

from a mix of sources (e.g., DOH CCD, the Philippine Charity Sweepstake Office (PCSO), and self-funding) while the other patient mentioned that their treatment is purely self-funded.

## Recommendation

Based on the evidence review and appraisal, the **HTAC does not recommend the inclusion of rituximab SC in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF)** despite it being found to be non-inferior to rituximab IV for the following reasons:

- Costing analysis showed that using rituximab SC is more costly and would have higher budget impact compared to rituximab IV if the latter is based on the lowest price - Australian PBS price. From the government payer perspective, the government should consider allocating its limited resources to health technologies that provide equal or superior treatment results at less cost.
- In addition, the non-inclusion will not deprive patients of care as there are available treatment options for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The HTAC considered the following assumptions in the costing analysis.

Assumptions/ BSA	Minimum BSA	Average BSA	Maximum BSA
Current prices of rituximab IV are maintained	Cost of IV all throughout < Cost of SC treatment regimen (IV first then SC)	Cost of IV all throughout > Cost of SC treatment regimen (IV first then SC)	Cost of IV all throughout > Cost of SC treatment regimen (IV first then SC)
Rituximab IV prices are bidden by the manufacturers to become as low as Australia prices	Cost of IV all throughout < Cost of SC treatment regimen (IV first then SC)	Cost of IV all throughout < Cost of SC treatment regimen (IV first then SC)	Cost of IV all throughout < Cost of SC treatment regimen (IV first then SC)
Legend: Favors SC (IV first then SC) Favors IV all throughout			

- Considering the possible entry of biosimilars in the Philippines that can result in lower prices of rituximab IV, the use of rituximab SC will incur an unfavorable budget impact.
- There are available alternative treatment options for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. PhilHealth has 10 benefit packages for the said condition amounting to Php 13,900.00 per patient utilizing PNF-listed drugs for the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (chlorambucil, methotrexate, etoposide, carboplatin, and rituximab IV).

- The DOH-Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB) currently does not have plans to procure rituximab SC since the Bureau still procures the IV formulation for its Cancer Control Program. While non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is identified as a high priority for cancer control by DPCB, it is not yet included by PhilHealth in developing the benefit plan for 2022-2025. Hence, there is still no expansion of the benefits package for NHL to facilitate sufficient financing for this health technology in the near future.