

# 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>ustekinumab</b>
Brand Name	Stelara®
Dosage Form(s)	45 mg/0.5 mL and 90 mg/1 mL pre-filled syringes
Manufacturer	Janssen Inc.
<b>Submission Review</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of moderate to severe psoriatic arthritis (PsA)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR recommended not to list at submitted price. Visit the CDR website for more details: <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_SR0359_Stelara_Oct-22-14.pdf">www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_SR0359_Stelara_Oct-22-14.pdf</a> .
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on November 17, 2014. DBC considered various inputs including: the final review completed by the Common Drug Review (CDR) on October 20, 2014, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC); Clinical Practice Reviews from three specialists; Manufacturer comments on the CDEC recommendation; and a Budget Impact Assessment. The Ministry did not receive any input from patients, caregivers and patient groups.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Non-Benefit</b>
Date	May 26, 2015
Reason(s)	<p><b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical efficacy of ustekinumab was assessed in two randomized controlled trials which compared ustekinumab with placebo. Ustekinumab demonstrated a statistically significant greater proportion of American College of Rheumatology response criteria of 20% improvement (ACR20) responders compared to placebo.</li> <li>• There is no direct comparison of ustekinumab to anti-TNF-<math>\alpha</math> therapies for the treatment of PsA. However, the manufacturer's indirect treatment comparison suggests that other biologic response modifiers may be more efficacious for the treatment of PsA than ustekinumab and some are less costly.</li> <li>• At the submitted product price, ustekinumab was not shown to be cost-effective relative to conventional management for anti-TNF-<math>\alpha</math> treatment-experienced and treatment-naïve patients.</li> <li>• The Ministry provides coverage for number of medications for the treatment of PsA.</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.