

MAKING A SUBMISSION TO THE PBAC: A HOW-TO GUIDE

DEADLINE FOR CONSUMER COMMENTS: 13 FEBRUARY 2019

[Consumer comments relating to the listing of Avastin on the PBS for consideration at the March 2019 PBAC meeting can be made at this link.](#)

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) invites comments from patients, carers, groups, medical professionals and anyone with an interest in seeing a specific drug listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Cure Brain Cancer Foundation encourages those who wish to do so within the brain cancer community to have their voice heard, share their experiences of brain cancer and Avastin® (bevacizumab), and advocate for the listing of this drug on the PBS.

Cure Brain Cancer Foundation supports this listing for these reasons:

- Avastin has been shown to improve progression free survival in patients with relapsed or refractory glioblastoma i.e. the length of time a patient lives with the disease following treatment without the disease getting worse
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that some patients on Avastin experience a greater quality of life after taking the drug. We acknowledge that many patients also experience significant side effects ([which you can read about here](#)) while taking this drug and that this drug will be more effective for some patients than others
- Avastin has been used and approved overseas for more than a decade, it is time Australia offered this drug as an affordable option

Your submission

Step 1 [Head to this link](#) to start your application and fill in your personal details. The drug name of Avastin is **bevacizumab** which you can select from the drop-down menu

You may wish to complete the following sections in a word document before filling out the following online forms

Step 2 Declaration of interest

State your interest in seeing this drug listed on the PBS i.e. I am a patient currently receiving Avastin or I am a caregiver of a brain cancer patient

Step 3 Consumer input

The answer for this is likely to be similar to your Declaration of interest

Step 4 Your story

The PBAC have provided a list of things you may wish to include in your submission, but if there is anything else you wish to include, please feel free:

- How does brain cancer affect quality of life?
- What would you most like to see from this treatment?
Improved side effects? Slowing disease progression? Financial benefits of not having to pay for this drug?
- If you have used or prescribed this medicine, what was your experience of the beneficial effects?
- If you have used or prescribed this medicine, what side effects or toxicities did you experience or observe?
- If you haven't used the new medicine yet, what are your expectations of it?
- If you use other currently available therapies or medicines you use to manage your condition (or for prescribers, for your patient's condition), what are the benefits and/ or the challenges?

We're here to help

We know that making submissions of this kind can often be difficult. You may not be comfortable writing, or the process of telling your story can bring back difficult memories. We are here to help you through this process, should you wish to be involved. If you have any questions about the process, or would just like to be talked through it in person, you can reach us at advocacy@curebraincancer.org.au or call us on 02 8973 1442.