



australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

20 January 2023

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) application for eosinophilic oesophagitis (EoE)

This submission is made on behalf 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.

We write in support of the following application which is on the March 2023 meeting agenda for consideration by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), for a change to the current Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing:

BUDESONIDE

Jorveza® - Dr Falk Pharma Australia Pty Ltd

Tablet 500 micrograms or tablet 1 mg (orally disintegrating)

Clinical indication: Eosinophilic oesophagitis (EoE)

Proposed change to PBS listing: To request PBAC advice regarding the number of biopsies to confirm eligibility for initial treatment; removal of the histological assessment to determine eligibility for continuing treatment; and an expansion to the treatment criteria to include physicians or surgeons experienced in the diagnosis and management of EoE.

ASCIA supports this application for changes to the PBS listing for the following reasons:

- Clinical immunology/allergy specialists manage a significant proportion of patients with EoE. However, under the current PBS listing criteria, they have limited access to prescribing Jorveza® (Budesonide) for patients with EoE, due to the requirements for biopsies and histological assessment. This requires multiple visits to different specialists, with associated costs and delays.
- There are significant costs to patients and the healthcare system due to delayed treatment or untreated EoE, associated with hospitalisation for removal of impacted food, medical consultations for poorly controlled disease and endoscopy for monitoring of disease.
- Changes to the PBS listing of Jorveza® (Budesonide) should improve access to effective therapeutic options for patients with EoE, which is usually lifelong and impacts quality of life.

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

Please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing jill@allergy.org.au for further information.

Yours sincerely,

A/Prof Theresa Cole

ASCIA President

Jill Smith

ASCIA CEO

Copy: ASCIA Council