



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](mailto:pbac@health.gov.au)

Dear Professor Wilson,

**Re: Saphnelo® (Anifrolumab) application for severe systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)**

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 Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing:

**ANIFROLUMAB**

**Saphnelo® - AstraZeneca PTY LTD**

Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 300 mg in 2 mL vial

**Clinical indication:** Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)

**Proposed new PBS listing:** Resubmission to request a Section 100 (Highly Specialised Drugs Program) Authority Required (written) listing for the treatment of severe SLE with a high degree of disease activity despite standard therapy.

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

- Clinical immunology/allergy specialists manage a significant proportion of patients with SLE. However, current treatments for patients with severe SLE have limitations, including effectiveness in controlling disease and side effects.
- There are considerable costs to patients and the healthcare system due to delayed or inadequate treatment of severe SLE, associated with medical consultations for poorly controlled disease.
- Changes to the PBS listing of Saphnelo® (Anifrolumab) should improve access to effective therapeutic options for patients with severe SLE, 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 PBS listing of Saphnelo® (Anifrolumab).

Please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing [jill@allergy.org.au](mailto:jill@allergy.org.au) for further information.

Yours sincerely,

**A/Prof Theresa Cole**

ASCIA President

**Jill Smith**

ASCIA CEO

Copy: ASCIA Council