



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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11 March 2019

Ms Maisie Lam
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central

Dear Ms Lam,

Panel on Health Services
Follow-up to the special meeting on 11 December 2018

During the discussion on the Review Findings of Means Test Mechanism for Samaritan Fund (SF) and Community Care Fund (CCF) Medical Assistance Programmes at the special meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services held on 11 December 2018, Members requested supplementary information relating to CCF “Subsidy for Eligible Patients to Purchase Ultra-expensive Drugs (Including Those for Treating Uncommon Disorders)” (the Ultra-expensive Drugs Programme). Having consulted the Hospital Authority (HA), the requested supplementary information is provided in the ensuing paragraphs.

(I) Factors to be taken into account when determining whether a drug would be included in the Ultra-expensive Drugs Programme, and the drugs currently covered under the Programme;

2. We place high importance on providing optimal care to all patients while ensuring rational use of public resources. In determining whether a drug should be included in the Ultra-expensive Drugs Programme, HA follows an

evidence-based approach, having regard to the safety and efficacy of drugs and taking into account other relevant considerations, such as international recommendations and practices, advance in technology, disease state, patient compliance, quality of life, actual experience in the use of drugs as well as views of professionals and patient groups. Some drug treatments for uncommon disorders are very expensive but availability of clinical evidence for evaluating drug treatment may need more time to accumulate. HA will commission expert panels to review specific ultra-expensive drugs and develop treatment protocol for suitable patients individually.

3. The list of drugs and indications covered by the Ultra-expensive Drugs Programme as of 28 January 2019 are listed at **Annex A**.

(II) Criteria for approving the applications for drug subsidy under the Ultra-expensive Drugs Programme

4. To be eligible for drug subsidy under the Ultra-expensive Drugs Programme, the patient must satisfy all of the following criteria –

- (a) **“Permanent Resident” Requirement**: the patient must be a permanent resident of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Immigration Ordinance;
- (b) **Clinical Requirement**: the patient's treatment plan must be signed or issued by a designated HA doctor in accordance with the prevailing clinical guidelines under the Ultra-expensive Drugs Programme; and
- (c) **Financial Requirement**: the patient must undergo a household-based financial assessment conducted by Medical Social Worker (MSW) to determine the level of co-payment.

(III) A breakdown of the amount of patients' contribution to drug cost in the approved applications for drug subsidy under the Ultra-expensive Drugs Programme by the following ranges: under \$100,000; \$100,000 to \$199,999; \$200,000 to \$299,999; \$300,000 to \$399,999; \$400,000 to \$499,999; \$500,000 to \$599,999; \$600,000 to \$699,999; \$700,000 to \$799,999; \$800,000 to \$899,999; \$900,000 to \$1,000,000;

5. A breakdown of the amount of patients' contribution to drug cost for approved applications under the Ultra-expensive Drugs Programme as of 31 December 2018 is at **Annex B**.

(IV) The number of applications being rejected under the Samaritan Fund and the Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programmes due to the reason that the patients concerned did not meet the clinical requirements;

6. HA does not keep statistical records on the number of applications being rejected under SF and CCF Medical Assistance Programmes due to the reason that the patients concerned did not meet the clinical requirements.

Yours sincerely,



(Jonathan Chiu)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Chief Executive, Hospital Authority
(Attn.: Ms Dorothy Lam)

Annex A

Drugs Currently Supported by CCF “Subsidy for Eligible Patients to Purchase Ultra-expensive Drugs (Including Those for Treating Uncommon Disorders)” as of 28 January 2019

Item	Drug	Designated clinical indication
1a	Eculizumab	Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobinuria
1b		Atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome
2	Nusinersen	Infantile Onset Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) / Childhood Onset Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)

Annex B

**Patient contribution to drug cost for approved applications under the
Ultra-expensive Drugs Programme as of 31 December 2018**

Required Patient Contribution (HK\$)	No. of approved applications
<\$100,000	17
\$100,000 - \$199,999	/
\$200,000 - \$299,999	/
\$300,000 - \$399,999	/
\$400,000 - \$499,999	/
\$500,000 - \$599,999	/
\$600,000 - \$699,999	/
\$700,000 - \$799,999	/
\$800,000 - \$899,999	/
\$900,000 - \$1,000,000	1*

** Actual patient contribution paid was \$500,000 as the patient's continued treatment under the Ultra-expensive Drugs Programme was terminated by clinician for clinical reason.*