

Record of Recommendation

Re: Funding Pemetrexed (Alimta[®]) in the Treatment of Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma (MPM)

January 13, 2010

Discussion facilitated using the Decision Making Framework.

- All present will vote electronically when the vote is called by the chair. The voting process will be completed by 5 pm on January 21, 2010. The decision will be made by a majority with dissenting voters given the opportunity to record their opinion. Dissenting opinions must be recorded within seven days of the result of the vote being announced.
- Core values and principles were reviewed and discussed along with competing obligations, constraints and relevant information.
- Options for a recommendation to the Deputy Minister were reviewed and each option was discussed. Two options were identified at this time:
 - 1) Approval of funding with restrictions
 - 2) Denial of funding
- An analysis of the projected benefits and burdens of each option was discussed.

Background:

- ✓ Malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) is a rare and incurable cancer that is usually associated with asbestos exposure.
- ✓ Incidence is rising and is expected to peak in 2020 to 2030, based on past exposure to asbestos.
- ✓ Therapy with cisplatin has been the gold standard of therapy, currently it is usually used in combination with gemcitabine.

Projected Benefits:

- ✓ A large phase III trial compared pemetrexed plus cisplatin to cisplatin therapy alone.
- ✓ Pemetrexed plus cisplatin was superior to cisplatin therapy alone in terms of median overall survival (12.1 months versus 9.3 months), time to progression (5.7 months versus 3.9 months) and response rate (41.3% versus 16.7%).
- ✓ Overall, the combination of pemetrexed and cisplatin was associated with a sustained improvement in quality of life and symptom relief compared to cisplatin alone.

Projected Burdens:

- ✓ The incremental cost of pemetrexed is approximately \$17,000 per patient.
 - ✓ In patients with good performance status, the cost per life year gained is \$58,982 and the cost per quality adjusted life year is \$85,524.
 - ✓ The budget impact is expected to be approximately \$145,860 for 10 patients in the first year.
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Result of Vote:

The vote was conducted electronically. The question the Committee was asked to vote on is:

“Should the Committee support a recommendation to the Deputy Minister of Health to fund pemetrexed (Alimta[®]) in combination with cisplatin as a combination first line treatment in patients with histologically proven MPM not candidates for curative surgery who have an ECOG performance status of 0-1 and who choose to receive systemic therapy”.

- **The result of the vote was a majority in favor of recommending funding. There were no abstentions or dissenting opinions recorded.**

This recommendation has been accepted and funding approved by the Deputy Minister of Health.