

Cholinesterase Inhibitors

Authority - PBS/RPBS

Initial treatment of mild to moderately severe Alzheimer's disease. Confirmation of this diagnosis must be made by a specialist/ consultant physician (including a psychiatrist). The authority application must include the result of the baseline Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE). This baseline MMSE must be a score of 10 or more and, if this score is at least 25 points, the result of the baseline Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale, cognitive sub-scale (ADAS-Cog) must also be specified. An application must be made in writing, but initial supply may be sought on the telephone as indicated in the Note above. For telephone applications, up to a maximum of 2 months' initial therapy will be authorised. For the subsequent written authority application, no more than 1 month's therapy and sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of up to 6 months' initial treatment will be approved. For written applications where no prior telephone approval has been issued, up to a maximum of 1 month's therapy plus 5 repeats will be authorised; Continuing treatment, following initial therapy, of mild to moderately severe Alzheimer's disease in patients with demonstrated improvement in cognitive function as measured by an increase of at least 2 points from baseline on the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE), OR a decrease of at least 4 points from baseline on the Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale, cognitive sub-scale (ADAS-Cog) for patients with an MMSE baseline score of at least 25 points (the initial authority application for continuing treatment must include the relevant result from the MMSE or the ADAS-Cog and must be in writing).

Authority applications for initial treatment and the first application for continuing treatment should be made to the Health Insurance Commission (HIC) in writing. The second and subsequent authority applications for continuing treatment may be made by telephone. Up to a maximum of 6 months' therapy (1 month plus 5 repeats) will be approved for initial and continuing therapy. To avoid unnecessary delays in initiating treatment with this drug, prescribers may seek telephone approval from the HIC for up to 2 months' initial therapy. In order to continue the initial course of treatment, a written application must be provided to the HIC following the initial telephone authority approval to confirm the information provided. No more than 1 month's therapy and sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of up to 6 months' initial treatment will be approved for this follow-up application.

Source: E-MIMS May - July 2005