

Plain English Summary

Momelotinib for treating myelofibrosis in patients with moderate to severe anaemia

What does the guidance say?

Momelotinib is recommended for government funding for treating symptoms caused by myelofibrosis in patients with moderate to severe anaemia who meet certain clinical criteria. It is listed on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) and can be claimed under MediShield Life.

What is myelofibrosis?

Myelofibrosis is a type of slow-growing bone marrow cancer. It causes the bone marrow to produce abnormal cells that grow uncontrollably and form scar tissue (fibrosis) which prevents healthy blood cells from being made. Myelofibrosis can develop on its own (primary myelofibrosis) or from other bone marrow conditions, such as having too many red blood cells (polycythaemia vera) or too many platelets (essential thrombocythaemia). Doctors group myelofibrosis into different risk categories (from low to high risk) based on how quickly the disease may progress to determine the most suitable treatment.

Many patients with myelofibrosis do not have any symptoms initially. Over time, symptoms can develop including pain and discomfort in the abdomen due to an enlarged spleen (splenomegaly), fatigue and weakness due to a lack of red blood cells (anaemia), frequent infections, fever, easy bruising or bleeding, bone pain, night sweats, itching, and unexplained weight loss.

What is momelotinib?

Momelotinib belongs to a group of medicines called Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors. It helps reduce the size of the spleen and improve anaemia and other symptoms caused by myelofibrosis. It is taken orally. Your doctor will tell you how much you need and how long you need to take it for.

Who can have momelotinib?

Patients with moderate to severe anaemia can have momelotinib to treat myelofibrosis-related symptoms if they have intermediate or high-risk primary myelofibrosis or myelofibrosis that developed after polycythaemia vera or essential thrombocythaemia.

Momelotinib can be used whether or not a patient has had treatment with a JAK inhibitor before.

Your doctor can advise if momelotinib is a suitable treatment for you.

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Why was momelotinib recommended for funding?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Momelotinib was recommended for government funding as it was considered to be an acceptable use of healthcare resources at the price proposed by the company.

What does listing on the MAF mean for me?

The MAF helps people pay for treatments that are clinically effective and cost effective. If your doctor prescribes momelotinib for you, and you meet the MAF criteria, your treatment cost will be subsidised by 40% to 75%.

Momelotinib has also been included on the Cancer Drug List (CDL) and can be claimed under MediShield Life. The subsidy class and MediShield Life claim limits are available [here](#).

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 Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE

 Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)