

## **ICER Findings** (Institute for Clinical and Economic Review)

### *ICER rubber-stamps Vertex's \$311K CF drug Trikafta but blasts 'monopoly' pricing*

*ICER said that no one disputes the therapeutic value of Vertex's triplet drug Trikafta but they have plenty of issues with Trikafta's US\$311,000 list price.*

*ICER final report on the cost effectiveness of cystic fibrosis drugs today, awarded Trikafta its highest "A" rating for the strength of the evidence that the drug improves patient outcomes but it has an issue with "Access and Affordability". "Unfortunately, the manufacturer has leveraged its monopoly to set a price—costing many millions of dollars over the lifetime of an average patient," David Rind, M.D., ICER's chief medical officer, said in a statement.*

*ICER studied four subsets of CF patients with different variations of the delF508 CFTR gene mutation that the drug targets. The agency concluded that for three of them, Trikafta provides a "substantial net health benefit," and for the fourth, the benefit is at least the same, if not better, than that provided by Vertex's older CF drug Symdeko.*

*Analysts estimate Trikafta will be pulling in \$6.6 billion in sales by 2025. (SVB Leerink's Geoffrey Porges estimates 2025 sales north of \$6 billion ... Porges has predicted Trikafta could hit \$4.6 billion in sales by 2023 and \$6.6 billion in 2025)*

*ICER determined that all of Vertex's CF treatments, including Trikafta, have a cost per quality-adjusted life year (QALY) gained of more than \$1 million. That figure "is substantially higher than cost effectiveness thresholds in the U.S. and the rest of the world," they said.*

*To bring the cost of Trikafta in line with the health benefits it provides, Vertex would need to lower the price to between \$67,900 and \$85,500 per year, ICER concluded. Maintaining the higher price will "cause disproportionately greater losses in health among other patients in the health system due to rising overall costs of health care and health insurance," the agency contended.*

## **About ICER**

Founded in 2006, the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) is an independent and non-partisan research organization that objectively evaluates the clinical and economic value of prescription drugs, medical tests, and other health care and health care delivery innovations.

ICER conducts rigorous analyses of all clinical data and publicly convenes key stakeholders – including patients, doctors, life science companies, private insurers, and the government – to translate this evidence into policy decisions that lead to a more effective, efficient, and just health care system.

Today, ICER is best known as an independent watchdog on drug pricing.