

Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)

Application 1394:

C1 esterase inhibitor concentrate for hereditary angioedema

What is C1 esterase inhibitor and hereditary angioedema?

Hereditary angioedema is a rare genetic condition that causes recurrent episodes of severe swelling most commonly in the arms, legs, face, intestinal tract and airway. The condition is caused by changes (mutation) in the gene that makes a protein called C1 esterase inhibitor. The mutation results in decreased or dysfunctional levels of this protein. C1 esterase inhibitor concentrate is an injectable treatment that replaces this protein for patients with hereditary angioedema.

Why was the application for funding supported?

MSAC considered a range of clinical and economic reasons to support listing the treatment in the National Products and Services List (NPSL) under the National Blood Agreement (NBA). The committee recommended that the treatment be listed because:

- the clinical need was evident
- the treatment was already in use
- it offers clinically important improvements for the treatment of acute attacks of hereditary angioedema

What alternatives are available?

This treatment is already in use as an alternative to another drug that treats hereditary angioedema called icatibant. C1 esterase inhibitor concentrate is used for acute attacks (severe and sudden onset of symptoms) and for routine ongoing management of hereditary angioedema. Icatibant is used for acute attacks, but not for routine ongoing management.

What happens next?

The Jurisdictional Blood Committee (JBC) considered recommendations by the MSAC and agreed to the addition of C1 esterase inhibitor concentrate for hereditary angioedema on the NPSL.

What out-of-pockets expenses are involved?

For information regarding what blood products are supplied on the NPSL including costs involved please visit www.blood.gov.au.

Where can I find out more?

A full summary of MSAC's decision is at www.msac.gov.au.

People should talk with their doctor if they have any concerns about their health. Every Australian citizen, and some other people, are entitled to free public hospital care under Medicare. Patients with private health insurance can retain the right to be treated as either public or private patients in public hospitals.