Vedolizumab for treating ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease

WHAT DOES THE GUIDANCE SAY?
Vedolizumab is not recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy.

WHY WAS VEDOLIZUMAB NOT RECOMMENDED FOR SUBSIDY?
ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Vedolizumab was not recommended for government subsidy because its benefits for patients do not justify its cost compared to other treatments that are available.

IS THIS TREATMENT RIGHT FOR ME?
There are different types of treatments available for ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease. Your doctor may recommend you take vedolizumab instead of other subsidised, more affordable drugs, because they may be unsuitable for you.

Your doctor should give you clear information, listen to your views and concerns, and talk to you about your treatment options. Your family can also be involved in the discussion if you wish.

Some of the questions you may want to ask your doctor when making decisions about your care are:

• How will the treatment affect my day-to-day activities?
• How well does it work compared to other treatments?
• What are the side effects and risks of treatment, and how likely are they?
• How long will I need to be on the treatment for?
• What happens if the treatment stops working?
• What happens if I do not want to have treatment?
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WHAT IS ULCERATIVE COLITIS?
Ulcerative colitis is a long-term condition where the lining of the colon and rectum becomes swollen (inflamed) and ulcers form. Symptoms usually include abdominal pain and bloody diarrhoea (wet stools).

WHAT IS CROHN’S DISEASE?
Crohn’s disease is a long-term condition where the digestive tract becomes swollen (inflamed). Ulcers can also develop. People with Crohn’s disease often have abdominal pain, weight loss, diarrhoea (wet stools) and vomiting.

WHAT IS VEDOLIZUMAB?
You may know vedolizumab as Entyvio, a drug that belongs to a group of medicines called biologics. It reduces gut inflammation and relieves symptoms.

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ACE is the national health technology assessment agency under the Ministry of Health (Singapore). It publishes guidances on diagnosing, treating, and preventing different medical conditions based on the latest research information available worldwide.

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