

Vonoprazan for treating *Helicobacter pylori* infection

WHAT DOES THE GUIDANCE SAY?

Vonoprazan is not recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy for treating *Helicobacter pylori* infection.

WHY WAS VONOPRAZAN NOT RECOMMENDED FOR SUBSIDY?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Vonoprazan was not recommended for government subsidy because its benefits for patients with *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) infection do not justify its costs compared to other effective treatments that are already subsidised.

IS THIS TREATMENT RIGHT FOR ME?

There are different types of treatments available for *H. pylori* infection. Your doctor may recommend you take vonoprazan instead of other subsidised, more affordable drugs, because they may be unsuitable for you.

Your doctor should give you clear information, listen to your views and concerns, and talk to you about your treatment options. Your family can also be involved in the discussion if you wish.

Some of the questions you may want to ask your doctor when making decisions about your care are:

- How will the treatment affect my day-to-day activities?
- How well does it work compared to other treatments?
- What are the side effects and risks of treatment, and how likely are they?
- How long will I need to be on the treatment for?
- What happens if the treatment does not work for me?
- What happens if I do not want to have treatment?

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WHAT IS *HELICOBACTER PYLORI* INFECTION?

Helicobacter pylori or *H. pylori* is a type of bacteria that infects the stomach. Many people have *H. pylori* infection but do not experience any symptoms. For some people, *H. pylori* infection can cause stomach ulcers which can lead to pain or discomfort in the upper belly, nausea or vomiting. It may also cause stomach cancer in a small number of patients.

WHAT IS VONOPRAZAN?

You may know vonoprazan as Vocinti[®], a drug that reduces the amount of gastric acid produced in the stomach, allowing antibiotics, which are given at the same time, to work more effectively in killing *H. pylori* bacteria.

Published: 1 April 2020

ACE is the national health technology assessment agency under the Ministry of Health (Singapore). 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.

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