

# BC PharmaCare Drug Information

The drug below is being considered for possible coverage under the B.C. PharmaCare program. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan that helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies. For more information on PharmaCare, visit [Ministry of Health - PharmaCare](#).

PharmaCare reviews each drug for treating a specific illness or medical condition (known as an “indication”). If a decision is made to cover the drug, it will be only for that illness or condition.

In some cases, PharmaCare may cover a drug only for people who have the illness or condition and have not responded to other drugs used to treat that illness or condition.

For more information on PharmaCare’s drug coverage review process, see the last page of this information sheet.

Information about the drug	
Generic name (scientific name)	ixekizumab
Brand name	<b>Taltz<sup>®</sup></b>
Manufacturer	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
Indication	Taltz <sup>®</sup> is used to treat adult patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.
Has the drug been reviewed by the Common Drug Review (CDR)? (see the note below this table.)	Yes. For more information about the CDR’s review of ixekizumab (Taltz <sup>®</sup> ), you can <a href="#">Search the CDR Reports</a> .
Public input start date	August 31, 2016
Public input closing date	September 28, 2016 <b>AT MIDNIGHT</b>
How is the drug taken?	Taltz <sup>®</sup> is injected subcutaneously (under the skin).
How often is the drug is taken?	Taltz <sup>®</sup> is injected at 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 weeks in the beginning and then every 4 weeks.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Taltz® is a prescription medicine used to treat adults with a skin condition called plaque psoriasis. Plaque psoriasis causes inflammation of the skin, appearing as raised, thick, red and scaly patches (“psoriatic lesions”) that can appear anywhere on the body.</p> <p>Taltz® contains the active substance ixekizumab. Ixekizumab is a monoclonal antibody. Monoclonal antibodies are proteins that recognize and bind specifically to certain proteins in the body. Taltz® belongs to a group of medicines called interleukin (IL) inhibitors. These medicines work by neutralizing the activity of a protein called IL-17A, which is present at increased levels in diseases such as plaque psoriasis. This may lead to symptoms such as itching, pain and scaling. Taltz® neutralizes IL-17A thus reducing the signs and symptoms of the disease.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following outcomes to assess if Taltz® is helpful and safe for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physician Global Assessment: the doctor’s assessment of how much the psoriasis is improving or worsening.</li> <li>• Psoriasis Area and Severity Index: a scoring system that tells the doctors the severity of psoriasis. It looks at symptoms such as redness and raised, thick patches and how they increase or decrease.</li> <li>• Health-Related Quality of Life</li> <li>• Bad reactions</li> <li>• Serious bad reactions</li> <li>• Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions</li> <li>• Allergy reactions</li> <li>• Death</li> </ul>
Other considerations	None

**Note:**

The Common Drug Review (CDR) is a national organization that reviews drugs on behalf of Canadian public sector plans when manufacturers want to have the jurisdictions provide coverage for the drugs. For detailed information on B.C. PharmaCare’s drug review process, including the role of the CDR in that process, see [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#).

Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication			
generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)	Usual Dose	Cost of Therapy
ixekizumab (Taltz®)	Under Review	160 mg initial dose, then 80 mg at weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12; followed by 80 mg every four weeks	First year: \$28,709 Subsequent years: \$20,734

<b>Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication</b>			
<b>generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator</b>	<b>PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)</b>	<b>Usual Dose</b>	<b>Cost of Therapy</b>
adalimumab (Humira®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	80 mg initial dose, 40 mg every other week starting one week after initial dose	First year: \$23,220 Subsequent years: \$21,618
etanercept (Enbrel®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	50 mg twice weekly for 12 weeks, then 25 mg twice weekly	First year: \$24,479 Subsequent years: \$19,890
infliximab (Remicade®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	5mg/kg/dose, for 3 doses (0,2,6 weeks) then 5mg/kg every 8 weeks	First year: \$44,070 Subsequent years: \$33,700
infliximab (Inflectra™)			First year: \$22,050 Subsequent years: \$17,916
secukinumab (Cosentyx®)	Under Review	300 mg subcutaneous injection at weeks 0, 1, and 3, then monthly injections starting at week 4	First year: \$27,636 Subsequent years: \$20,727
ustekinumab (Stelara®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	45 mg at weeks 0 and 4, followed by 45 mg every 12 weeks thereafter	First year: \$29,937 Subsequent years: \$20,899
<b>Conventional Systemic Treatments</b>			
methotrexate	Regular Benefit	10 mg to 25 mg by mouth or intramuscular injection weekly	Tablet: \$121 to \$131 Injection: \$316 to \$322
cyclosporine	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	2.5 mg/kg daily (rounded to 200 mg/day)	\$3,942
acitretin (Soriatane®)	Regular Benefit	25 mg to 50 mg daily	\$3,590
<b>Phosphodiesterase – 4 Inhibitor</b>			
premilast (Otezla®)	Under Review	30 mg twice daily	Under Review

### 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 \(DBC\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry. The DBC looks at:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called the [Common Drug Review \(CDR\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- ethical considerations involved with covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes PharmaCare coverage decisions by taking into account:

- the existing PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the DBC
- the drugs already covered by PharmaCare that are used to treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

For more information about the B.C. Drug Review Process, visit: [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#).

**This document is intended for information only.**

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