australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

23 May 2023

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

Dear Professor Wilson,

Re: PBS listing of Dupixent® (dupilumab) for treatment of severe atopic dermatitis

On behalf of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) we are writing in support of the request by Sanofi-Aventis Australia Pty Ltd for the PBAC to reconsider the previously estimated utilisation of Dupixent® (dupilumab) for patients with chronic severe atopic dermatitis (AD), also referred to as chronic severe eczema, who have failed to respond to prescribed topical treatments.

We understand that the actual use of Dupixent® on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for treatment of chronic severe AD in the 12 years+ cohort is significantly higher than previously estimated utilisation. Accurate estimated utilisation is difficult when there is a high unmet clinical need for new, effective treatments, and there is a lack of local epidemiological data and tools to help predict uptake.

ASCIA supports this request for following reasons:

- Dupixent® can make a significant difference to the health and quality of life for people with chronic severe AD, and PBS listing ensures equitable access for Australians with this condition.
- Dupixent® is a fully human monoclonal antibody and is not an immunosuppressant. Prior to the PBS listing of Dupixent® for chronic severe AD, if patients failed to achieve a good response to topical treatments, the only option to consider was immunosuppressive treatments. Immunosuppressive treatments for AD have a weak evidence base, considerable possible side effects, long term effects and require frequent monitoring, including blood tests.
- Clinical immunology/allergy specialists regularly manage patients of all ages with chronic severe AD and are experienced in appropriate selection and monitoring of patients being treated using immune modulating agents, including Dupixent®. It is important to have this treatment option, which would not be possible without the PBS listing.

We hope that this letter provides sufficient information for the PBAC to review the previously agreed utilisation estimates of Dupixent® at the July 2023 PBAC meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A/Professor Theresa Cole
ASCIA President

Jill Smith
ASCIA CEO

Correspondence: Email jill@allergy.org.au