

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	ustekinumab
Brand Name	Stelara®
Dosage Form(s)	130 mg/26ml vial and 90 mg/ml syringe
Manufacturer	Janssen Inc.
Submission Type	New Indication
Use Reviewed	Crohn's Disease
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/SR0501_complete_Stelara_Mar-23-17.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 Stelara® on October 3, 2016. The DBC advised that because Stelara® is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of Crohn's disease, the full DBC review is not necessary.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	August 27, 2019
Reason(s)	Drug Coverage decision is inconsistent with the CDEC Recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ustekinumab demonstrated advantage over placebo with respect to clinical remission of the disease at eight and 44 weeks. • There was insufficient evidence to suggest a meaningful clinical difference between ustekinumab and other biologic drugs for the treatment of Crohn's disease, as there was no head-to-head trials. • The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations with manufacturer for ustekinumab, but the participating jurisdictions did not 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:

- 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.