New haematology reimbursements in Belgium

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PEGFILGRASTIM (NEULASTA®)
The reimbursement criteria for pegfilgrastim (Neulasta®) have been thoroughly modified. Pegfilgrastim is now reimbursed for all malignancies (with the exception of chronic myeloid leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndrome) treated with cytotoxic chemotherapy, who either presented with neutropenia grade 4 in association with fever (>38°C) or with grade 4 neutropenia lasting for >5 days (secondary prevention). Primary prevention with pegfilgrastim is reimbursed in patients treated with cytotoxic chemotherapy for all malignancies (with the exception of chronic myeloid leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndrome) when the risk of febrile neutropenia is >20% or >10% in the presence of patient- or tumour-related risk factors, or when dose-dense or dose-intense regimens are used, or in order to avoid dose reductions or dose delays in patients treated with curative intent or with first-line treatment for metastatic disease.

RITUXIMAB (MABTHERA®)
Since January 1st, 2018, new reimbursement criteria are available for rituximab (MabThera®). Rituximab is reimbursed if it is administered in the context of a serious condition that affects the life prognosis and for which the physician-specialist responsible for the treatment bases oneself on scientifically valid data that are widely recognised. Moreover, the scientific data in question can be found in international recommendations from scientific associations that explicitly accept the use of rituximab in the intended indication. New reimbursement criteria apply to the following indications:

- A hemato-oncological condition
- A serious immune disease
- Haemophilia
- A patient who has been transplanted

The reimbursement is allowed on the basis of an electronic request via the eHealth platform.

DARATUMUMAB (DARZALEX®)
Darzalex was already reimbursed in monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma who received at least two prior lines of therapy including a PI and an IMiD, and who have shown disease progression on their last therapy. Since March 1st, Darzalex will also be reimbursed in combination with dexamethasone and lenalidomide, or bortezomib. Darzalex in combination with lenalidomide and dexamethasone is reimbursed for the treatment of adult patients with multiple myeloma who received at least one prior line of therapy and who have shown disease progression on their last therapy. The combination is not reimbursed for patients who have received at least two prior lines of therapy if these patients have shown progression on their last treatment if this treatment consisted of a lenalidomide-based regimen. Darzalex in combination with bortezomib and dexamethasone is reimbursed for patients who have received at least two prior lines of therapy if these patients have shown progression on their last treatment if this treatment consisted of a bortezomib-based regimen. All reimbursements of darzalex should be requested by a clinical haematologist through eHealth.