BC PharmaCare Drug Information

The drug below is being considered for coverage under the BC PharmaCare program. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan that helps B.C. residents with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and medical supplies. For more information about PharmaCare, visit the PharmaCare website.

PharmaCare reviews each drug for treating a specific illness or medical condition (also called an "indication"). If PharmaCare decides to cover a drug, that coverage applies only to the indication(s) specified. In some cases, PharmaCare covers a drug only for people who have not responded to other drugs that treat the same indication.

More information about the PharmaCare drug review process is provided on the last page of this document.

Drug information	
Generic name (scientific name)	**adalimumab**
Brand names	**Various**
Manufacturer	Various
Indication	Pediatric Crohn's disease (CD) in patients 13 to 17 years, weighing at least 40 kg, and pediatric ulcerative colitis (UC) in patients 5 years and older.
Has the drug been reviewed by CDA-AMC, or will CDA-AMC be reviewing it? (See note below.)	No. Adalimumab is being reviewed internally by the Ministry of Health using input from the University of British Columbia's Therapeutics Initiative (TI). The TI's mission is to provide physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, allied health professionals & the public with up-to-date, independent, evidence-based, practical information on healthcare interventions.
Public input start date	**Wednesday, July 29, 2026**
Public input closing date	**Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 11:59 pm**
How is the drug taken?	Adalimumab is given by subcutaneous (under the skin) injection.
How often is the drug given?	**CD:** Starting doses are administered at week 0 and week 2 under the supervision of a health care professional. The first starting dose can be split over two consecutive days, if needed. Maintenance dosing can then be administered at home every other week, starting at week 4.

Drug information	
	UC: Dosing for pediatric UC is by body weight. Starting doses are administered at week 0 and week 2 under the supervision of a health care professional. Maintenance dosing can then be administered at home every week or every other week starting at week 4.
General drug and/or drug study information	The Ministry of Health is reviewing adalimumab for the treatment of pediatric inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). IBD is a group of lifelong conditions in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the digestive tract. The two main types are Crohn's disease (CD), which can affect any part of the digestive tract, and ulcerative colitis (UC), which affects only the colon and rectum. Inflammation caused by these conditions can lead to symptoms such as abdominal pain, diarrhea, fatigue, weight loss, and sometimes blood or mucus in the stool. Both CD and UC typically follow a pattern of flare-ups and remission. In children and adolescents, IBD is often more severe and involves more of the digestive tract than in adults. Beyond bowel symptoms, IBD in youth can disrupt growth and delay puberty, which are critical for normal development. It can also affect mental health. Adalimumab is a laboratory-made antibody that treats inflammatory bowel disease by blocking tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF-alpha), a protein that is produced in higher-than-normal amounts in people with IBD. By blocking this protein, adalimumab may help reduce inflammation and prevent the immune system from attacking the lining of the bowel, allowing it to heal. Studies looked at the following: • Symptoms and quality of life (QoL) • Clinical remission • Endoscopic remission • Corticosteroid use • Need for surgery • Growth failure • All-cause mortality • Serious adverse events, fatal and non-fatal • Withdrawal due to adverse events • Total adverse events • Infection risk, malignancy, any relevant harm signal

Drug information	
	• Any relevant harm signals
Other considerations	None

Note:
CDA-AMC (Canada's Drug Agency-L'Agence des Médicaments du Canada) is a national organization that reviews drugs on behalf of Canadian public sector plans when drug manufacturers want those plans to provide coverage for the drug. For detailed information about the PharmaCare drug review process, including the role of the CDA-AMC Reimbursement Review (CRR) in that process, visit How PharmaCare Decides Which Drugs to Cover.

Table of Comparators Used to Treat the Same Indication		
Generic Name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	**Dosage Form**	**PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)**
adalimumab (biosimilars)	Pre-filled syringe Pre-filled pen Autoinjector	Under review for pediatric IBD Limited Coverage for multiple other indications[a]
Tumor necrosis factor alpha antagonists (anti-TNFa)		
infliximab (biosimilars)	Vial	Under review for pediatric IBD Limited Coverage for multiple other indications[b]
golimumab (Simponi)	Vial Syringe Pen injector	Not Health Canada-approved for pediatric IBD; Limited Coverage for multiple other indications[c]
Interleukin (IL) inhibitors		
ustekinumab (biosimilars)	Single-use vial Pre-filled syringe	Not Health Canada-approved for pediatric IBD; Limited Coverage for multiple other indications[d]

[a] Limited coverage for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), plaque psoriasis (PsO), polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), hidradenitis suppurative (HS), CD (adults), UC (adults).
[b] Limited coverage for the treatment of CD (adults), UC (adults), PsA, AS, PsO, and RA.
[c] Limited coverage for RA, PsA, and AS.
[d] Limited coverage for CD (adults), UC (adults), PsO, and PsA.

Table of Comparators Used to Treat the Same Indication		
Generic Name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	**Dosage Form**	**PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)**
risankizumab (Skyrizi)	Pre-filled, single-use cartridge Single-use vial	Not Health Canada-approved for pediatric IBD; Limited Coverage for CD, UC, and plaque psoriasis in adults
guselkumab (Tremfya)	Vial Pre-filled syringe Auto-injector Pre-filled pen	Not Health Canada-approved for pediatric IBD; Limited Coverage for CD and UC in adults
mirikizumab (Omvoh)	Vial Pre-filled syringe pre-filled pen	Not Health Canada-approved for pediatric IBD; Limited Coverage for CD and UC in adults
Integrin alpha-4-beta-7 antagonist		
vedolizumab (Entyvio)	Vial Pre-filled pen Pre-filled syringe	Not Health Canada-approved for pediatric IBD; Limited Coverage for CD and UC in adults
Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors		
upadacitinib (Rinvoq)	Extended-release tablet	Not Health Canada-approved for pediatric IBD; Limited Coverage for atopic dermatitis and CD in adults
tofacitinib (generics)	Tablet	Not Health Canada-approved for pediatric IBD; Limited Coverage for multiple indications[e]
Sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) receptor modulators		
ozanimod (Zeposia)	Capsule	Not Health Canada-approved for pediatric IBD; Limited Coverage for UC in adults

[e] Limited coverage for AS, PsA, RA, and UC (adults).

The Drug Review Process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (Ministry).

An independent national organization called Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) provides evidence-based recommendations to public drug plans across Canada through its reimbursement review process.

As part of the CDA-AMC's Clinical Reimbursement Review process, the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) makes reimbursement recommendations for non-oncology pharmaceuticals to the participating federal, provincial, and territorial publicly funded drug plans. In developing its recommendations, the CDEC considers:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- what the drug costs and whether it is a good value to the citizens of B.C.
- ethical considerations related to covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a BC PharmaCare coverage decision by considering:

- existing BC PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the CDA-AMC
- the recommendations and reimbursement conditions of the CDEC
- if a Ministry Initiated review, the advice of an independent expert group called the Drug Benefit Council (DBC)
- BC-specific patient input collected through the Your Voice website
- drugs already covered by BC PharmaCare that treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit BC PharmaCare and Drug reviews for more information.

This document provides information only.
It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.