

Justification



to the Resolution of the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) on an Amendment of the Pharmaceuticals Directive (AM-RL): Annex XII – Benefit Assessment of Medicinal Products with New Active Ingredients According to Section 35a SGB V Secukinumab (New Therapeutic Indication: Axial Spondyloarthritis)

of 18 February 2021

Contents

1. Legal basis	2
2. Key points of the resolution	2
2.1 Additional benefit of the medicinal product in relation to the appropriate comparator therapy.....	3
2.1.1 Approved therapeutic indication of secukinumab (Cosentyx) in accordance with the product information	3
2.1.2 Appropriate comparator therapy	3
2.1.3 Extent and probability of the additional benefit.....	6
2.1.4 Summary of the assessment	6
2.2 Number of patients or demarcation of patient groups eligible for treatment	6
2.3 Requirements for a quality-assured application	7
2.4 Treatment costs	7
3. Bureaucratic costs	10
4. Process sequence	10

1. Legal basis

According to Section 35a, paragraph 1 German Social Code, Book Five (SGB V), the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) assesses the benefit of reimbursable medicinal products with new active ingredients. This includes in particular the assessment of the additional benefit and its therapeutic significance. The benefit assessment is carried out on the basis of evidence provided by the pharmaceutical company, which must be submitted to the G-BA electronically, including all clinical trials the pharmaceutical company has conducted or commissioned, at the latest at the time of the first placing on the market as well as the marketing authorisation of new therapeutic indications of the medicinal product, and which must contain the following information in particular:

1. Approved therapeutic indications,
2. Medical benefit,
3. Additional medical benefit in relation to the appropriate comparator therapy,
4. Number of patients and patient groups for whom there is a therapeutically significant additional benefit,
5. Treatment costs for statutory health insurance funds,
6. Requirements for a quality-assured application.

The G-BA may commission the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) to carry out the benefit assessment. According to Section 35a, paragraph 2 SGB V, the assessment must be completed within three months of the relevant date for submission of the evidence and published on the internet.

According to Section 35a, paragraph 3 SGB V, the G-BA decides on the benefit assessment within three months of its publication. The resolution is to be published on the internet and forms part of the Pharmaceuticals Directive.

2. Key points of the resolution

The active ingredient secukinumab (Cosentyx) was listed for the first time on 1 June 2015 in the "LAUER-TAXE®", the extensive German registry of available drugs and their prices.

On 2 December 2019, the pharmaceutical company filed an application to postpone the date for the start of the benefit assessment procedure for secukinumab in the therapeutic indication non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis according to Section 35a, paragraph 5b SGB V. At its session on 16 January 2020, the G-BA approved the motion to postpone the relevant date in accordance with Section 35a, paragraph 5b SGB V. The benefit assessment of secukinumab in the therapeutic indication non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis begins at the same time as the benefit assessment of secukinumab in the therapeutic indication plaque psoriasis in children from the age of 6 years, at the latest within four weeks after approval of the therapeutic indication plaque psoriasis in children from the age of 6 years in accordance with Chapter 5, Section 8, number 2 VerfO, at the latest six months after the first relevant time point (4 weeks after marketing authorisation of the therapeutic indication non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis).

On 28 April 2020, secukinumab received a marketing authorisation extension for the therapeutic indication non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis. The marketing authorisation extension for the therapeutic indication plaque psoriasis in children and adolescents aged 6

years and older was granted on 31 July 2020. Both authorisation extensions are classified as a major variation of Type 2 according to Annex 2, number 2a to Regulation (EC) No. 1234/2008 of the Commission from 24 November 2008 concerning the examination of variations to the terms of marketing authorisations for medicinal products for human use and veterinary medicinal products (OJ L 334, 12 December 2008, p. 7).

On 27 August 2020, the pharmaceutical company submitted a dossier in accordance with Section 4, paragraph 3, number 3 Ordinance on the Benefit Assessment of Pharmaceuticals (AM-NutzenV) in conjunction with Chapter 5, Section 8, paragraph 1, number 2 of the Rules of Procedure (VerfO) of the G-BA on the active ingredient secukinumab with the new therapeutic indication plaque psoriasis in children and adolescents from the age of 6 years / non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis.

The G-BA commissioned the IQWiG to carry out the assessment of the dossier. The benefit assessment was published on 1 December 2020 on the website of the G-BA (www.g-ba.de), thus initiating the written statement procedure. In addition, an oral hearing was held.

The G-BA came to a resolution on whether an additional benefit of secukinumab compared with the appropriate comparator therapy could be determined on the basis of the dossier of the pharmaceutical company, the dossier assessment prepared by the IQWiG, and the written statements submitted in the written and oral hearing procedure. In order to determine the extent of the additional benefit, the G-BA has assessed the data justifying the finding of an additional benefit on the basis of their therapeutic relevance (qualitative) according to the criteria laid down in Chapter 5, Section 5, paragraph 7 VerfO. The methodology proposed by the IQWiG in accordance with the General Methods¹ was not set aside in the benefit assessment of secukinumab.

In light of the above and taking into account the written statements received and the oral hearing, the G-BA has arrived at the following assessment:

2.1 Additional benefit of the medicinal product in relation to the appropriate comparator therapy

2.1.1 Approved therapeutic indication of secukinumab (Cosentyx) in accordance with the product information

Cosentyx is indicated for the treatment of active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with objective signs of inflammation as indicated by elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and/or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) evidence in adults who have responded inadequately to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

Therapeutic indication of the resolution (resolution of 18 February 2021):

See new therapeutic indication according to marketing authorisation

2.1.2 Appropriate comparator therapy

The appropriate comparator therapy was determined as follows:

Adult patients with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with objective signs of inflammation as indicated by elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and/or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) who have responded inadequately to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

¹ General Methods, Version 6.0 dated 5 November 2020. Institut für Qualität und Wirtschaftlichkeit im Gesundheitswesen (Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care), Cologne.

- A TNF- α inhibitor (adalimumab or certolizumab pegol or etanercept or golimumab)

Criteria according to Chapter 5, Section 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the G-BA:

The appropriate comparator therapy must be an appropriate therapy in the therapeutic indication according to the generally recognised state of medical knowledge (Section 12 SGB V), preferably a therapy for which endpoint studies are available and which has proven its worth in practical application unless contradicted by the guidelines under Section 92, paragraph 1 SGB V or the principle of economic efficiency.

In determining the appropriate comparator therapy, the following criteria, in particular, must be taken into account as specified in Chapter 5, Section 6, paragraph 3 VerfO:

1. To be considered as a comparator therapy, the medicinal product must, principally, have a marketing authorisation for the therapeutic indication.
2. If a non-medicinal treatment is considered as a comparator therapy, this must be available within the framework of the SHI system.
3. As comparator therapy, medicinal applications or non-medicinal treatments for which the patient-relevant benefit has already been determined by the Federal Joint Committee shall be preferred.
4. According to the generally recognised state of medical knowledge, the comparator therapy should be part of the appropriate therapy in the therapeutic indication.

Justification based on the criteria set out in Chapter 5, Section 6, paragraph 3 VerfO:

On 1. In addition to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSARDs/NSAIDs) for the symptomatic therapy of pain and inflammation, glucocorticoids and biologics are also approved for this therapeutic indication. In the therapeutic indication, biologics are covered by the marketing authorisation after a failure to respond to conventional therapies (or if NSARDs are contraindicated). In the present indication area, these are the active ingredients adalimumab, golimumab, certolizumab pegol, and etanercept as well as the IL17 inhibitors ixekizumab and secukinumab.

On 2. A non-medicinal treatment at the expense of the SHI system cannot be considered as an appropriate comparator therapy in the therapeutic indication.

On 3. For the treatment of the non-radiographic form of axial spondyloarthritis a resolution of the G-BA on the benefit assessment of medicinal products with new active ingredients according to Section 35a SGB V of 21 January 2021 is available for the active ingredient ixekizumab.

On 4. The generally accepted state of medical knowledge was illustrated by systematic research for guidelines and reviews of clinical studies in the present indication and is presented in the "Research and synopsis of the evidence to determine the appropriate comparator therapy in accordance with Section 35a SGB V". In addition, the scientific medical societies and the Drug Commission of the German Medical Association (AkdÄ) were involved in writing on questions of comparator therapy in the present indication in accordance with Section 35a, paragraph 7 SGB V.

Both the German S3 guideline² of 2019 and the current European ASAS-EULAR guideline³ of 2016/2017 provide for the evidence-based use of NSARDs in conventional (first-line-) therapy of axSpA (symptomatic or continuous use). After failure of therapy with NSARDs or conventional therapy, the use of biologics (bDMARDs) is recommended based on the evidence available. Conventional, classic DMARDs (e.g. MTX, sulphasalazine, and leflunomide) are neither approved for use in the therapeutic indication axSpA nor is their use supported by the evidence available. The guidelines distinguish between the older TNF- α inhibitors and the newer biologics. However, within the active ingredient class of TNF- α inhibitors, no distinction is made in the therapy recommendation; within the TNF- α inhibitors approved in Germany, there is therefore no prioritisation. Furthermore, there are no head-to-head comparisons of the active ingredients that would allow prioritisation; for the most part, the evidence is based on RCTs with placebo comparisons.

In the overall view, the treatment recommendations for axial spondyloarthritis after failure of conventional therapy focus on the use of biologics. For the therapeutic indication, it is assumed that, after failure of conventional therapy or NSARDs, it is not (or no longer) indicated for patients to continue conventional therapy with NSARDs or glucocorticoids alone according to the estimation of the doctor. Treatment recommendations rarely explicitly distinguish between the radiographic and non-radiographic forms of axSpA. A distinction according to the severity of axSpA is also not clear in the underlying evidence: Neither the German S3 guideline, nor the EULAR-LL³ nor the EMA guideline⁴ differentiate in their recommendations on axSpA according to severity. Rather, in everyday care, a therapy decision is made depending on the manifestation of the disease (e.g. axial, peripheral), the failure of previous therapies, and the activity of the disease. After failure of conventional therapy, biologics are used for the treatment of the non-radiographic sub-type of axSpA. The IL-17 inhibitor ixekizumab was only recently granted marketing authorisation in nr-axSpA. It can therefore not yet be considered established in care in this indication.

Overall, an aggregated body of evidence of lower quality is available for nr-axSpA; a clear subdivision of the nr-axSpA patient population into with/without pre-treatment with biologics can also not yet be derived with sufficient certainty from the available guidelines or from the further evidence. Against this background, a subdivision into different lines after the failure of a conventional therapy is currently dispensed with in this indication.

Taking into account the respective authorisation status of the medicinal products in conjunction with the clinical course and against the background of the available aggregated evidence, TNF- α inhibitors are determined to be the appropriate comparator therapy for the treatment of adult patients with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with objective signs of inflammation as evidenced by elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and/or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) who have had an inadequate response to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Etanercept or adalimumab or golimumab or certolizumab pegol are considered equally appropriate options. It should be added that also in this population, it is assumed that a change within the active ingredient class is indicated in the case of failure of a TNF- α inhibitor. Continuation of inadequate therapy with a TNF- α inhibitor does not correspond to the appropriate comparator therapy.

The findings in Annex XII do not restrict the scope of treatment required to fulfil the medical treatment contract.

2 German Society for Rheumatology (DGRh; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Rheumatologie). Axial spondyloarthritis, including ankylosing spondylitis and early forms; S3 guideline [online]. AWMF register number 060-003. Version 2019. Berlin (GER): Working Group of the Scientific Medical Societies (AWMF; Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Wissenschaftlichen Medizinischen Fachgesellschaften); 2019. [Last accessed: 7 April 2020].

3 ASAS-EULAR recommendations: Van der Heide D *et al.*, Ann Rheum Dis 2017;0:1–14.

4 EMA Guideline on the clinical investigation of medicinal products for the treatment of Axial Spondyloarthritis – Adopted guideline (CPMP/EWP/4891/03 Rev.1) 12 October 2017; EMA Draft Guideline on the clinical investigation of medicinal products for the treatment of Axial Spondyloarthritis - Draft (CPMP/EWP/4891/03 Rev.1) 2016.

2.1.3 Extent and probability of the additional benefit

In summary, the additional benefit of secukinumab is assessed as follows:

For adult patients with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with objective signs of inflammation as indicated by elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and/or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) who have responded inadequately to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), the additional benefit of secukinumab compared with the appropriate comparator therapy is not proven.

Justification:

In the dossier for the assessment of the additional benefit of secukinumab, the pharmaceutical company does not present any directly comparative studies compared with the appropriate comparator therapy. Furthermore, no indirect comparisons were presented to address the question of the benefit assessment.

In the absence of directly comparable data in the dossier for the early benefit assessment, the pharmaceutical company examined the possibility of an adjusted indirect comparison via a bridge comparator and came to the conclusion – as did the IQWiG – that an indirect comparison of secukinumab versus the appropriate comparator therapy was not possible due to a lack of suitable studies.

There are thus no suitable data for assessing the additional benefit secukinumab.

2.1.4 Summary of the assessment

The present assessment refers to the benefit assessment of a new therapeutic indication for the active ingredient secukinumab. The therapeutic indication assessed here is as follows:

“Cosentyx is indicated for the treatment of active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with objective signs of inflammation as indicated by elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and/or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) evidence in adults who have responded inadequately to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).”

The G-BA determined a TNF- α inhibitor (etanercept or adalimumab or golimumab or certolizumab pegol) as an appropriate comparator therapy. In the dossier for the assessment of the additional benefit, the pharmaceutical company does not present any directly comparative data comparing treatment with the appropriate comparator therapy. Furthermore, no indirect comparisons were presented to address the question of the benefit assessment. There are thus no suitable data for assessing the additional benefit secukinumab. Overall, for adult patients with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with objective signs of inflammation as indicated by elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and/or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) who have responded inadequately to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), the additional benefit of secukinumab compared with the appropriate comparator therapy is not proven.

2.2 Number of patients or demarcation of patient groups eligible for treatment

The information on the number of patients is based on the target population in statutory health insurance (SHI).

The figures are based on prevalence and incidence data from diagnosed patients.

The IQWiG was commissioned in an addendum to consider and compare the patient numbers for both already completed and currently ongoing benefit assessments in the indication of axial spondyloarthritis.

In the addendum, the number of patients with the lowest uncertainties was determined. The number of patients shown in the Addendum and in the present resolution are to be understood as a minimum number.

Due to uncertainties, no range of patient numbers can be given. At this point in time, an upper limit cannot be defined on the basis of the data presented.

In the overall view, the calculation of the number of patients tends to be underestimated and subject to uncertainties. This results in the same number of patients as in the early benefit assessment of ixekizumab⁵.

2.3 Requirements for a quality-assured application

The requirements in the product information are to be taken into account. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) provides the contents of the product information (summary of product characteristics, SmPC) for Cosentyx (active ingredient: secukinumab) at the following publicly accessible link (last accessed: 6 January 2021):

https://www.ema.europa.eu/documents/product-information/cosentyx-epar-product-information_en.pdf

In patients who have not responded to therapy in up to 16 weeks of treatment, the discontinuation of treatment should be considered. Some patients with an initially partial response improve over time if treatment is continued beyond 16 weeks.

2.4 Treatment costs

The treatment costs are based on the contents of the product information and the information listed in the LAUER-TAXE® (last revised: 1 February 2021).

If no maximum treatment duration is specified in the product information, the treatment duration is assumed to be one year (365 days), even if the actual treatment duration is different for each individual patient and/or is shorter on average. The time unit “days” is used to calculate the “number of treatments/patient/year”, the time between individual treatments, and the maximum treatment duration if specified in the product information.

Treatment duration:

Designation of the therapy	Treatment mode	Number of treatments/patient/year	Treatment duration/treatment (days)	Treatment days/patient/year
Medicinal product to be assessed				
Secukinumab	1 x monthly	12	1	12
Appropriate comparator therapy				
Adalimumab	1 x every 14 days	26.1	1	26.1

⁵ Resolution of the G-BA on the Benefit Assessment of Medicinal Products with New Active Ingredients According to Section 35a SGB V dated 21 January 2021

Designation of the therapy	Treatment mode	Number of treatments/patient/year	Treatment duration/treatment (days)	Treatment days/patient/year
Certolizumab pegol	1 x every 14 days	26.1	1	26.1
Etanercept	1 x every 7 days	52.1	1	52.1
Golimumab	1 x monthly	12	1	12

Usage and consumption:

In general, initial induction schemes are not taken into account for the cost representation because this indication is a chronic disease with a continuous need for therapy and, as a rule, no new titration or dose adjustment is required after initial titration.

Designation of the therapy	Dosage/application	Dose/patient/treatment days	Consumption by potency/treatment day	Treatment days/patient/year	Average annual consumption by potency
Medicinal product to be assessed					
Secukinumab	150 mg	150 mg	1 x 150 mg	12	12 x 150 mg
Appropriate comparator therapy					
Adalimumab	40 mg	40 mg	1 x 40 mg	26.1	26.1 x 40 mg
Certolizumab pegol	200 mg	200 mg	1 x 200 mg	26.1	26.1 x 200 mg
Etanercept	50 mg	50 mg	1 x 50 mg	52.1	52.1 x 50 mg
Golimumab	50 mg	50 mg	1 x 50 mg	12	12 x 50 mg

Costs:

In order to improve comparability, the costs of the medicinal products were approximated both on the basis of the pharmacy sales price level and also deducting the statutory rebates in accordance with Sections 130 and 130a SGB V. To calculate the annual treatment costs, the required number of packs of a particular potency was first determined based on consumption. Having determined the number of packs of a particular potency, the costs of the medicinal products were then calculated based on the costs per pack after deduction of the statutory rebates.

Costs of the medicinal product:

Designation of the therapy	Package size	Costs (pharmacy sales price)	Rebate Section 130 SGB V	Rebate Section 130a SGB V	Costs after deduction of statutory rebates
Medicinal product to be assessed					
Secukinumab	6 PEN	€ 5,173.49	€ 1.77	€ 0.00	€ 5,171.72
Appropriate comparator therapy					
Adalimumab	6 SFI	€ 2,804.66	€ 1.77	€ 156.90	€ 2,645.99
Certolizumab pegol	6 SFI	€ 4,827.84	€ 1.77	€ 272.44	€ 4,553.63
Etanercept ⁶	12 SFI	€ 4,231.41	€ 1.77	€ 340.54	€ 3,889.10
Golimumab	3 IFE	€ 5,559.73	€ 1.77	€ 314.24	€ 5,243.72
Abbreviations: IFE = injection solution for prefilled syringe; SFI = solution for injection; PEN = injection solution in a prefabricated pen.					

Pharmaceutical selling price (LAUER-TAXE®) as last revised: 1 February 2021

Costs for additionally required SHI services:

Only costs directly related to the use of the medicinal product are taken into account. If there are regular differences in the necessary use of medical treatment or in the prescription of other services in the use of the medicinal product to be assessed and the appropriate comparator therapy in accordance with the product information, the costs incurred for this must be taken into account as costs for additionally required SHI services.

Medical treatment costs, medical fee services, and costs incurred for routine examinations (e.g. regular laboratory services such as blood count tests) that do not exceed standard expenditure in the course of the treatment are not shown.

For some of the active ingredients of the appropriate comparator therapy (adalimumab, certolizumab, pegol, etanercept and golimumab), costs for testing for both active and inactive (latent) tuberculosis infections are regularly incurred. The costs shown refer to a blood test (quantitative determination of an *in vitro* interferon-gamma release after *ex vivo* stimulation with antigens specific for mycobacterium tuberculosis-complex (except BCG)) as well as a thoracic X-ray. The tuberculin skin test is not mapped due to lack of sensitivity and specificity as well as the possibility of "sensitisation". These investigations are not required for the use of secukinumab.

In addition, patients must be tested for the presence of HBV infection before initiating treatment with adalimumab or certolizumab pegol or etanercept or golimumab. On the other hand, these examinations are not required for the use of secukinumab and are also not usually required for the use of Secukinumab as a medicinal product to be assessed. For the diagnosis of a suspected chronic hepatitis B, well coordinated steps are necessary⁷. A serological step-by-step diagnostic initially consists of the investigation of HBs antigen and anti-HBc antibodies. If both are negative, a past HBV infection can be excluded. If the HBs antigen is positive, an active HBV infection has been detected.

Overall, the following additional SHI services are necessary for the diagnosis of suspected chronic hepatitis B and for the examinations for tuberculosis infections. These regularly differ

⁶ Fixed reimbursement rate

⁷ "Update of the S3 guideline on prophylaxis, diagnosis and therapy of hepatitis B virus infection; AWMF register no.: 021/011" https://www.awmf.org/uploads/tx_szleitlinien/021-011_S3_Hepatitis_B_Virusinfektionen_Prophylaxe_Diagnostik_Therapie_2011-abgelaufen.pdf

between the medicinal product to be assessed and the appropriate comparator therapy and are therefore considered additionally required SHI services in the resolution.

Designation of the therapy	Description of the service	Number	Costs per unit	Costs per patient per year
Medicinal product to be assessed: Secukinumab				
not applicable				
Appropriate comparator therapy				
Adalimumab Certolizumab pegol Etanercept Golimumab	Quantitative determination of an <i>in vitro</i> interferon-gamma release after <i>ex vivo</i> stimulation with antigens (at least ESAT-6 and CFP-10) specific for mycobacterium tuberculosis-complex (except for BCG) (GOP 32670)	1	€ 58.00	€ 58.00
Adalimumab Certolizumab pegol Etanercept Golimumab	Chest radiograph (GOP 34241)	1	€ 16.24	€ 16.24
Adalimumab Certolizumab pegol Etanercept Golimumab	HBs antigen (GOP 32781)	1	€ 5.50	€ 5.50
	Anti-HBs antibody (GOP 32617) ⁸	1	€ 5.50	€ 5.50
	Anti-HBc antibody (GOP 32614)	1	€ 5.90	€ 5.90
	HBV-DNA (GOP 32823) ⁹	1	€ 89.50	€ 89.50

3. Bureaucratic costs

The proposed resolution does not create any new or amended information obligations for care providers within the meaning of Annex II to Chapter 1 VerfO and, accordingly, no bureaucratic costs.

4. Process sequence

At its session on 7 May 2019, the Subcommittee on Medicinal Products determined the appropriate comparator therapy.

⁸ Only if HBs antigen negative and anti-HBc antibody positive

⁹ Settlement of GOP 32823 possible before or during antiviral therapy with interferon and/or nucleic acid analogues.

On 27 August 2020, the pharmaceutical company submitted a dossier for the benefit assessment of secukinumab to the G-BA in due time in accordance with Chapter 5, Section 8, paragraph 1, number 1, sentence 2 VerfO.

By letter dated 27 August 2020 in conjunction with the resolution of the G-BA of 1 August 2011 concerning the commissioning of the IQWiG to assess the benefits of medicinal products with new active ingredients in accordance with Section 35a SGB V, the G-BA commissioned the IQWiG to assess the dossier concerning the active ingredient secukinumab.

The dossier assessment by the IQWiG was submitted to the G-BA on 27 November 2020, and the written statement procedure was initiated with publication on the website of the G-BA on 1 December 2020. The deadline for submitting written statements was 22 December 2020.

The oral hearing was held on 11 January 2021.

In order to prepare a recommendation for a resolution, the Subcommittee on Medicinal Products commissioned a working group (Section 35a) consisting of the members nominated by the leading organisations of the care providers, the members nominated by the SHI umbrella organisation, and representatives of the patient organisations. Representatives of the IQWiG also participate in the sessions.

The evaluation of the written statements received and the oral hearing were discussed at the session of the subcommittee on 9 February 2021, and the proposed resolution was approved.

At its session on 18 February 2021, the plenum adopted a resolution to amend the Pharmaceuticals Directive.

Chronological course of consultation

Session	Date	Subject of consultation
Subcommittee on Medicinal Products	7 May 2019	Determination of the appropriate comparator therapy
Working group Section 35a	6 January 2021	Information on written statements received; preparation of the oral hearing
Subcommittee on Medicinal Products	11 January 2021	Conduct of the oral hearing
Working group Section 35a	20 January 2021 3 February 2021	Consultation on the dossier assessment by the IQWiG, evaluation of the written statement procedure
Subcommittee on Medicinal Products	9 February 2021	Concluding discussion of the draft resolution
Plenum	18 February 2021	Adoption of the resolution on the amendment of Annex XII of the AM-RL

Berlin, 18 February 2021

Federal Joint Committee
in accordance with Section 91 SGB V
The Chair

Prof. Hecken