

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	tocilizumab subcutaneous (SC)
Brand Name	Actemra®
Dosage Form(s)	160 mg/0.9 mL
Manufacturer	Hoffman-La Roche Limited
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Tocilizumab SC is indicated for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA).
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: List with criteria . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_SR0374_Actemra_SC_Feb-23-15.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC typically does not reviewed line extension. As tocilizumab intravenous (IV) for RA is already an eligible PharmaCare benefit, DBC did not review tocilizumab SC.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the tocilizumab SC criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	February 19, 2016
Reason(s)	<p>The Ministry of Health (Ministry) reviewed clinical evidence and pharmacoeconomic reports prepared by the CDR, the final Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) Recommendation and Reasons, Clinical Practice Reviews from two specialists and patient input from two patients collected through the Ministry's patient input mechanism, Your Voice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on CDR review, tocilizumab SC demonstrated similar effectiveness and safety to tocilizumab IV and superiority over placebo. The comparative cost of tocilizumab SC with tocilizumab IV will depend on the proportion of patients who receive weekly versus every-other-week treatment and patients' body weight. Based on CDR analysis, at the submitted price, for the first year of treatment, tocilizumab SC is more costly than tocilizumab IV for patients weighing less than 75 kg but less costly for patients weighing more than 100 kg. The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations with Hoffman-La Roche Limited for tocilizumab SC, and the participating jurisdictions were able to reach an agreement with the manufacturer.
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.