MEDIA RELEASE

PHARMAC FUNDS ADDITIONAL TREATMENT OPTION FOR ELIGIBLE NEW ZEALANDERS LIVING WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS[1]

WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND, Thursday 16 September, 2021 - AbbVie (NYSE: ABBV), welcomes the announcement by PHARMAC that eligible patients with moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis will now have funded access to RINVOQ® (upadacitinib), a Janus Kinase 1 (JAK1) inhibitor, from 1 October 2021.[1]

RINVOQ® (upadacitinib), a once daily, oral medication, will be funded for some patients who have had an inadequate response to, or intolerable side effects from more than one biologic RA treatment, such as adalimumab or etanercept.[1]

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) affects approximately 109,000 New Zealanders.[2] It typically begins in the smaller joints of the hands, wrists and feet, causing pain, stiffness, swelling and loss of function in the joints.[3,4,5] If not appropriately managed, ongoing inflammation can lead to irreversible joint damage and loss of function. [3,4,5] Beyond physical symptoms, rheumatoid arthritis also significantly impacts health-related quality of life, including emotional wellbeing and ability to perform daily activities.[6,7] It also represents a substantial economic burden to patients and society.[8]

Early detection and diagnosis are critical in being able to treat symptoms, manage pain, and prevent irreversible joint damage.[3] Scientific advances have improved therapies, moving from symptomatic relief through to slowing or preventing further joint damage.[3]

Andrew Tompkin, General Manager, AbbVie New Zealand said the company was excited to be able to bring a new treatment to New Zealanders.

“We hope that the funding of RINVOQ for eligible patients living with RA is welcome news to those people suffering from this disease.

“We are pleased to have been able to rapidly respond to the environment to ensure eligible patients living with RA have an additional treatment option. Whilst significant treatment advances have been made over the years, it is critical that patients have access to options which work in different ways. We thank PHARMAC for funding access to RINVOQ (upadacitinib).” Andrew said.

RINVOQ contains the active ingredient upadacitinib, which is a Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitor. JAK enzymes create signals in the body's immune system that result in inflammation.[9,10] RINVOQ works to block these signals, thereby reducing inflammation and the production of immune cells within the body.[9,10,11]

AbbVie Limited, PO Box 11437, Manners Street, Wellington 6142, New Zealand.
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PHARMAC PHARMACEUTICAL SCHEDULE[1]

RINVOQ is fully subsidised under Special Authority for the treatment of patients with rheumatoid arthritis, who:

- Have had an inadequate response to, or intolerable side effects from, adalimumab and/or etanercept AND are seronegative for both anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies and rheumatoid factor; OR
- Have had an inadequate response to, or intolerable side effects from, adalimumab and/or etanercept AND rituximab

Patients should ask their doctors if they have any questions about the eligibility criteria. Normal pharmacy prescription charges apply. Normal doctor's charges apply.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT RINVOQ® [1,2]

RINVOQ is a prescription medicine containing upadacitinib hemihydrate and is available as modified release tablets each equivalent to 15 mg of upadacitinib. It is used in the treatment of moderate to severely active rheumatoid arthritis in adults.

RINVOQ has risks and benefits.

Do not use RINVOQ if the patient has: an allergy to any medicines containing upadacitinib or any of the other ingredients in RINVOQ listed in the Consumer Medicines Information (CMI). Do not take the medicine after the expiry date.

Before using RINVOQ, tell the doctor if the patient has (or have had): allergies to any medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes; an infection or a history of infections that keep coming back; tuberculosis, or the patient has been in close contact with someone who has had tuberculosis; herpes infection (shingles); hepatitis B or C; cancer; liver problems; blood clots in the veins of the legs or lungs; recently received or plan to receive a vaccine (patients taking RINVOQ should not receive live vaccines); are pregnant or plan on becoming pregnant; or are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. The patient may need blood tests before start taking RINVOQ, or while taking it.

Tell the doctor as soon as possible if the patient notice signs of a serious infection such as fever, sweating or chills, etc. Tell the doctor immediately or go to the nearest hospital if they takes too much RINVOQ (overdose), even without discomfort or signs of poisoning.

Tell the doctor and other health care professionals: if the patient is taking any other medicines, including any that can be obtained without a prescription from the pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. Some medicines may affect RINVOQ how well it works, or they may be affected by RINVOQ. The patient should tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who treat them that they are using RINVOQ.

Common side effects: Tell the doctor if the patient feels unwell while taking RINVOQ. The more common side effects of RINVOQ include throat or nose infection, cough, fever, feeling sick in the stomach, weight gain, acne, etc.

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For have any questions about using RINVOQ, including the risks and benefits, how much to use, how and when to use it, or the storage conditions, ask the healthcare professional and refer to the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) available from https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/Consumers/CMI/r/rinvoq.pdf or freephone 0800 900 030. Ask the doctor if RINVOQ is the appropriate treatment. Use strictly as directed. If symptoms continue, or the patient has side effects, see the doctor, pharmacist or healthcare professional.

AbbVie Limited, 6th floor, 156-158 Victoria Street, Wellington, 6011, New Zealand 0800 900 030.

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About AbbVie

AbbVie is a global, research-driven biopharmaceutical company committed to developing innovative advanced therapies for some of the world's most complex and critical conditions. Our heritage in New Zealand reaches back more than 80 years and we employ around 40 people with our therapies currently benefiting more than 5,000 Kiwis. The company's mission is to use its expertise, dedicated people and unique approach to innovation to markedly improve treatments. Recently, we acquired Allergan which immediately diversified our business across several therapeutic areas: Immunology, Oncology, Virology, Neuroscience, Eye Care and Aesthetics. For further information please visit www.abbvie.co.nz. Follow @abbvie_nz on Twitter, Facebook or our LinkedIn page.

Media enquiries:

Kate Richards
Director, Corporate Communications and Patient Relations
kate.richards@abbvie.com

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12. RINVOQ Approved Consumer Medicines Information - https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/consumers/cmi/r/rinvoq.pdf 5 August 2021

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