



australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

10 February 2021

Professor Andrew Wilson
Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)
MDP 952, GPO Box 9848
Canberra, ACT 2601
Email: pbac@health.gov.au

Dear Professor Wilson,

Re: Jorveza® (Budesonide 1mg) application for adults with eosinophilic oesophagitis (EoE)

This submission is made on behalf of the eosinophilic oesophagitis (EoE) Working Party of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA). ASCIA is the peak professional body of clinical immunology/allergy specialists in Australia and New Zealand.

Eosinophilic oesophagitis (EoE) happens when white blood cells (eosinophils) deposit in the lining of the oesophagus, which is the muscular tube that connects the mouth to the stomach. This can be the result of an allergic reaction to food or the environment. Most cases are seen in people with other allergic conditions such as allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and asthma.

We understand that an application for Jorveza® (Budesonide 1mg) for adults with EoE is on the March 2021 meeting agenda for consideration by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing.

This submission supports the application for PBS listing of Jorveza® (Budesonide 1mg), for the following reasons:

- It is estimated that EoE affects around one in 1,000 people (children and adults), and the frequency of EoE appears to be increasing. The reasons are unclear, but it is known that allergies of all types have become more common. Around 10% of people with EoE have a close family member with an identical problem.
- If left untreated around 30-50% of children and adults with EoE will eventually get food stuck in the oesophagus, which may have to be removed in hospital. It can result in permanent scarring and narrowing of the oesophagus (stricture) and the need for dilatation (stretching) of the oesophagus at times.
- There are significant costs due to untreated EoE, associated with hospitalisation for removal of impacted food, medical consultations for poorly controlled disease and endoscopy for disease monitoring.
- Jorveza® (Budesonide 1mg) was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in September 2020 for the treatment of EoE in adults. It is a specifically formulated orally disintegrating tablet containing the topical corticosteroid budesonide which has been designed to dissolve in the mouth so it can be delivered directly to the inflammation within the oesophagus.
- PBS listing of Jorveza® (Budesonide 1mg) will improve access to effective therapeutic options for adults with EoE, which is usually a lifelong disease that impacts on quality of life.
- If Jorveza® (Budesonide 1mg) is not PBS listed, adults with EoE will be significantly disadvantaged compared to people with asthma, who can be prescribed Budesonide and other corticosteroid preventer therapies on the PBS.

ASCIA is the peak professional body of clinical immunology and allergy specialists in Australia and New Zealand

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We hope that the PBAC will take into account the reasons listed above, in support of the application for PBS listing of Jorveza® (Budesonide 1mg),

Please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing jill@allergy.org.au or phoning 0425216402 if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'h'.

Jill Smith
ASCIA CEO

Copy: Dr Vicki McWilliam, Dr Ray Mullins – ASCIA EoE working party
ASCIA Directors