

# 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)	<b>secukinumab</b>
Brand name	<b>Cosentyx<sup>®</sup></b>
Manufacturer	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Indication	Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)
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 <sup>®</sup> ), you can <a href="#">Search the CDR Reports</a> .
Public input start date	Thursday June 23, 2016
Public input closing date	Thursday July 21, 2016 <b>AT MIDNIGHT</b>
How is the drug taken?	Cosentyx <sup>®</sup> is taken via subcutaneous (under the skin) injection.
How often is the drug taken?	Cosentyx <sup>®</sup> is taken at weeks 0, 1, 2 and 3. Starting at week 4, the drug is taken once monthly.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Psoriatic arthritis is an inflammatory disease that causes joint pain, swelling, and stiffness, and is often accompanied by psoriasis. Cosentyx® can reduce the signs and symptoms of active psoriatic arthritis, improve physical function and slow down the damage to the cartilage and bone of the joints involved in the disease.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following outcomes to assess if Cosentyx® is helpful and safe for the treatment of patients with PsA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American College of Rheumatology (ACR20) scale</li> <li>• Clinical response outcomes using various scales (ACR50, ACR70, MDA, DAS28-CRP, PASI75, PASI90, improvement in dactylitis and enthesitis, and mNAPSI)</li> <li>• Health-Related Quality of Life using Short Form Health Survey (SF-36), Psoriatic Arthritis Quality of Life questionnaire (PsAQoL) and Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI)</li> <li>• Arthritis pain using Patient’s Assessment of Pain</li> <li>• Fatigue using functional assessment of chronic illness therapy (FACIT) -Fatigue</li> <li>• Radiographic change</li> <li>• Bad reactions</li> <li>• Serious bad reactions</li> <li>• Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions</li> </ul>
Other considerations	None

**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 four weeks	Confidential price
certolizumab (Cimzia®) SC injection	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Every two or four weeks	First year:\$19,271 <sup>b</sup> Subsequent years: \$17,277 <sup>b</sup>
ustekinumab (Stelara®) SC injection	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Every 12 weeks	First year: \$22,966 <sup>b</sup> Subsequent years: \$20,669 <sup>b</sup>
adalimumab (Humira®) SC injection	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Every two weeks	\$20,019 <sup>b</sup>

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
etanercept (Enbrel <sup>®</sup> ) SC injection	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Once or twice weekly	\$21,111 <sup>b</sup>
golimumab (Simponi <sup>®</sup> ) SC injection	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Once monthly	\$18,662 <sup>b</sup>
infliximab (Inflectra <sup>™</sup> ) IV injection	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Every eight weeks	First year: \$18,293 <sup>b</sup> Subsequent years: \$14,863 <sup>b</sup>

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

<sup>a</sup> Price based on average adult patient weight of 80 kg and includes wastage of any unused proportion of opened vial.

<sup>b</sup> Price based on CDR Pharmacoeconomic Report – March 2015

### 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.