KEY ISSUES WITH ICER'S REPORT ON SECONDARY PROGRESSIVE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

The Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) assessed a treatment for Secondary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (MS), an unpredictable and frequently disabling disease of the central nervous system. Not only was ICER's report flawed, it is no longer relevant and should be disregarded.

Misaligned with Approved Indications

ICER should have discontinued this review when the FDA approved siponimod for "relapsing forms of MS to include relapsing-remitting and active secondary progressive MS." This decision renders ICER's study irrelevant, as it does not reflect the full scope of patients for whom the drug was approved for use.

Ignores Patient and Caregiver Voices

ICER's strict timeline and inflexible methods make it clear it does not value patient engagement and input. The MS Coalition urged ICER "to consider ways to make the comment periods friendlier to patients by offering companion draft reports at an appropriate health literacy level for the general MS population."

Relies on Outdated and Flawed Data

ICER chose to base their assessment on multiple outdated studies despite the availability of more recent, accurate options. This type of selection bias and cherry-picking data hurts patients and families.

"It is critical that the review reflect the real-life experiences, perspectives, hopes and concerns of people living with MS."

– Multiple Sclerosis Foundation

The fact that ICER moved forward with a review that no longer aligns with the product's FDA approval is a clear example of ICER prioritizing speed over evidence-based, patient-centered analysis. Instead of working to engage MS patients, ICER instead has chosen to rely on outdated, flawed studies and methods.

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