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Open Letter to Cystic Fibrosis Community in Australia: 1 February 2022

Vertex is pleased that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has recommended Trikafta® (elixacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor and ivacaftor) for PBS listing for the treatment of Cystic Fibrosis (CF) patients aged 12 years and older who have at least one F508del mutation in the CFTR gene (F/any population). After more than twelve months of engagement and multiple submissions, the PBAC has now recognised that the whole eligible patient population should have access to Trikafta in alignment with the Australian Cystic Fibrosis Data Registry.

While this is positive news, and something we've all been advocating for over the last twelve months, it is disappointing that this has now come at the expense of recognising the value Trikafta brings to the CF Community, despite recent additional clinical data that supports its long-term effect.

The completion of the PBAC evaluation is an important step forward, however, there is still considerable work to do by all stakeholders in order to achieve PBS-funded access to Trikafta. We are committed to doing all we can to progress the negotiations and have already initiated the next step in the process with the Department of Health.

Access to medicines in Australia is complex, challenging, involves numerous stakeholders and takes time. We appreciate the urgency of these negotiations, particularly with the Federal Budget and Federal Election fast approaching. We are committed to working as hard as we can to resolve the outstanding matters with the relevant stakeholders before the Election so that Australian patients no longer have to wait for access.

While these government processes continue, we understand it can be a difficult time for the CF community, but we want to assure you we are doing everything we can to ensure timely access for all eligible patients.

We will continue to keep the community informed through regular updates with Cystic Fibrosis Australia and other patient organisations.

Kind regards

Sabrina Barbic, Senior Country Manager, Australia & New Zealand & the Vertex Team