

**caspofungin 50mg and 70mg powder for concentrate for
solution for infusion (Cancidas®) (No: 551/09)**

Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd

Product Update

09 April 2009

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has completed its assessment of the above product and advises NHS Boards and Area Drug and Therapeutic Committees (ADTCs) on its use in NHS Scotland. The advice is summarised as follows:

ADVICE: following an abbreviated submission

caspofungin acetate (Cancidas®) is accepted for use within NHS Scotland as empirical therapy for presumed fungal infections (such as *Candida* or *Aspergillus*) in febrile, neutropenic paediatric patients (12 months to 17 years).

The Scottish Medicines Consortium has previously accepted this product for restricted use for this indication in adults.

A comparative study in adults found that caspofungin was as effective as a lipid formulation of amphotericin in terms of overall response. In addition it was better tolerated with fewer drug-related adverse events including less nephrotoxicity and infusion-related events.

Advice context:

No part of this advice may be used without the whole of the advice being quoted in full.

This advice represents the view of the Scottish Medicines Consortium and was arrived at after evaluation of the evidence submitted by the company. It is provided to inform the considerations of Area Drug & Therapeutics Committees and NHS Boards in Scotland in determining medicines for local use or local formulary inclusion. This advice does not override the individual responsibility of health professionals to make decisions in the exercise of their clinical judgement in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

This assessment is based on data submitted by the applicant company up to and including 12 February 2009.

**Chairman
Scottish Medicines Consortium**

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