Drug Coverage Decision for B.C. PharmaCare

About PharmaCare BC PharmaCare is a publicly funded drug plan that helps B.C. residents pay for most prescription drugs and pharmacy services, and some medical devices and supplies.

Details of Drug Reviewed

Drug	infliximab
Brand name	Remsima™ SC
Dosage form(s)	120 mg/mL solution in a prefilled syringe or pen for subcutaneous (SC) injection
Manufacturer	Celltrion HealthCare Canada Ltd
Submission type	**New Submission**
Indication reviewed	For the treatment of Crohn's disease (CD), ulcerative colitis (UC), and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).
Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) Clinical Reimbursement Reviews (CRR)	CDA-AMC recommended: **to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions**. For more information please see Infliximab (Remsima SC) Infliximab (Remsima SC) SR0659 Remsima SC - CDEC Final Recommendation April 26, 2021_for posting.pdf
Provincial Review	PharmaCare no longer asks the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) to review biosimilars, as Health Canada's biosimilar reviews are thorough and do not compromise efficacy and patient safety; therefore, Pharmacare reviewed Remsima SC internally.
Drug Coverage Decision	**Limited Coverage benefit.** **Access the infliximab criteria from** **www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority**
Date	January 21, 2025
Reason(s)	**Drug coverage decision is consistent with the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendations to list Remsima SC for CD, UC and RA.** • Crohn's disease: One randomized controlled trial (RCT) demonstrated that patients were more likely to achieve clinical remission at week 54 when treated

	with Remsima SC than with placebo. Patients were also more likely to show healing of the lining of the gastrointestinal tract at week 54 with Remsima SC versus placebo • Ulcerative colitis: One randomized controlled trial (RCT) demonstrated that patients were more likely to achieve clinical remission at week 54 when treated with Remsima SC than with placebo. Patients were also more likely to show clinical response to treatment and healing of the lining of the large intestine at week 54 with Remsima SC versus placebo. At week 54, patients treated with Remsima SC were less likely to require corticosteroids to control symptoms than those receiving placebo. • Rhematoid arthritis: Infliximab SC was noninferior to infliximab intravenous (IV) for reducing disease activity from baseline in patients with active RA who had an inadequate response to methotrexate. • Remsima SC may meet some needs that are important to patients as it provides an SC drug option that can be administered in a patient's home. • The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with the manufacturer which were able to address the concerns identified by the CDEC with respect to the cost-effectiveness and value for money.

The drug review process in B.C.

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

An independent group called the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) gives advice to the Ministry by considering:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called Canada's Drug and Health Technology Agency (CADTH)
- what the drug costs and whether funding it provides good value to the province
- ethical considerations of covering and not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a BC PharmaCare coverage decision by taking into account:

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

Visit BC PharmaCare and Drug reviews for more information.

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