

We hope this letter provides sufficient information for the proposed PBS listing of dupilumab to be considered at the PBAC meeting that is being held from 11th to 13th March 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Brynn Wainstein MBChB PhD FRACP
ASCIA President

Prof Connie Katelaris AM MBBS PhD FRACP
Chair, ASCIA HAE and CSU Working Parties
Past ASCIA President