

Sacubitril valsartan for treating symptomatic chronic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction

Information for the public

Published: 26 April 2016

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What has NICE said?

Sacubitril valsartan (Entresto) is recommended as a possible treatment for people with chronic heart failure if:

- they have moderate to very severe (New York Heart Association class II to IV) symptoms
- they have a left ventricular ejection fraction (the amount of blood pumped from the left side of the heart) of 35% or less
- they are already taking a stable dose of ACE inhibitors or ARBs.

What does this mean for me?

If you have chronic heart failure and your doctor thinks that sacubitril valsartan is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Sacubitril valsartan should be available on the NHS within 30 days of the guidance being issued.

If you are not eligible for treatment you should be able to continue taking sacubitril valsartan until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

Why has NICE said this?

Sacubitril valsartan was recommended because the benefits to patients justify its cost.

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

The condition and the treatment

Heart failure means your heart cannot efficiently pump blood around the body, usually because the heart muscle has been damaged or is too weak to work properly. 'Chronic heart failure' describes heart failure as a long-term condition.

People with heart failure may feel breathless and very tired, although these symptoms can be caused by many other things. Standard treatments for heart failure include drugs called angiotensin-converting enzyme (or ACE) inhibitors, and angiotensin II receptor blockers (or ARBs).

Sacubitril valsartan (Entresto) is a single treatment that combines an ARB and a drug called a neprilysin inhibitor to help treat chronic heart failure.

[NHS Choices](#) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- British Heart Foundation, 0300 330 3311
www.bhf.org.uk
- Pumping Marvellous, 0800 978 8133
pumpingmarvellous.org
- Heart UK, 0345 450 5988
heartuk.org.uk
- Blood Pressure UK, 0207 882 6218
www.bloodpressureuk.org/Home

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ISBN: 978-1-4731-1819-5

Accreditation

