



CEDAC FINAL RECOMMENDATION and REASONS for RECOMMENDATION

VORICONAZOLE (Vfend—Pfizer Canada Inc.)

Description:

Voriconazole is a triazole antifungal agent which is indicated for the treatment of invasive aspergillosis.

Recommendation:

The Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC) recommends that voriconazole be listed for the treatment of invasive aspergillosis.

Reasons for Recommendation:

1. The trial data to date indicates that a treatment strategy beginning with voriconazole appears to be at least as, if not more, effective than a treatment strategy beginning with amphotericin B.
2. There were some limitations in the methodology of the trials reviewed but these limitations were considered to be inherent in the complicated clinical setting in which invasive aspergillosis is treated.
3. Pharmacoeconomic analysis revealed that voriconazole is likely less costly or cost neutral, compared to the currently available antifungal agents.
4. Invasive aspergillosis is a rare but serious fungal infection with a high case fatality rate and the utility of having another therapeutic option is recognized.

Of Note:

1. Voriconazole has multiple potential serious adverse effects that must be taken into consideration when this agent is used.
2. An expert in the diagnosis and management of patients with invasive aspergillosis (e.g., an infectious diseases physician, respiratory medicine physician or other physician with specific expertise in invasive aspergillosis) should be consulted prior to prescribing this agent.
3. Both published and unpublished data were reviewed and taken into consideration in making this recommendation.