

PROSTHESES LIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMUNIQUE No. 5

The Prostheses List Advisory Committee (PLAC) met for the fifth time on 16 February 2017 in Melbourne.

COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT

Appointments: The Committee discussed the member appointment process for its sub-committees and agreed to review the process.

Conflict of Interest Management: The Committee discussed the current conflict of interest management process and agreed to review it (with reference to other relevant committee processes).

Improved Transparency: The Committee discussed options to improve transparency of process, decision making and recommendations, including establishing status reports. The Committee agreed to place process flows and decision points on the website.

Sub-Committees: The Committee noted the next Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation Clinical Advisory Group (TAVICAG) meeting is scheduled for 22 February 2017 and the Spinal Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group (SPCAG) is scheduled to meet on 24 February 2017.

PROSTHESES LISTINGS

The Committee considered 27 applications to list new devices on the Prostheses List:

- 13 were recommended for granting
- 9 were not recommended for granting as comparative clinical effectiveness had not been demonstrated
- 5 were deferred pending further advice.

The Committee considered 14 requests to change current listings on the Prostheses List:

- 12 requests were recommended
- 2 requests were deferred pending further advice.

REFORM WORKPLAN

Targeted Benefits and Category Reviews: The Committee discussed establishing a formal structured mechanism to enable regular reviews of prostheses listings and benefits. The Committee agreed to a draft document titled "Approach to Targeted Reviews of Prostheses" (the Approach).

The targeted reviews aim to examine issues specific to each category of prostheses, such as grouping structures, comparative clinical effectiveness of prostheses in light of current evidence and changes in technology and/or clinical practice, performance concerns and benefits. The Committee could undertake these targeted reviews while the options for a longer term benefit setting framework were being developed.

The Committee noted that the Approach provides a framework to ensure consistency and transparency for undertaking reviews of categories of prostheses, noting that not all of the Approach components would apply to every review. Reviews would include opportunities for

consultation with stakeholders. The Committee also noted that the Approach may be revised to take account of stakeholder feedback and in light of experience in undertaking the reviews.

Longer Term Benefit Setting Framework: Professor Philip Clarke from the Centre for Health Policy, University of Melbourne, presented to the Committee on further progress on the comparative analysis of benefit setting models. Professor Clarke acknowledged the information received in submissions and interviews with stakeholders.

Review the Criteria for Listing: The Committee had an initial discussion on a number of potential options relating to how the assessment of critical consumable components, novel devices, appropriate suffixes and benefits could occur in the future.

Minimising Duplication and Improving the Listing Process: The Committee noted a number of activities underway between various health technology assessment groups and their Secretariats including the new Advisory Committee on Medical Devices (TGA) and the MSAC to identify opportunities for aligning and streamlining processes and sharing expertise.

OTHER BUSINESS

MSAC Executive Advice: The Committee noted advice from MSAC regarding goniotomy MBS items and agreed to discuss potential implications for relevant devices currently on the Prostheses List at the Committee's next meeting.

Inquiry into price regulation associated with the Prostheses List framework: The Committee noted that over 30 submissions had been made to the Inquiry and that a public hearing was scheduled for 16 March 2017.

Therapeutic Goods Amendment (2016 Measures No. 1) Bill 2016: The Committee noted the Bill had been referred to an Inquiry.

Transvaginal mesh implants and related matters: The Committee noted that the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs will conduct an Inquiry into these devices and is scheduled to report to the Parliament on 30 November 2017. There are a number of these devices listed on the Prostheses List

The next meeting is scheduled for 30 March 2017.