

<b>Matter name:</b>	Juno & Ors – Application for authorisation
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	1:30pm Friday 11 February 2022
<b>External attendees:</b>	Dr Nick Murphy, Consultant Haematologist at Royal Hobart Hospital
<b>ACCC participants:</b>	Sophie Mitchell, Danielle Staltari, Lily Xiao, Andrew Ng

Dr Nick Murphy's comments are summarised below:

- As lenalidomide and pomalidomide are Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) funded treatments, price reductions associated with generic entry will not make a difference to the price paid by most patients, however it will save the PBS money.
- We do have a small number of patients who may want to use several drug combinations to treat their multiple myeloma (MM), which may be prohibited for PBS funding. These patients may decide to fund one of the unsubsidised drugs to add to an existing combination. Generic entry (and associated price reduction) may make it more accessible for these patients, however, it will depend on the difference in cost.
- Price reductions will also impact in-patient prescriptions, which are not funded by the PBS.
- Patients are on treatment for MM for the rest of their lives, on and off. Lenalidomide is used in frontline treatment for MM patients, whereas pomalidomide is used exclusively in the relapsed setting.
- Most treatment centres in Australia would use a combination of bortezomib, lenalidomide and dexamethasone (VRd) as the first line treatment for MM patients receiving a stem cell transplant. Lenalidomide is also prescribed post stem cell transplant every day, indefinitely, referred to as 'maintenance' treatment. Induction and maintenance together are considered 'first line' therapy. When the patient relapses, we will proceed with second line treatment. The patients will only come off lenalidomide maintenance if it is causing side effects or if it stops working (most of the time is because it stops working as we have experience reducing doses for side effects).
- Some patients and prescribers may be apprehensive to switch from a branded product to a generic.
- It is unlikely that there are many patients collecting scripts for lenalidomide at a community pharmacy. The high price of lenalidomide means the appetite for community pharmacies to stock the product is very small.
- Generally, pharmacies will know when patents for expensive drugs will expire and would be mindful of that fact when negotiating the length of any tender.