

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)	secukinumab
Brand name	Cosentyx[®]
Manufacturer	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Indication	Ankylosing spondylitis (AS)
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 secukinumab (Cosentyx [®]), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Thursday June 23, 2016
Public input closing date	Thursday July 21, 2016 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Cosentyx [®] is taken via subcutaneous (under the skin) injection.
How often is the drug taken?	Cosentyx [®] is taken at weeks 0, 1, 2 and 3. Starting at week 4, the drug is taken once monthly.
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Ankylosing spondylitis is a an inflammatory disease that causes pain and stiffness in the back, neck and sometimes hips and heels. It begins with inflammation around the bones in the spine or in some joints. Cosentyx[®] is given to reduce the signs and symptoms of the disease, reduce inflammation and improve physical function.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following outcomes to assess if Cosentyx[®] is helpful and safe for the treatment of patients with AS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Assessment of SpondyloArthritis International Society (ASAS 20, ASAS 40) • The Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) • Health Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) using Medical Outcomes Study Questionnaire Short Form 36 Physical Component Summary (SF-36 PCS) and Ankylosing Spondylitis Quality of Life (ASQoL) • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions

Information about the drug

Other considerations	None
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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
secukinumab (Cosentyx [®])	Under review	Every 4 weeks	Confidential price
certolizumab (Cimzia [®]) SC injection	Limited Coverage	Every two or four weeks	\$18,141
adalimumab (Humira [®]) SC injection	Limited Coverage	Every two weeks	\$20,212
etanercept (Enbrel [®]) SC injection	Limited Coverage	Once or twice weekly	\$19,890
golimumab (Simponi [®]) SC injection	Limited Coverage	Once monthly	\$20,751
infliximab (Inflixtra [™]) IV injection	Limited Coverage	Every six to eight weeks	\$14,333 to \$22,050 ^a

IV= intravenous (into the vein); SC=subcutaneous (under the skin); IM=intramuscular (into the muscle)

^a Price based on average adult patient weight of 80 kg and includes wastage of any unused proportion of opened vial

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.