18 August 2023

IMPORTANT UPDATE: ACCESS TO ORKAMBI EXTENDED TO INCLUDE CHILDREN AGED 1 TO LESS THAN 2 YEARS

We are thrilled to announce a significant advancement in the availability of treatment for cystic fibrosis (CF) patients in Australia. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has taken a crucial step by recommending the extension of access to Orkambi (lumacaftor/Ivacaftor), making it available for children aged 1 to less than 2 years.

This extension holds immense promise for our community, as it signifies an essential opportunity for approximately 35 children in Australia who carry two copies of the F508del mutation. These young lives will now have access to Orkambi, a treatment that can potentially transform their quality of life and pave the way for better health outcomes.

While this development marks an important milestone, we recognise the urgency that surrounds these changes. We call upon both the Department of Health and Vertex Pharmaceuticals to work closely and swiftly to ensure that this access is made available without delay. Timely access to treatments is crucial in offering the best possible chances for these children to thrive.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the medical community, patient advocates, and all those who have played a role in advocating for this expansion of access. Our collective efforts have brought us to this point, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to pursuing further advancements and improvements for the CF community.

We are dedicated to keeping you informed about the progress of this important step and will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every individual has access to the treatments they need.

Read the full PBAC Outcome HERE.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Yours sincerely

Jo Armstrong
CEO
Cystic Fibrosis Australia