

Plain English Summary

Treatments for moderate to severe eczema that has not improved with previous treatment

What does the guidance say?

Abrocitinib is recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy for patients with moderate to severe eczema (atopic dermatitis) who meet certain clinical criteria.

Baricitinib, dupilumab and upadacitinib are not recommended for subsidy.

What is eczema?

Eczema (atopic dermatitis) is a type of inflammatory skin condition that causes dry, itchy, red and scaly skin. It is a life-long condition, and most people develop their first symptoms before the age of five.

Common symptoms of eczema include areas of red (inflamed) skin, intense itching, small skin bumps and flaking. Itchiness may be more intense at night, leading to more scratching that may cause infection or scarring. People with moderate to severe eczema have widespread areas of dry skin, redness and frequent itching, which affects daily activities and can cause loss of sleep.

What is abrocitinib?

Abrocitinib belongs to a group of medicines called Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors which reduce inflammation and relieve symptoms. It is taken orally. Your doctor will tell you how much you need to take and how long you need to take it for.

Who can have abrocitinib?

Patients can have abrocitinib if they have moderate to severe eczema that has not improved after taking oral immunosuppressants (drugs that calm the immune system) for at least 12 weeks. Your doctor can advise if abrocitinib is a suitable treatment for you.

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Why was abrocitinib recommended for subsidy?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Abrocitinib was recommended for subsidy because its benefit in improving symptoms and quality of life for certain patients with moderate to severe eczema justifies its cost.


Baricitinib, dupilumab and upadacitinib were not recommended for subsidy because their benefits do not justify their costs. If you need one of these drugs for treating eczema, 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.

What does listing on the MAF mean for me?

The MAF helps people pay for expensive treatments that are clinically effective and cost effective. If your doctor prescribes abrocitinib 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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