

Plain English Summary

Sacubitril/valsartan for treating chronic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction

What does the guidance say?

Sacubitril/valsartan is recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy for patients with chronic heart failure and reduced ejection fraction who meet certain clinical criteria.

What is chronic heart failure?

Chronic heart failure, also called congestive heart failure, is a long-term condition when the heart cannot efficiently pump blood around the body because the heart muscle has been damaged or is too weak to work properly. Symptoms of chronic heart failure can include shortness of breath, dizziness, tiredness, lack of strength, and an abnormal heart rate (too fast, too slow, or irregular).

What is reduced ejection fraction?

Ejection fraction is a measurement, expressed as a percentage, of how much blood the left ventricle of the heart pumps out with each contraction. Reduced ejection fraction, also called systolic heart failure, happens when the heart muscle cannot contract effectively and pumps less blood with each heartbeat. This also reduces the delivery of oxygen around the body.

What is sacubitril/valsartan ?

You may know sacubitril/valsartan as Entresto, a combination drug containing a neprilysin inhibitor (sacubitril) and an angiotension II receptor blocker (valsartan). Sacubitril keeps the blood vessels relaxed and reduces sodium and fluid in the body, while valsartan reduces blood vessel tightening. The two drugs combined make it easier for the heart to pump blood around the body.

It is taken orally each day. Your doctor will tell you how much you need to take and how long you need to take it for.

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Who can have sacubitril/valsartan?

Patients with chronic heart failure and reduced ejection fraction who are on other heart failure therapies and have been treated with an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor or an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) but are still experiencing symptoms can have sacubitril/valsartan.

Your doctor can advise if sacubitril/valsartan is a suitable treatment for you.

Why was sacubitril/valsartan recommended for MAF?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Sacubitril/valsartan was recommended because its benefit in reducing the risk of cardiovascular death and hospitalisation for certain patients with chronic heart failure justifies its cost compared to other heart failure therapies.

What does listing on MAF mean for me?

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

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The Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE) was established by the Ministry of Health (Singapore) to drive better decision-making in healthcare through health technology assessment (HTA), clinical guidance and education. It publishes guidances on diagnosing, treating, and preventing different medical conditions based on the latest research information available worldwide.

This summary is not, and should not be regarded as, a substitute for professional or medical advice. Please seek the advice of a qualified healthcare professional about any medical condition.

To find out more about ACE visit www.ace-hta.gov.sg