

## Plain English Summary

# Regorafenib and sunitinib for advanced gastrointestinal stromal tumours

## What does the guidance say?

Sunitinib is recommended for listing on the Standard Drug List (SDL), and regorafenib is recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government funding for patients with locally advanced, unresectable or metastatic gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GISTs) that have worsened despite previous treatment with imatinib.

## What is a gastrointestinal stromal tumour?

Gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GISTs) are a rare type of soft tissue sarcoma that can develop anywhere along the digestive system, but most commonly start in the stomach or small intestines. Symptoms of GISTs depend on the size of the tumour and where they are in the digestive system. The most common symptoms include blood in stools, stomach pain, vomiting, fatigue and unexplained weight loss.

Some people with GISTs can have surgery to remove the tumour from the affected area. If the tumour cannot be removed (unresectable) and spreads to other parts of the body, this is known as advanced or metastatic disease.

## What are regorafenib and sunitinib?

Regorafenib and sunitinib belong to a group of medicines called tyrosine kinase inhibitors that can stop cells from growing and dividing and can prevent cancer from spreading. They are taken orally and are used by patients with advanced GISTs that continue to worsen despite initial therapy with another treatment called imatinib.

Your doctor will tell you how much you need to take and how long you need to take either of these treatments for.

## Who can have these treatments?

Adults with a GIST that cannot be removed with surgery or that has started to spread to other parts of the body despite initial treatment with imatinib can have regorafenib or sunitinib.

Your doctor can advise if either of these treatments are suitable for you.

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## Why were these treatments recommended for funding?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Regorafenib and sunitinib were recommended because their benefits in improving survival for certain patients with GISTs justify their cost.

## What does listing on SDL or MAF mean for me?

Sunitinib has been listed on the Standard Drug List (SDL). Drugs on 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 up to 75% subsidy.

Regorafenib has been listed on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF). The MAF helps people pay for expensive treatments that are clinically effective and cost effective. If your doctor prescribes regorafenib for you, and you meet the MAF criteria, your treatment cost will be subsidised by 40% to 75%.

Both drugs have also been included on the Cancer Drug List (CDL) and are claimable under MediShield Life. The subsidy class and MediShield Life claim limits are available at [go.gov.sg/moh-cancer-drug-list](http://go.gov.sg/moh-cancer-drug-list).

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 Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE

 Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)

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