

BC PharmaCare Drug Information

The drug below is being considered for possible coverage under the B.C. PharmaCare program. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan that helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies. For more information on PharmaCare, visit [Ministry of Health - PharmaCare](#).

PharmaCare reviews each drug for treating a specific illness or medical condition (known as an “indication”). If a decision is made to cover the drug, it will be only for that illness or condition.

In some cases, PharmaCare may cover a drug only for people who have the illness or condition and have not responded to other drugs used to treat that illness or condition.

For more information on PharmaCare’s drug coverage review process, see the last page of this information sheet.

Information about the drug	
Generic name (scientific name)	sarilumab
Brand name	Kevzara™
Manufacturer	Sanofi Genzyme
Indication	Rheumatoid arthritis
Has the drug been reviewed by the Common Drug Review (CDR)? (see the note below this table.)	Yes For more information about the CDR’s review of sarilumab (Kevzara™), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday February 15, 2017
Public input closing date	Wednesday March 15, 2017 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Kevzara™ is administered by subcutaneous (under the skin) injection.
How often is the drug is taken?	Kevzara™ is administered every two weeks.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>In people with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), the immune system attacks normal body tissues causing damage and inflammation, especially in the tissues of the joints and possibly other organs (such as heart, liver and bones).</p> <p>Kevzara interferes with an important step in this attack by blocking a protein, interleukin-6 (IL-6), which plays a major role in the signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical response to the drug • Progression of the disease as measured by radiography • Activity of the disease • Remission from the disease • Physical function • Health-related quality of life • Fatigue • Bad reactions of special interest: serious infections, neutropenia, cancer, major cardiovascular events, anaphylaxis, gastrointestinal perforations, liver toxicity and dyslipidemia
Other considerations	Kevzara can be used alone or in combination with methotrexate or other traditional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs).

Note:

The Common Drug Review (CDR) is a national organization that reviews drugs on behalf of Canadian public sector plans when manufacturers want to have the jurisdictions provide coverage for the drugs. For detailed information on B.C. PharmaCare's drug review process, including the role of the CDR in that process, see [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#).

Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication			
generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy ^b
sarilumab (Kevzara)	Under Review	200 mg every two weeks	\$18,200
abatacept SC (Orencia)	Limited Coverage	125 mg weekly	\$19,037
abatacept IV (Orencia)	Limited Coverage	Patients <60 kg: 500 mg Patients 60 to 100 kg: 750 mg Patients > 100 kg: 1000 mg 500 to 1000 mg at weeks 0, 2 and 4 then every 4 weeks	Year 1: \$20,582 ^a Thereafter: \$19,112 ^a
adalimumab SC (Humira)	Limited Coverage	40 mg every other week	\$20,019

Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication			
generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy ^b
anakinra (Kineret)	Non-Benefit	100 mg daily	\$17,493
certolizumab pegol (Cimzia)	Limited Coverage	400 mg at weeks 0, 2 and 4 then 200 mg every 2 weeks	Year 1: \$19,271 Thereafter: \$17,277
etanercept (Enbrel) 25mg/mL	Limited Coverage	50 mg weekly or two 25 mg doses on same day every week or every 3 or 4 days	\$21,105
etanercept (Enbrel) 50mg/mL	Limited Coverage		\$21,111
entanercept (Brenzys)	Under Review	50 mg weekly	\$15,860
golimumab SC (Simponi)	Limited Coverage	50 mg monthly	\$18,662
golimumab IV (Simponi)	Non-Benefit	2 mg/kg at weeks 0 and 4, then every 8 weeks thereafter	Year 1: \$17,829 ^a Thereafter: \$16,565 ^a
infliximab (Remicade)	Limited Coverage	3 mg/kg at weeks 0, 2 and 6, then every 8 weeks thereafter Depending on clinical response, dose can be increased to 10 mg/kg and/or up to every four weeks	Year 1: \$23,701 ^a Thereafter: \$19,257 ^a 10 mg/kg every 4 weeks: \$102,706 ^a annually
infliximab (Inflectra)	Limited Coverage		Year 1: \$12,600 ^a Thereafter: \$10,238 10 mg/kg every 4 weeks: \$54,600 annually
rituximab (Rituxan)	Limited Coverage	1000 mg infusions at weeks 0 and 2. Reassess for retreatment at week 26, no sooner than 16 weeks after previous	\$18,653 assumes 2 courses Per course: \$9,326
tocilizumab SC (Actemra)	Limited Coverage	Patients <100 kg: 162 mg SC every two weeks, increasing to weekly based on clinical response. Patients ≥ 100 kg: 162 mg SC weekly	Every two weeks: \$9,230 Weekly: \$18,460
tocilizumab IV (Actemra)	Limited Coverage	4 mg/kg every 4 weeks followed by an increase to 8 mg/kg based on clinical response	4 mg/kg: \$10,577 ^a 8 mg/kg: \$17,629 ^a

Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication			
generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy ^b
tofacitinib (Xeljanz)	Limited Coverage	5 mg orally twice daily	\$17,151

^a Patient weight assumed to be 75 kg.

^b Prices based on CDR Pharmacoeconomic report.

SC – subcutaneous (under the skin) injection

IV – intravenous (into a vein) injection

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

For more information about the B.C. Drug Review Process, visit: [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#).

This document is intended for information only.

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