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Proposal to list nintedanib and remove restrictions from tiotropium bromide

Dear Andrew

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) wishes to provide feedback on the proposal to list nintedanib (Ofev) and remove the current funding restrictions for tiotropium (Spiriva) through a bundling arrangement with the supplier. The effect of this proposal would be to make an additional treatment option available for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and remove the need for Special Authority applications for tiotropium, a long-acting muscarinic antagonist indicated for bronchospasm and dyspnoea-associated COPD, including chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

We note that during the year ending 30 June 2018, there were over 2,500 initial and 6,000 renewal Special Authority applications for tiotropium. We agree that the removal of the requirement for Special Authority applications for tiotropium, in conjunction with a net confidential price reduction, would reduce the burden on prescribers and improve access to this product for patients. Accordingly, we are strongly supportive of the proposal to remove the current funding restrictions for tiotropium.

The funding of nintedanib would provide an alternative treatment option for patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. We note that the Respiratory Subcommittee of PTAC has advised that patients who are intolerant of pirfenidone may benefit by switching to nintedanib. We understand that PTAC has recommended that nintedanib be funded if cost-neutral to pirfenidone. Accordingly, we are also supportive of the proposal to list nintedanib.

We hope our feedback is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock
NZMA Chair