

SMC November 2020 decisions

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has released decisions on seven drugs in November 2020.

Atezolizumab [Tecentrq] was accepted for the treatment of metastatic triple-negative breast cancer, and for the treatment of extensive-stage small cell lung cancer, after consideration through SMC's Patient and Clinician Engagement (PACE) process. In combination with chemotherapy, atezolizumab has the potential to improve progression-free survival and overall survival in both of these patient populations.

Romosozumab [Evenity] was accepted for the treatment of severe osteoporosis in postmenopausal women. It can reduce the risk of fractures in these patients.

Trabectedin [Yondelis] was accepted through the PACE process for the treatment of advanced soft-tissue sarcoma. Trabectedin offers an additional treatment option with the potential to extend the period of stable disease.

The SMC has published an initial assessment report on volanesorsen [Waylivra] for the treatment of familial chylomicronaemia syndrome. Volanesorsen was assessed through the ultra-orphan pathway for medicines which treat very rare conditions. It may reduce abdominal pain and episodes of severe pancreatitis, and improve quality of life. After the drug company provides a plan detailing how further data on the effects of the medicine will be collected, volanesorsen will be available through NHS*Scotland for three years while the information is gathered. Following this, SMC will review the new evidence and make a decision on routine availability of the drug in NHSScotland.

Through an expedited approach to minimise delay in patient access following the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SMC has also accepted darolutamide [Nubeqa] for the treatment of prostate cancer, and trastuzumab emtansine [Kadcyla] for the treatment of breast cancer.

The SMC was unable to accept patiromer [Veltassa] for the treatment of hyperkalaemia, because the committee was not satisfied with the drug company's evidence on its cost effectiveness.

* National Health Service