

losartan (Cozaar®)

(No. 131/04)

Merck Sharpe & Dohme

Indication: To delay the progression of renal disease and to reduce proteinuria in type 2 diabetic patients with nephropathy.

Summary of Advice

08 November 2004

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

Advice: following a full submission.

Losartan is accepted for restricted use within NHS Scotland to delay the progression of renal disease and to reduce proteinuria in type 2 diabetic patients with nephropathy.

Losartan, for the management of renal disease in patients with hypertension and type 2 diabetes mellitus, is effective, but has not been shown to be any more effective than ACE inhibitors, which are generally less expensive products, and for which there is a strong evidence base in diabetic renal disease and other forms of cardiovascular disease. Therefore, losartan should be considered, along with other angiotensin II antagonists licensed for diabetic renal disease, as an alternative in patients unable to tolerate an ACE inhibitor.

Professor David H Lawson
Chairman