

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	secukinumab
Brand Name	Cosentyx®
Dosage Form	150 mg/mL solution for subcutaneous injection (pre-filled pens or pre-filled syringes)
Manufacturer	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Indication
Use Reviewed	Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0476_complete_Cosentyx_PsA_Aug-25-16.pdf
Provincial Review	DBC now screens drug submissions under review by the CDR to determine whether or not 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 CDEC recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened Cosentyx® on May 2, 2016. The DBC advised that because secukinumab is similar to some drugs currently reimbursed for the treatment of PsA in BC, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for secukinumab.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit . Access the secukinumab criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	April 24, 2018.
Reason(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry supports the CDEC's recommendation to reimburse secukinumab as a Limited Coverage benefit for the treatment of PsA with the condition of having an annual drug plan cost similar to that of the least costly biologic reimbursed for this indication. • Two studies conducted in adult patients with active PsA demonstrated that secukinumab was superior to placebo for the proportion of patients achieving an American College of Rheumatology (ACR20) response at weeks 16 and 24. • Secukinumab appeared to generally improve health-related quality of life as well as PsA-related symptoms such as pain and fatigue, when compared with placebo, as assessed by different questionnaires and instruments. • There is no evidence that secukinumab provides superior efficacy or safety compared with other biologics currently reimbursed in BC for the treatment of PsA. • The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) price negotiations for secukinumab. The pCPA and Novartis were able to address the financial concern identified by the CDEC.
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 [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

Visit the [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.