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6th September 2019

Circular 033/19

Re: Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) - Apixaban

Dear Pharmacist,

I am pleased to notify you that from 1st September 2019, Apixaban (Eliquis®) will no longer require prior approval through the online reimbursement application system. The Medicines Management Programme (MMP) have considered Apixaban as the Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) of choice. I enclose a letter from Prof Michael Barry, Clinical Lead, Medicines Management Programme in this regard.

However, if the prescriber chooses to prescribe another DOAC (Dabigatran, Edoxaban and Rivaroxaban), an application for reimbursement approval must still be made through the online portal.

From 1st September 2019, claims for Apixaban (Eliquis®) can be submitted in the normal manner.

Further information of the MMP Preferred Drugs initiative can be found at
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/medicines-management/preferred-drugs/>.

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Reimbursement and Eligibility



Re: Direct Oral Anticoagulant, Apixaban (Eliquis®)

1st September 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Following a review published in March 2019, apixaban is considered the Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) of choice by the HSE-Medicines Management Programme. In view of this, from 1st September 2019, there is no longer a requirement to make an online application for reimbursement of apixaban.

Currently in Ireland apixaban is licensed and reimbursed for use in the following circumstances:

- Prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in adult patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation with one or more risk factors, such as prior stroke or transient ischaemic attack (TIA), hypertension, age ≥ 75 years, diabetes mellitus, symptomatic heart failure (NYHA Class $\geq II$)
- Treatment of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE), and prevention of recurrent DVT and PE in adults
- Prophylaxis of thromboembolism in adult patients after elective total knee replacement or total hip replacement.

It is important to note that there is still a requirement to apply for reimbursement of all other DOACs (dabigatran, edoxaban and rivaroxaban) via the online application system.

I wish to thank you for your co-operation with this prescribing initiative and your ongoing support of the Medicines Management Programme.

With best wishes,

Professor Michael Barry

National Clinical Lead, Medicines Management Programme