Standard Operating Procedure for the maintenance of the List of Gene-Drug-Pairs in the framework of the Swiss List of Analyses reimbursed by the health insurers provided by the Swiss Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology

Version 1.0, approved 27 AUG 2020

This document has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Swiss Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology (SSCPT). It formalizes the process of revision of the list and is intended for information of all stakeholders. It may be freely distributed, and it is available on the website of the SSCPT (www.clinpharm.ch). Please check that you have the latest version.

Introduction

The List of Gene-Drug-Pairs contains information which pharmacogenetic investigations may be prescribed by any physician in Switzerland irrespective of his specialist title at the expense of the Swiss public health insurances. The list is necessary, because in the Swiss List of Analyses (Analysenliste, Liste des Analyses[1]), it is mentioned under the facturation numbers which are relevant for pharmacogenetic analyses that all investigations which are not covered by this list will only be reimbursed by Swiss Health Insurances if a Physician-Specialist in Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology has prescribed them. The relevant numbers in the List of Analyses are 2150.10, 2250.10, 2271.01 and 2547.01. In the List of Analyses, reference is made to the SSCPT List of Gene-Drug-Pairs as «Liste der Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für Klinische Pharmakologie und Toxikologie (SGKPT) der gängigen pharmakogenetischen Tests, die durch jeden Arzt unabhängig vom Facharzttitel verordnet werden können» and «Liste de la Société Suisse de Pharmacologie et Toxicologie cliniques (SSPTC) des analyses pharmacogénétiques courantes que peuvent prescrire tous les médecins sans distinction du titre de spécialité». The List of Gene-Drug-Pairs is published on the homepage of the FOPH[2].

Aim of the SOP and responsibilities

The Swiss Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology (SSCPT) has the responsibility to maintain, control and update at least once per year the List of Gene-Drug-Pairs in support of the Swiss Federal Office for Public Health (FOPH). In order to provide this service, the current SOP has been developed. Its aim is to formalize the process and to make it transparent to all stakeholders.

[1] available on the homepage of the Federal Office for Public Health (FOPH, BAG, OFSP): www.bag.admin.ch
[2] www.bag.admin.ch/ref

The Executive Committee of the SSCPT is the organ of the SSCPT which is responsible for the maintenance and update of the List of Gene-Drug-Pairs. The president and the secretary both have to sign the list before it is sent to the responsible person in the FOPH.

Annual revision of the list

The secretary of the SSCPT receives annually a request from the FOPH to indicate changes of the list to the FOPH. The secretary announces this request to the president and is responsible to take up this request on the agenda of the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the SSCPT. The executive committee meets (or has telephone conferences) approximately 6 times per year, so that a timely response to the FOPH is guaranteed. All members of the executive committee will receive the current list and any potential changes (see below) together with the agenda for the next meeting. During the meeting, either the current list will be approved without changes, or the changes will be approved.

Version number and contact to the FOPH

Each time a change in the list has been made, a new version number for the List of Gene-Drug-Pairs has to be issued. The version number has the format: Number point number (e.g. 1.0). In case only minor changes are necessary, the last number will be changed. For larger changes, a change in the first number and a reset of the second number to zero will be carried out. The list will then be issued in all three Swiss languages (German, French, Italian), dated and signed by the president and the secretary of the SSCPT and sent to the FOPH: OFSP, Unité de direction Assurance maladie et accidents, Division Prestations de l'assurance maladie, Section Analyses, moyens et appareils, Schwarzenburgstrasse 157, CH-3003 Berne. The list will then be presented to the Federal Commission for Analyses, Devices and Objects (EAMGK; CFAMA) and finally approved by this commission before being published on the website of the FOPH.

Addition of a gene-drug pair to the list, or elimination of a gene-drug pair from the list

Every person or organization with a residency or a legal representation in Switzerland can ask for addition or elimination of a gene-drug-pair from the SSCPT List. This request has to be in written form and has to be scientifically justified (the inquirer has to give a scientific justification of his request and has to add supporting scientific literature). The request has to be addressed to the SSCPT president. The SSCPT president will add this request to the agenda of the next available meeting of the executive committee of the SSCPT, where the issue will be discussed. During this meeting, a member of the executive committee will be assigned who has to coordinate and supervise the evaluation process and to report the results. The first task of this member will be to report the request to the chair of the Swiss Group of Pharmacogenetics and Personalized Therapy (SPT), which is a section of SSCPT dedicated to genetics in pharmacotherapy. The chair of the SPT will take care that the request will be discussed during the next available meeting of the SPT steering committee and will report the results of the discussion to the assigned member of the SSCPT executive

committee. The deadline for receipt of the opinion of the SPT steering committee is 3 months, if no opinion is received within this time frame, the evaluation process will continue without this opinion.

Depending on the nature of the request, additional information has to be gathered, e.g. a literature search has to be done, other experts have to be heard, an expert discussion has to be organized, etc. The decision which and how additional information has to be gathered will be taken by the SSCPT executive committee during the executive committee meeting where the request is discussed for the first time. Additional information and further information gathering steps will be done and / or organized by the assigned member of the executive committee. This evaluation process should be finished within 6 months after the initial discussion of the request during a SSCPT executive committee meeting (see time line below).

The member of the executive committee in charge of the evaluation process will draw up an executive report on the evaluation. This report has to contain all favourable and unfavourable arguments regarding an addition or elimination of a gene-drug pair which have been gathered during the evaluation period, as well as the opinion of the SPT steering committee (if available). This report will then be sent to all members of the SSCPT executive committee and to all members of the SPT steering committee at least 4 weeks before the next SSCPT executive committee meeting. The SPT steering committee members will have the possibility to comment and give their opinion within 4 weeks. They can give a joint written SPT opinion, or each member can give his own written opinion. At the next SSCPT executive committee meeting, the report and (if available) the opinion(s) of SPT steering board will be discussed. At this meeting, the executive committee of the SSCPT will decide (at least with a majority decision) whether the requested change of the List will be done unmodified, in a modified fashion, or not at all. This decision will then be communicated to the sender of the request, and, if necessary, the list will be changed and sent to the FOPH (as described in “Version number and contact to the FOPH). The report will be made publicly available on the SSCPT homepage (www.clinpharm.ch).

List of minimally necessary information for evaluation of a gene-drug pair

- Estimates of frequencies of clinically relevant variants in the Swiss population
- Effect size of clinically relevant variants on pharmacokinetics and –dynamics
- Recommendations and strength of recommendation by relevant societies in the field (e.g. in the pharmgkb collection, by CPIC and DPWG)
- Estimates of non-genetic concurrent influences on pharmacokinetics and –dynamics
- Clarity of recommendation if variants have been identified

Flow chart and time line