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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1550
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/02595/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru

petitions@senedd.wales

05 November 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 6 October about petition **P-06-1550 - Place the drug Xonvea on to the formulary for the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy**.

Ensuring the best care possible is available for the people of Wales is a Welsh Government priority and we must ensure our health service treats all conditions and diseases fairly. Taking an evidence-based approach helps us to do this, whatever the disease, by ensuring resources are targeted at where the evidence indicates people will gain most benefit and the cost of a medicine is in balance with those benefits.

To do this, we rely on appraisals undertaken by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and our own body, the All-Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG). Where a medicine is recommended by NICE in a technology appraisal guideline or highly specialised technology (HST) assessment, or in an appraisal undertaken by AWMSG, health boards and NHS trusts in Wales must make it routinely available, in line with its clinical eligibility.

AWMSG appraised Xonvea® in May 2019. It considered its use for the treatment of nausea and vomiting of pregnancy in women who do not respond to conservative management. Unfortunately, the cost-effectiveness data presented by the company were insufficient for AWMSG to recommend its routine use. The details of AWMSG's recommendation can be accessed in the appraisal report available at https://awttc.nhs.wales/accessing-medicines/medicine-recommendations/doxylamine-succinate-pyridoxine-hydrochloride-xonvea/.

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The Scottish Medicines Consortium has also undertaken an appraisal of Xonvea® and reached a similar conclusion to AWMSG. While NICE has recently updated its general advice about the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy, it has not published a technology appraisal guideline or undertaken a cost effectiveness analysis. This means decisions to make Xonvea® available and any restrictions on its use in England, are made by individual NHS organisations.

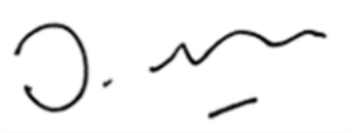
The AWMSG appraisal undertaken in 2019 therefore remains the most up-to-date and comprehensive evaluation of the cost effectiveness of the medicine on which a decision regarding routine availability can be made.

There are occasions where it is appropriate for AWMSG to reappraise a medicine. However, these are limited to situations in which there is new evidence or a change in the acquisition price of a medicine, which would lead to a different conclusion about its cost effectiveness determined by an appraisal. In this case there appears to be little or no new evidence which would lead to an AWMSG appraisal arriving at a different conclusion to the appraisal undertaken in 2019.

AWMSG met recently with the manufacturer to enquire about the willingness to make an updated submission for an appraisal. I understand the manufacturer was unable to provide additional or new information at this time. AWMSG will continue to engage with the company.

While AWMSG does not recommend Xonvea® be made routinely available, health boards are able to include it in their local formularies in some circumstances. Healthcare professionals in primary and secondary care can and do prescribe Xonvea® when other treatments for the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy are ineffective – there were more than 1,140 prescriptions issued in the community between January and July 2025.

Yours sincerely,



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