

MAVENCLAD® (cladribine tablets) for RRMS Australian Government approves PBS listing

As widely reported in the media, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, today announced approval for the listing of MAVENCLAD® (cladribine tablets) for relapsing remitting MS (RRMS) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 1 January 2019.

Previously, MAVENCLAD® was registered for use in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), for the treatment of patients with RRMS, to reduce inflammation in the nervous system caused by MS. It is administered in two treatment courses, over two years; each treatment course consists of two treatment weeks. No further treatment is required in years 3 and 4.

Following successive submissions from MS Australia, MS Research Australia, clinicians and members of the MS community, MAVENCLAD® was recommended for listing on the PBS for RRMS by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), to make this new MS medication affordable. Recommendations by the PBAC are subject to final approval by the Australian Government.

Following today's announcement, those eligible for MAVENCLAD® for RRMS will pay a maximum of \$39.50 per script, or \$6.40 for concessional patients.

For MS Australia (MSA), a key focus is on people living with MS, being able to effectively manage their condition, and we stand alongside them in seeing this announcement as a positive step.

As no two people with MS experience the condition in the same way, it's important that people with MS discuss any potential treatments with their neurologist or MS nurse.

Like all drugs, MAVENCLAD® has some side effects and is not suited to all people with MS. More details on this and other important information is outlined in the MSA treatment sheet (link below).

- View PBS alphabetical listings (after 1 January 2019) here:
<http://www.pbs.gov.au/browse/medicine-listing>
- You can download a treatment sheet for MAVENCLAD® (cladribine tablets) for RRMS here:
<https://www.msaustralia.org.au/about-ms/medications-treatments>

Please consult your neurologist to see if MAVENCLAD® is the right treatment for you. Decisions about treatments, taking into consideration the potential benefits and side effects for your individual circumstance, should be made in careful consultation with your healthcare team.

As the national advocacy organisation for people living with MS, MS Australia continues to work with our partner organisations to ensure the MS community and their healthcare teams, have access to the broadest range of affordable treatments as possible.
