



## Medicine: remimazolam (brand name: Byfavo®)

Paion UK Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed remimazolam as a sedative medicine for helping adults to feel relaxed and sleepy (sedated) before a medical procedure or test. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

### What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has not recommended remimazolam for use as a sedative medicine as described above.

SMC was unable to accept remimazolam because the evidence provided by the company was not strong enough to satisfy the committee that it offers value for money to NHSScotland.

### What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

Remimazolam should not normally be prescribed on the NHS in Scotland for use as described above. If a patient's healthcare professional thinks they would benefit from it, they can make a request to prescribe remimazolam. All health boards have procedures in place to consider these requests. For further information see:

Medicines in Scotland: What's the right treatment for me?

[www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx)



### What is remimazolam used for?

Remimazolam is used as a sedative medicine in adults. Sedative medicines are used to help patients feel relaxed and sleepy before medical tests or procedures and use of sedatives increases the likelihood of procedural success.

### How does remimazolam work?

Remimazolam is a type of medicine called a benzodiazepine. It activates a receptor in the brain called GABA. This type of receptor decreases electrical activity in the brain. By activating GABA remimazolam reduces brain activity helping the patient to feel calm and sleepy.

## How does SMC make its decision?

SMC carefully considers every new medicine to make sure it benefits patients and is considered to be an acceptable use of the limited resources in NHSScotland.

To do this SMC considers the following:

- Evidence from the company about how well the medicine works compared with current treatments available in Scotland, in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer.
- The potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.
- Advice from healthcare professionals about any benefits of the new medicine compared to current treatment, along with how the new medicine is likely to be used.

When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not only those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of remimazolam by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2454).

## More information

Further information, advice and support for patients undergoing sedation for medical procedures and their families and carers can be found through the NHS inform website:



<https://www.nhsinform.scot/tests-and-treatments>

You can find out more about remimazolam (Byfavo®) in the Patient Leaflet by searching for the medicine name on the electronic medicines compendium (EMC) website.



<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/>