



Medicine: roxadustat (brand name: Evrenzo®)

Astellas Pharma Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed roxadustat for the treatment of symptoms from anaemia (low red blood cells) in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted roxadustat for treating patients with anaemia due to CKD, as described above, for restricted use. The restriction means that roxadustat may be used in patients who are not dependent on dialysis at the time treatment starts.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of roxadustat.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that roxadustat for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland.



What is roxadustat used for?

Roxadustat is used to treat symptomatic anaemia in patients with CKD. Patients with CKD may not make enough of a protein called erythropoietin. This can lead to anaemia (a shortage of red blood cells and haemoglobin) which can cause symptoms such as fatigue, weakness, dizziness and irregular heartbeats. Roxadustat is used to treat anaemia.

How does roxadustat work?

Roxadustat works by increasing the level of a protein called hypoxia-inducible factor prolyl hydroxylase (HIF-PH). By raising HIF-PH levels, roxadustat can increase the production of red blood cells and raise the levels of haemoglobin. This improves the oxygen supply to the body and may reduce the symptoms of anaemia.

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 roxadustat by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2461).

More information

The organisation below can provide more information and support for people with chronic kidney disease and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Kidney Research UK



<https://www.kidneyresearchuk.org>



0300 303 1100

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



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