

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)	risankizumab
Brand name	Skyrizi®
Manufacturer	AbbVie Corporation
Indication	Moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in pediatric patients 6 years of age and older.
Has the drug been reviewed by CDA-AMC, or will CDA-AMC be reviewing it? (See note below.)	Yes For more information about the CDA-AMC Reimbursement Review (CRR) of risankizumab (Skyrizi), Search the CDA-AMC Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday, August 26, 2026
Public input closing date	Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 11:59 pm
How is the drug taken?	Risankizumab is given by subcutaneous (under the skin) injection.
How often is the drug injected?	The recommended dose for pediatric patients is based on body weight and is administered at week 0, week 4, and every 12 weeks thereafter.

General drug and/or drug study information

The Ministry of Health is reviewing risankizumab for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in pediatric patients 6 years of age and older.

Plaque psoriasis is a chronic inflammatory skin disease that causes redness, itching, pain, and scaling of the skin, most commonly on the face, scalp and skin fold areas in children. Plaque psoriasis has no cure and typically goes through cycles of flare-ups and periods when symptoms improve or go into remission.

Risankizumab blocks interleukin-23 (IL-23), a protein involved in inflammation that is thought to play a role in plaque psoriasis. This may help reduce inflammation and improve symptoms.

Studies looked at the following:

- Percentage of patients achieving at least a 75% improvement in psoriasis severity, as measured by the Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI 75) at week 16.
- Percentage of patients achieving clear or almost clear skin, as measured by the static Physician's Global Assessment (sPGA) score at week 16
- Percentage of patients achieving at least a 90% improvement in psoriasis severity, as measured by the PASI (PASI 90) at week 16
- Percentage of patients achieving complete clearance of psoriasis, as measured by the PASI (PASI 100) at week 16
- Changes from baseline to week 16 in health-related quality of life (HRQoL), as measured by the Children's Dermatology Life Quality Index (CDLQI)
- Changes from baseline to week 16 in HRQoL, as measured by the Family Dermatology Life Quality Index (FDLQI)
- Percentage of patients achieving a clinically meaningful improvement in itch severity, as measured by the Itch Numeric Rating Scale (Itch NRS) at week 16
- Bad reactions
- Serious bad reactions
- Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions
- Bad reactions of special interest: Hypersensitivity, hepatic events (liver problems), injection site reactions, suicidal thoughts and behaviours.

Drug information	
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)
risankizumab (Skyrizi)	Pre-filled syringe Pre-filled pen	Under review for pediatric plaque psoriasis Limited Coverage for plaque psoriasis, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis, in adults
Comparators		
etanercept (Brenzys, Erelzi, Rymti)	Pre-filled syringe Pre-filled autoinjector	Under review for pediatric plaque psoriasis Limited Coverage for plaque psoriasis in adults and multiple other indications ^a
ixekizumab (Taltz)	Pre-filled syringe Pre-filled autoinjector	Under review for pediatric plaque psoriasis Limited Coverage for plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis in adults
secukinumab (Cosentyx)	Pre-filled syringe Pre-filled autoinjector	Under review for pediatric plaque psoriasis Limited Coverage for plaque psoriasis in adults and multiple other indications ^b

^a Limited Coverage is also provided for rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, and psoriatic arthritis in adults, as well as polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis in patients 4 and older.

^b Limited Coverage is also provided for ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis, and hidradenitis suppurativa in adults.

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)
ustekinumab (Jamteki, Otulfi, Pyzchiva, Steqeyma, Wezlana, Yesintek)	Pre-filled syringe Pre-filled autoinjector	Under review for pediatric plaque psoriasis Limited Coverage for plaque psoriasis in adults and multiple other indications ^c
<i>Off-label treatment</i>		
guselkumab (Tremfya)	Pre-filled syringe Pre-filled autoinjector	Not Health Canada-approved for pediatric plaque psoriasis Limited Coverage for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in adults

^c Limited Coverage for ustekinumab is also provided for Crohn's disease, psoriatic arthritis, and ulcerative colitis in 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.