Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss

Justification

for the Resolution of the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) on the Suspension of the Benefit Assessment under Section 35a SGB V on

melphalan flufenamide (new therapeutic indication: multiple myeloma, refractory, after 2 prior therapies, in combination with dexamethasone)

of 4 April 2024

Contents

1. Legal basis

According to Section 35a paragraph 1 German Social Code, Book Five (SGB V), the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) assesses the benefit of reimbursable medicinal products with new active ingredients. This includes in particular the assessment of the additional benefit and its therapeutic significance. The benefit assessment is carried out on the basis of evidence provided by the pharmaceutical company, which must be submitted to the G-BA electronically, including all clinical trials the pharmaceutical company has conducted or commissioned, at the latest at the time of the first placing on the market as well as the marketing authorisation of new therapeutic indications of the medicinal product, and which must contain the following information in particular:

1. approved therapeutic indications,
2. medical benefit,
3. additional medical benefit in relation to the appropriate comparator therapy,
4. number of patients and patient groups for whom there is a therapeutically significant additional benefit,
5. treatment costs for the statutory health insurance funds,
6. requirements for a quality-assured application.

The G-BA may commission the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) to carry out the benefit assessment. According to Section 35a, paragraph 2 SGB V, the assessment must be completed within three months of the relevant date for submission of the evidence and published on the internet. According to Section 35a paragraph 3 SGB V, the G-BA decides on the benefit assessment within three months of its publication. The resolution is to be published on the internet and is part of the Pharmaceuticals Directive.

2. Key points of the resolution

The active ingredient melphalan flufenamide was first approved as a medicinal product on 17 August 2022 (Pepaxti). The marketing authorisation was granted for the therapeutic indication:
Pepaxti is indicated, in combination with dexamethasone, for the treatment of adult patients with multiple myeloma who have received at least three prior lines of therapies, whose disease is refractory to at least one proteasome inhibitor, one immunomodulatory agent, and one anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody, and who have demonstrated disease progression on or after the last therapy. For patients with a prior autologous stem cell transplantation, the time to progression should be at least 3 years from transplantation."

After the active ingredient melphalan flufenamide was placed on the market for the first time on 1 October 2022, the G-BA conducted a benefit assessment according to Section 35a and supplemented Annex XII of the Pharmaceuticals Directive with the active ingredient melphalan flufenamide by resolution of 16 March 2023.

On 14 December 2023, melphalan flufenamide received marketing authorisation for a new therapeutic indication to be classified as a major type 2 variation as defined according to Annex 2, number 2, letter a to Regulation (EC) No. 1234/2008 of the Commission of 24 November 2008 concerning the examination of variations to the terms of marketing authorisations for medicinal products for human use and veterinary medicinal products (OJ L 334 from 12.12.2008, sentence 7).

On 15 December, the pharmaceutical company submitted an application for marketing authorisation amendment of type Ib to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in order to reverse this extension of the marketing authorisation.

On 11 January 2024, the pharmaceutical company has submitted in due time (i.e. at the latest within four weeks after informing the pharmaceutical company about the approval for a new therapeutic indication) a dossier in accordance with Section 4, paragraph 3, number 2 Ordinance on the Benefit Assessment of Pharmaceuticals (AM-NutzenV) in conjunction with Chapter 5, Section 8, paragraph 1, number 2 of the Rules of Procedure (VerfO) of the G-BA on the active ingredient melphalan flufenamide for the assessment-relevant new therapeutic indication "melphalan flufenamide is indicated, in combination with dexamethasone, for the treatment of adult patients with multiple myeloma who have received two prior lines of therapies and whose disease is refractory to lenalidomide and the last line of therapy". The G-BA commissioned the IQWiG to carry out the assessment of the dossier.

On 1 February 2024, the EMA approved the pharmaceutical company's application to withdraw the extension of the marketing authorisation. On 1 March, the extension of the marketing authorisation for melphalan flufenamide was repealed by the European Commission on the basis of the procedure described above. With this repeal of the extension of the marketing authorisation, the therapeutic indication of melphalan flufenamide is limited to the therapeutic indication conclusively assessed in the G-BA resolution of 16 March 2023. This means that the factual requirements for the benefit assessment by the G-BA in accordance with Section 35a paragraph 1 SGB V are no longer met for the above-mentioned new assessment-relevant therapeutic indication.

The pending benefit assessment procedure on melphalan flufenamide in the above-mentioned new assessment-relevant therapeutic indication should therefore be suspended.

3. Bureaucratic costs calculation

The proposed resolution does not create any new or amended information obligations for care providers within the meaning of Annex II to Chapter 1 VerfO and, accordingly, no bureaucratic costs.

4. Process sequence

On 11 January 2024, the pharmaceutical company submitted a dossier for the benefit assessment of melphalan flufenamide in due time to the G-BA in accordance with Chapter 5 Section 8, paragraph 1, number 2 VerfO (new therapeutic indication: multiple myeloma, refractory, after 2 prior therapies, in combination with dexamethasone).

By letter dated 15 January 2024 in conjunction with the resolution of the G-BA of 1 August 2011 concerning the commissioning of the IQWiG to assess the benefit of medicinal products with new active ingredients in accordance with Section 35a SGB V, the G-BA commissioned the IQWiG to assess the dossier concerning the active ingredient melphalan flufenamide (new therapeutic indication: multiple myeloma, refractory, after 2 prior therapies, in combination with dexamethasone).

The proposed resolution was discussed and approved at the session of the subcommittee on 26 March 2024.

At its session on 4 April 2024, the plenum approved the suspension of the benefit assessment of melphalan flufenamide (new therapeutic indication: multiple myeloma, refractory, after 2 prior therapies, in combination with dexamethasone) in accordance with Section 35a SGB V.

Chronological course of consultation

Session	Date	Subject of consultation
Working group Section 35a	20 March 2024	Consultation on the draft resolution
Subcommittee Medicinal products	26 March 2024	Consultation and consensus on the draft resolution on suspension of the benefit assessment procedure
Plenum	4 April 2024	Resolution on the suspension of the benefit assessment procedure

Berlin, 4 April 2024

Federal Joint Committee (G-BA)
in accordance with Section 91 SGB V
The Chair

Prof. Hecken