

Drug Coverage Decision for B.C. PharmaCare

About PharmaCare

B.C. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan. It helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies.

Details of Drug Reviewed

Drug	tocilizumab
Brand Name	Actemra®
Dosage Form(s)	80 mg/4 mL, 200 mg/10 mL and 400 mg/20 mL intravenous (IV) injection solutions
Manufacturer	Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Moderate to severely active polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (pJIA).
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR recommended to List with criteria. Visit CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Actemra_Mar_24_14_e.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on April 14, 2014. DBC considered various inputs including: the final review completed by the Common Drug Review (CDR) which included clinical and pharmaco-economic evidence review material, the Canadian Drug Expert Committee recommendation, responses to a Patient Input Questionnaire from one patient group, Clinical Practice Review from one specialist, and a Budget Impact Analysis.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage benefit. www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/tocilizumab-pjia.html
Date	December 9, 2014
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tocilizumab was more effective than placebo for reducing the occurrence of disease flare in children with pJIA. • There are no direct comparisons between tocilizumab and other biologics used for the treatment of pJIA. • Tocilizumab is less costly than alternative biologic drugs currently available for patients weighing 34 kg to 75 kg but more expensive than some biologic comparators above or below this body weight range.
Other Information	None

The Drug Review Process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (Ministry).

An independent group called the [Drug Benefit Council](#) gives advice to the Ministry. The Council looks at:

- advice from a national group called the Common Drug Review
- whether the drug is safe and effective
- whether it is a good value for the people of B.C. and the drugs cost
- the ethics of covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a decision based on many factors, including:

- advice from the Council
- drugs used to treat similar medical conditions that B.C. PharmaCare already covers
- the overall cost of covering the drug

For more information about the B.C. Drug Review Process, visit
www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/outgoing/drugrevproc2.pdf.

For more information about the Medical Beneficiary and Pharmaceutical Services Division
and the PharmaCare program, visit www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare.

This document is intended for information only.

It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.