

29 January 2024

Professor Andrew Wilson
Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)
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Canberra, ACT 2601
Email: pbac@health.gov.au

Dear Professor Wilson,

Re: PBS listing of dupilumab (Dupixent®) for severe, uncontrolled asthma in 6 to 11 year olds

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission. The National Allergy Council and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA) both support the submission from Sanofi-Aventis to request a Section 100 (Highly Specialised Drugs Program) Authority Required (Written) Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of dupilumab (Dupixent®) for the treatment of uncontrolled severe asthma in patients aged 6 to 11 years.

The National Allergy Council and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia support this submission as biologicals with a strong evidence base, such as dupilumab, can greatly improve the management of severe, uncontrolled asthma, understanding that dupilumab does not replace the need for other asthma medication, including oral corticosteroids. It could, however, reduce the use of oral corticosteroids and any reduction, particularly in this young cohort, will be beneficial in the long term. The ability to improve management of severe, uncontrolled asthma will however, improve the health and well-being of patients, particularly those with other allergic conditions and/or comorbidities.

Dupilumab has been shown to be a safe and effective treatment that can reduce the daily dose of oral corticosteroids, an important consideration for growing children¹.

We acknowledge the challenges of the Australian government and the many health conditions needing urgent attention and funding, however, we cannot ignore the impact of severe uncontrolled asthma in children.

Background

[Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia](#) (A&AA) is a charitable, non-profit organisation established in 1993 to support those affected by allergic disease including allergic asthma. A&AA is dedicated to assisting individuals, their caregivers and all in the community in the management of allergic conditions. A&AA's aim is to enable individuals and their families to enjoy an optimal quality of life whilst minimising risk to their health and wellbeing.

A&AA strives to raise awareness of allergic disease in the community and provides evidence-based information, resources and services to support children and adults living with allergic disease and those who care for them. A&AA has members across all states and territories of Australia. We have a Medical Advisory

¹ Agache, I., Beltran, J., Akdis, C., Akdis, M., Canelo-Aybar, C., Canonica, G. W., Casale, T., Chivato, T., Corren, J., Del Giacco, S., Eiwegger, T., Firinu, D., Gern, J. E., Hamelmann, E., Hanania, N., Mäkelä, M., Hernández-Martín, I., Nair, P., O'Mahony, L., ... Jutel, M. (2020). Efficacy and safety of treatment with biologicals (benralizumab, dupilumab, mepolizumab, omalizumab and reslizumab) for severe eosinophilic asthma. A systematic review for the EAACI Guidelines - recommendations on the use of biologicals in severe asthma. *Allergy (Copenhagen)*, 75(5), 1023–1042.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/all.14221>

Board that consists of clinical immunology/allergy specialists who are also members of Australia's peak medical body, ASCIA (Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy).

The [National Allergy Council](#) is a partnership between the ASCIA and A&AA, the peak medical and patient support organisations. The National Allergy Council implements the National Allergy Strategy. As part of these projects, we deliver a wide range of educational resources and training programs. Through implementation of the National Allergy Strategy, we aim to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians with allergic diseases, and minimise the burden of allergic diseases on individuals, their carers, healthcare services and the community.