

Plain English Summary

Selexipag for treating pulmonary arterial hypertension

What does the guidance say?

Selexipag 200 mcg, 400 mcg, 600 mcg and 800 mcg tablets are recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy for patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension who meet certain clinical criteria.

Higher-strength tablets of selexipag (1,000 mcg, 1,200 mcg, 1,400 mcg, 1,600 mcg) are not currently marketed in Singapore; therefore, they are not recommended for government subsidy for patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension.

What is pulmonary arterial hypertension?

Pulmonary arterial hypertension is a progressive condition that worsens over time. It is characterised by narrowing of blood vessels from the heart to the lungs, which leads to abnormally high blood pressure (hypertension) and eventually right heart failure. Most forms of pulmonary arterial hypertension develop in adults. Symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath, fainting spells, chest pain and a rapid heart rate.

What is selexipag?

Selexipag belongs to a group of medicines called prostacyclin receptor agonists. It increases the amount of a substance known as prostacyclin in the lungs, which dilates the blood vessels and reduces blood pressure. It is taken orally as an add-on therapy when pulmonary arterial hypertension is not adequately controlled with other treatments.

Who can have selexipag?

Patients can have selexipag as a second or third drug in a combination regimen for pulmonary arterial hypertension if:

- The patient is already taking certain drugs at the maximum tolerated doses; and
- Before starting selexipag, doctors confirm the patient meets specific disease severity criteria using a risk assessment tool.

Your doctor can advise if selexipag is a suitable treatment for you and if you meet the clinical criteria.

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Why was selexipag recommended for subsidy?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Selexipag was recommended for government subsidy because its benefit in treating patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension justifies its cost.

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 selexipag for you, and you meet the MAF criteria, your treatment cost will be subsidised by 40% to 75%.

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 Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE

 Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)

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This summary is not, and should not be regarded as, a substitute for professional or medical advice.

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