

## Plain English Summary

# Polatuzumab vedotin for previously untreated diffuse large B-cell lymphoma

## What does the guidance say?

Polatuzumab vedotin has been recommended for inclusion on the Cancer Drug List (CDL) for patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) who have not had treatment before and meet certain criteria. Government funding will be provided for this treatment through the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) and MediShield Life.

## What is diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)?

Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) is a type of fast-growing blood cancer that causes white blood cells (B-cell lymphocytes) to grow uncontrollably. It is the most common type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma and usually occurs in older adults, affecting up to 300 people each year in Singapore.

Symptoms may include swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, fever, night sweats, weight loss and frequent infections.

Your doctor can consider your risk factors and use the International Prognostic Index (IPI) to predict your health outcomes. IPI scores range from 0 to 5, where higher scores indicate higher risk and poorer health outcomes. The IPI score will help your doctor decide which treatment is suitable for your condition.

## What is polatuzumab vedotin?

Polatuzumab vedotin belongs to a group of targeted medicines called antibody-drug conjugates. It specifically targets the CD79b protein found on cancer cells and stops the cancer from growing. It is given as a slow drip into a vein (intravenously) in combination with four other drugs (rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and prednisone) for patients with previously untreated DLBCL.

Your doctor will tell you how much you need to have and how long you need to have it for.

## Why was polatuzumab vedotin recommended for funding?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Polatuzumab vedotin was recommended for funding to meet the medical needs of certain patients with DLBCL and was considered to be an acceptable use of healthcare resources at the price proposed by the company.

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### Who can have polatuzumab vedotin?

Polatuzumab vedotin is used in combination with rituximab biosimilar (subsidised brand), cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, and prednisone for patients who have not had treatment for DLBCL before and have an IPI score of 3 to 5.

Polatuzumab vedotin has not been recommended for subsidy when it is used in combination with unsubsidised brands of rituximab or rituximab biosimilar. Your doctor can advise if polatuzumab vedotin is a suitable treatment for you.

### What does including this treatment on the CDL mean for me?

Drugs on the Cancer Drug List (CDL) can be subsidised under the Standard Drug List (SDL) or Medication Assistance Fund (MAF), and are claimable under MediShield Life. The subsidy class and MediShield Life claim limits are available at [go.gov.sg/moh-cancer-drug-list](https://go.gov.sg/moh-cancer-drug-list).

Polatuzumab vedotin is claimable under MediShield Life and has been listed on the MAF. The MAF helps people pay for expensive treatments that are clinically necessary. If your doctor prescribes polatuzumab vedotin 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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