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29th June 2023

Circular 022/23

Medicines Management Programme – Best-Value Biological Medicines (Adalimumab)

Dear Pharmacist,

Please find enclosed a communication from Prof Michael Barry, Clinical Lead of the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) issued to hospital Consultants in relation to the Best-Value Biological Medicines for Adalimumab.

Further information on the BVB medicine initiative are available on the MMP website (www.hse.ie/mmp) in the section entitled Best-value medicines.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Flanagan'.

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement

Re: Best-Value Biological Medicines; Adalimumab & Etanercept

28 June 2023

Dear Colleagues,

The purpose of this letter is to:

- Inform you of a number of additions to the best-value biological (BVB) medicines for adalimumab 40 mg.
- Inform you of the outcome of the evaluation process to identify BVB medicines for presentations of adalimumab 80 mg solution for injection that are available in a self-administered injection (i.e. pre-filled pen) on the High Tech Arrangement.
- Confirm that the gainshare arrangement will end on 30 June 2023.
- Request that all patients who remain on a non-BVB medicine (i.e. Enbrel®) be switched to a BVB medicine, where possible.
- Remind you of a recent enhancement to the High Tech Hub so as to enable clinical teams to identify patients who remain on Enbrel®.

Adalimumab 40 mg

The HSE-Medicines Management Programme (MMP) has identified two additional BVB medicines for adalimumab 40 mg; **Humira®** and **Hukyndra®**. The evaluation reports for these medicines are available on the MMP website (www.hse.ie/mmp) in the section entitled Best-value medicines.

Therefore, from 1 July 2023, the MMP recommends the following BVB medicines for adalimumab 40 mg:

- Citrate-containing: **Hyrimoz®**, **Hulio®**
- Citrate-free: **Amgevita®**, **Hukyndra®**, **Hulio®**, **Humira®**, **Imraldi®**, **Yuflyma®**.

Adalimumab 80 mg

The MMP has completed an evaluation to identify BVB medicines for presentations of adalimumab 80 mg solution for injection that are available in a self-administered injection (i.e. pre-filled pen) on the High Tech Arrangement.

The MMP recommends **Humira®** 80 mg pre-filled pen (PFP) and **Yuflyma®** 80 mg PFP as the BVB medicines for adalimumab 80 mg on the High Tech Arrangement. An evaluation report entitled *MMP Report BVB Medicine Adalimumab 80 mg June 2023* is available at www.hse.ie/mmp in the section entitled Best-value medicines.

Reimbursement of Adalimumab 40 mg and 80 mg on the High Tech Arrangement

Reimbursement of adalimumab 40 mg and 80 mg under the High Tech Arrangement is only supported for the BVB medicines in adult patients commencing such therapy. In addition, all patients currently in receipt of adalimumab 40 mg and 80 mg should be prescribed a BVB medicine.

As of 1 July 2023, all medicinal products containing adalimumab 40 mg and 80 mg in self-administered injection devices (i.e. pre-filled pen/syringe) that are available for prescribing on the High Tech Arrangement are recommended as BVB medicines for adalimumab.

Gainshare Arrangement

In recognition of the efficiencies that result from the prescribing of the BVB medicines, the gainshare arrangement was introduced in June 2019 to fund service delivery or enhancement, when consultant-led teams initiated a patient on, or switched them to a BVB medicine on the High Tech Hub. The gainshare arrangement will end on 30 June 2023. Queries in relation to the release of gainshare funds should be

directed to the HSE-Primary Care Reimbursement Service High Tech Co-ordination Unit at PCRS.HiTech@hse.ie.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for embracing the MMP recommendations in relation to the BVB medicines. The commitment of you and your team to prescribing the BVB medicines is leading to significant savings for the health service. This reduces the financial burdens on the HSE arising out of the funding of reimbursed medicines, and can assist in facilitating access to new, innovative medicines for patients.

Non-BVB Medicines

Non-BVB medicines for etanercept (i.e. Enbrel®) are substantially more expensive than the recommended BVB medicines (**Benepali®**, **Erelzi®**¹). As of April 2023, approximately 1,200 patients remain in receipt of the non-BVB medicines for etanercept on the High Tech Arrangement.

All patients who are currently prescribed a non-BVB medicine (i.e. Enbrel®) should be considered for switching to a BVB medicine. The MMP will shortly engage with clinical teams whose uptake of BVB medicines for etanercept is below the expected level. Where a decision is made to continue a patient on a non-BVB medicine (i.e. Enbrel®), the reason for such should be recorded in the patient's clinical notes; this information may be required to support an application for continued reimbursement support of a non-BVB medicine.

High Tech Hub Enhancement

As communicated previously, the High Tech Hub has been enhanced to support clinical teams to identify patients who remain on non-BVB medicines (i.e. Enbrel®). A search function has been added to the *My Patients* tab; this allows clinical teams to search for prescriptions generated on the High Tech Hub by INN or medicinal product within a specified timeframe. This will facilitate timely identification of patients who remain on a non-BVB medicine.

A step-by-step guide on how to use this search function to identify patients who remain on a non-BVB medicine is included with this communication.

Further information on the BVB medicine initiative including information for healthcare professionals, and resources to support initiating patients on, or switching them to the BVB medicines are available on the MMP website (www.hse.ie/mmp) in the section entitled *Best-value medicines*. Please contact the MMP (mmp@hse.ie) if you have any queries in relation to the BVB medicines.

Given the significant financial challenges facing the Health Service this year, it is vital that prescribing of the BVB medicines is optimised. I would ask that you continue to support this important initiative, which helps to secure ongoing access for patients to new and innovative medicines.

With best wishes,



Professor Michael Barry,
National Clinical Lead,
HSE-Medicines Management Programme.

¹ Erelzi® 50 mg PFP is currently in short supply. As of 28 June 2023, supply of this medicinal product is expected to return on 30 July 2023.