

## Plain English Summary

# Treatments for metastatic colorectal cancer

## What does the guidance say?

Regorafenib is recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government funding for patients with metastatic colorectal cancer whose condition has worsened despite having at least two previous treatments.

Aflibercept, bevacizumab reference biologic (Avastin), ramucirumab and trifluridine/tipiracil are not recommended for government subsidy for treating metastatic colorectal cancer.

## What is metastatic colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer occurs when cells grow uncontrollably and form a mass (tumour) in the colon or rectum of the large bowel. If the tumour spreads to other parts of the body, this is known as metastatic disease. Symptoms of colorectal cancer can include blood in stools, a change in bowel habits, unexplained weight loss and pain around the bowel. Sometimes, the tumour can cause a blockage in the bowel.

Treatment for colorectal cancer depends on the size and spread of the tumour, and which treatments have already been tried.

## What is regorafenib?

Regorafenib belongs to a group of medicines called tyrosine kinase inhibitors that also help to control the growth of cancer cells. It is taken orally and is used by patients whose condition continues to worsen despite initial therapy with at least two different cancer treatments.

## Who can have regorafenib?

Regorafenib can be used by patients with metastatic colorectal cancer who have had at least two other treatments before, but their condition has worsened.

Your doctor can advise if regorafenib is a suitable treatment for you.

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### Why was regorafenib recommended for funding?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Regorafenib was recommended for funding because its benefit in improving survival for certain patients with metastatic colorectal cancer justifies its cost.

Aflibercept and bevacizumab (Avastin) were not recommended for subsidy because their benefits do not justify their costs compared to bevacizumab biosimilar (Mvasi). Trifluridine/tipiracil was not recommended for subsidy because its benefits do not justify its cost compared to regorafenib. The manufacturer of ramucirumab did not want their product reviewed for subsidy so no recommendation could be made. If you need one of these treatments for metastatic colorectal cancer, you can speak to a medical social worker to find out if there is other financial assistance available to help with the cost of treatment.

Bevacizumab biosimilar (Mvasi) has already been recommended for listing on the Standard Drug List (SDL) for all approved conditions, including metastatic colorectal cancer. 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 a higher subsidy up to 75%.

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

The MAF helps people pay for expensive treatments that are clinically necessary. If your doctor prescribes regorafenib for you, and you meet the MAF criteria, your treatment cost will be subsidised by 40% to 75%.

Regorafenib has also been included on the Cancer Drug List (CDL) and is 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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