21st January 2026

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Dear Ms Thomas

Re: Petition P-06-1550
Xonvea for the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy

Thank you for your letter dated 7th January 2026 and request for the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) to reconsider its decision not to support the routine use of doxylamine succinate/pyridoxine hydrochloride (Xonvea®) for the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy. AWMSG recognises the distressing effect of Hyperemesis Gravidarum on pregnant women and their families.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) makes the majority of decisions on the routine reimbursement of medicines for England and Wales. If NICE does not undertake a health technology assessment of an indication for a medicine (as occurred for Xonvea), AWMSG can undertake the assessment and make recommendations to Welsh Government.

In May 2019, AWMSG appraised Xonvea for the treatment of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy in women who do not respond to conservative management. Based on the evidence submitted by the pharmaceutical company and the cost of the medicine, AWMSG considered the most likely cost-effectiveness estimates were above the range considered an acceptable use of NHS resources. It is notable that in Scotland, the Scottish Medicines Consortium came to the same decision as AWMSG based on similar submitted evidence and cost.

I would emphasise that cost alone is not the determining factor in AWMSG's decision making, rather cost effectiveness. In these times of ever challenging NHS funding, it is incumbent on AWMSG to make decisions that maximise value to patients in Wales. An assessment of cost effectiveness reflects both the evidence for an intervention and the cost to the NHS. For negative recommendations AWMSG will continue to engage with

pharmaceutical companies to determine if changes in either the evidence base or the cost would materially affect the cost-effectiveness of a medicine.

AWMSG has continued to proactively engage with the manufacturer of Xonvea over the last 18 months, and as a result AWMSG are optimistic that the company will be able to provide updated real world evidence in the very near future. Irrespective of whether further evidence is submitted, AWMSG plans a re-appraisal of the evidence for Xonvea in the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy in the next 12 months. We would also emphasise that if a medicine is not routinely funded within NHS Wales, clinicians are still able to request a medicine via the health board's individual patient funding request (IPFR) process.

In conclusion, AWMSG is actively exploring a resubmission of the evidence of Xonvea with the manufacturer and I will ensure you are kept informed of any developments in this regard.

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely,

Professor Iolo Doull
Chairman, All Wales Medicines Strategy Group