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	**guselkumab**
Brand Name	Tremfya®/Tremfya One-Press™
Dosage Forms	100 mg/mL pre-filled syringe and patient-controlled injector (One-Press)
Manufacturer	Janssen Inc.
Submission Type	**New Submission**
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of adult patients with active psoriatic arthritis.
Canada's Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) Reimbursement Reviews (CRR)	Yes, CRR recommended: **to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions**. Visit the CRR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/DRR/2022/SR0733%20Tremfya%20PsA%20-%20CADTH%20Final%20Recommendation_KAS-meta.pdf
Provincial Review	The Drug Benefit Council (DBC) screens drug submissions under review by the CRR to determine whether a full DBC review is necessary, based on past DBC reviews, recommendations, and existing PharmaCare coverage. If a full DBC review is determined to not be required, the Ministry's drug coverage decision will be based on the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened guselkumab for psoriatic arthritis in August 2022. The DBC advised that, because guselkumab is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for guselkumab.
Drug Coverage Decision	**Non-Benefit**

Date	November 28, 2023
Reasons	**Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation.** • The drug demonstrated some advantage over placebo with respect to efficacy. There was no direct comparative evidence for guselkumab against other biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs). • The CDEC recommended that guselkumab be reimbursed for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis only if the price of the drug does not exceed the drug program cost of treatment with the least costly biologic DMARD or targeted synthetic DMARD, as there was insufficient evidence to justify a cost premium for the drug. • The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) was involved in negotiations with the manufacturer for this product. However, BC opted out from negotiations, as BC's mandate was not reached, and the current listing would not provide additional value to British Columbians in terms of cost-effectiveness and clinical benefit.
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:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) Reimbursement Reviews(CRR)
- 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

Visit The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview and Ministry of Health - PharmaCare 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.