

**[PES IS OUTDATED AND HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN ON 19 DECEMBER 2022]**

## Abiraterone for treating metastatic prostate cancer

### WHAT DOES THE GUIDANCE SAY?

Abiraterone (Abiratanat) is recommended for listing on the Standard Drug List (SDL) for government subsidy for treating metastatic prostate cancer.

### WHAT IS METASTATIC PROSTATE CANCER?

When cancer spreads outside of the prostate to other parts of the body, it is known as metastatic prostate cancer.

Cancer can spread to most parts of the body. Prostate cancer typically spreads to the bones. Once prostate cancer has spread to the bones symptoms can include bone pain and weak bones that are more likely to fracture.

### WHAT IS ABIRATERONE?

Abiraterone is a hormone treatment that belongs to a group of medicines known as anti-androgens. It stops your body from making testosterone and is used to slow the spread of prostate cancer.

### HOW MUCH ABIRATERONE CAN I TAKE?

Your doctor will advise you on the appropriate dose for your condition. Abiraterone is available as tablets. The usual dose of abiraterone is 1000 mg taken once a day.

Abiraterone is taken with a medicine called prednisone or prednisolone, which is used to reduce the risk of some side effects of abiraterone such as high blood pressure or low potassium levels.

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### WHO CAN HAVE ABIRATERONE?

Your doctor will advise if abiraterone is suitable for you.

Abiraterone may be prescribed for men when they are first diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer which is likely to respond to standard hormone therapy. You may hear this called hormone-sensitive prostate cancer.

It can also be prescribed for prostate cancer that has stopped responding to standard hormone therapy. You may hear this called hormone-relapsed or castrate-resistant prostate cancer.

Some men may also receive abiraterone if they have already had a chemotherapy called docetaxel and their cancer has stopped responding to it.

### WHY WAS ABIRATERONE RECOMMENDED FOR SDL?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Abiraterone (Abiraterone) was recommended because its benefits in slowing the spread of prostate cancer justifies its costs.

The other brand of abiraterone (Zytiga) was not recommended for subsidy.

### WHAT DOES LISTING ON THE SDL MEAN FOR ME?

Drugs on the Standard Drug List (SDL) are subsidised at 50% for all Singaporean citizens who are treated in a public healthcare institution. Patients from lower to middle income households may receive a higher subsidy of up to 75%.

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

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