

# 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

<b>Drug</b>	<b>golimumab</b>
Brand Name	Simponi® Intravenous (IV)
Dosage Form(s)	50 mg/4 mL
Manufacturer	Janssen Inc.
<b>Submission Type</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: <b>to List with criteria.</b> Visit the CDR website for more details: <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0351_complete_Simponi_IV_Jul-21-14.pdf">www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0351_complete_Simponi_IV_Jul-21-14.pdf</a>
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	Golimumab IV was not reviewed by the DBC because golimumab IV is a line extension of the existing product.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Non-Benefit</b>
Date	May 31, 2016
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation with criteria and conditions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golimumab IV was superior to placebo with respect to efficacy and comparable to placebo with respect to safety in patients with active RA. Golimumab was not compared to other biologics used in the treatment of RA clinical trials.</li> <li>• Golimumab IV is less costly compared to golimumab SC when used in patients who weigh less than 75 kg. However, golimumab IV is more costly than most other biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) including golimumab SC in patients who weigh more than 75 kg.</li> <li>• The Ministry of Health participated in negotiations with the manufacturer for golimumab IV through the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA), however an agreement was not reached and the negotiations are now closed.</li> </ul>
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](#) (DBC) gives advice to the Ministry. The DBC 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.
- 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 DBC
- drugs used to treat similar medical conditions that B.C. PharmaCare already covers
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit the B.C. [Drug Review Process](#) and [PharmaCare](#) program for more information.

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

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