



australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

21 September 2020

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: ASCIA response to dupilumab (Dupixent®) application for severe uncontrolled asthma

The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) has recently been informed that Sanofi has submitted an application for dupilumab (Dupixent®) to the PBAC for severe uncontrolled asthma, which has been included in the November 2020 PBAC meeting agenda.

ASCIA supports this application for a Section 100 (Highly Specialised Drugs Program) Authority Required (Written) PBS listing, for the treatment of severe uncontrolled asthma.

It is important to have biologicals such as dupilumab, with a very strong evidence base, as a treatment option to help manage severe, uncontrolled asthma, which can greatly impact health and quality of life. Whilst dupilumab does not replace the need for OCS, it can potentially bring the use of OCS into more acceptable risk-benefit doses for patients with severe asthma.

We note that the efficacy and safety of dupilumab in the treatment of severe asthma has recently been reviewed and published in the Allergy Journal in May 2020:

Efficacy and safety of treatment with biologicals (benralizumab, dupilumab, mepolizumab, omalizumab and reslizumab) for severe eosinophilic asthma. A systematic review for the EAACI Guidelines - recommendations on the use of biologicals in severe asthma.

The authors of this systematic review concluded that all biologicals reduce exacerbation rates with high certainty of evidence. In addition benralizumab, dupilumab and mepolizumab reduce the daily dose of oral corticosteroids (OCS) with high certainty of evidence.

If this application is approved, we request that clinical immunology/allergy specialists (as listed on the ASCIA website <https://www.allergy.org.au/patients/locate-a-specialist>) are included as prescribers.

Please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing the ASCIA CEO (Jill Smith) jill@allergy.org.au or phoning 0425216402 if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Michaela Lucas
ASCIA President

Professor Connie Katelaris
ASCIA Council member and past ASCIA President