JointHealth™ insight

**The latest news on provincial drug formulary listing decisions**

*Important news for people living with inflammatory arthritis in Canada*

In this issue of JointHealth™ insight, Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE) maps out the latest news for you about provincial drug formulary listing decisions. It contains information about important changes to provincial drug formularies and what it means for Canadians living with inflammatory arthritis. The changes covered in this update affect people living with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA).

**Manitoba**
The following medication has been listed for reimbursement on the provincial drug formulary:

- Tofacitinib citrate (Xeljanz®) for the treatment of RA

**New Brunswick**
The following medications have been listed for reimbursement on the provincial drug formulary:

- Certolizumab pegol (Cimzia®) for the treatment of RA, AS and PsA
- Infliximab (Infectra®) for the treatment of RA, AS and PsA
- A listing criteria change has occurred for infliximab (Remicade®) for the treatment of RA, AS and PsA

Please note that all Special Authorization (SA) requests for reimbursement of infliximab for patients who have never been on infliximab for their RA, AS and PsA will be approved for the Infectra® brand of infliximab only. Patients who received SA approval for the Remicade® brand of infliximab before June 1, 2016 will continue to have this brand covered. They will also be eligible for reimbursement of the Infectra® brand.

**Nova Scotia**
The following medication has been listed for reimbursement on the provincial drug formulary:

- Infliximab (Infectra®) for the treatment of RA and AS
- A listing criteria change has occurred for infliximab (Remicade®) for the treatment of RA and AS.
- The listing criteria for rheumatoid arthritis has been updated for all medications listed in the Report Card.
- The listing criteria for adalimumab (Humira®) for juvenile idiopathic arthritis has been expanded to include polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

Please note that for infliximab-naïve patients whose infliximab therapy is initiated after June 1, 2016, Infectra® will be the product approved for RA and AS.

**Prince Edward Island**
The following medications have been listed for reimbursement on the provincial drug formulary:

- Certolizumab pegol (Cimzia®) for the treatment of AS and PsA
- Infliximab (Infectra®) for the treatment of RA, AS and PsA
- A listing criteria change has occurred for infliximab (Remicade®) for the treatment of RA, AS and PsA.
- The listing criteria for rheumatoid arthritis has been updated for all medications listed in the JointHealth™ Arthritis Medications Report Card.

Please note that for infliximab-naïve patients (those who have never been on infliximab) effective June 27, 2016 or later, Infectra® will be the product approved for RA, AS and PsA.

**Ontario**
The following medication has been declined for listing in the provincial drug formulary:

- Apremilast (Otezla®) for the treatment of PsA

**About the medications in this Report Card update and their listing decisions:**

- **Adalimumab (Humira®)** is used to treat children with polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (pJIA). The medication is taken via subcutaneous injection and is administered every other week. The recommended dose depends on the height and weight of the child.
- **Certolizumab pegol (Cimzia®)** is a medication used to treat rheumatoid arthritis. It is an anti-TNF medication taken by subcutaneous injection every two weeks (200mg/mL pre-filled syringe).
- **Infliximab (Inflectra®)** is a subsequent entry biologic to the originator biologic infliximab (Remicade®). It is the first subsequent entry biologic monoclonal antibody therapy approved by Health Canada for the treatment of patients with RA, AS, PsA and plaque psoriasis and is administered intravenously. An Inflectra® Patient Assistance Program is available through the manufacturer by calling 1-844-466-6627.
- **Tofacitinib citrate (Xeljanz®)** is an oral targeted small molecule medicine (TSMM) that was issued a Notice of Compliance (NOC) for the treatment of RA from Health Canada on April 17, 2014. Tofacitinib, in combination with methotrexate (MTX), is indicated for reducing the signs and symptoms of RA, in adult patients with moderately to severely active RA who have had an inadequate response to MTX. In cases of intolerance to MTX, physicians may consider the use of tofacitinib as monotherapy.

Click here to view the full version of the JointHealth™ Arthritis Medications Report Card.

**News about arthritis medications**

In April 2016, secukinumab (Cosentyx®) was issued a Notice of Compliance (NOC) from Health Canada for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis in adult patients who have responded inadequately to conventional therapy and for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis in adult patients who have responded inadequately to previous disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) therapy. Secukinumab is a fully human monoclonal antibody that targets IL-17A, a protein central to the development of inflammatory diseases. It is given by an injection under the skin.

The medication is now being considered for reimbursement by provincial drug formularies. In British Columbia, by filling out a questionnaire on a website called Your Voice, you can provide feedback directly to BC PharmaCare or if you wish, to ACE, about secukinumab for the

treatment of AS and PsA. You can give input If you are a B.C. resident and have AS or PsA, a caregiver to someone with AS or PsA, or if your group represents people who live with AS or PsA. The submission deadline is midnight on July 21, 2016.

Please note secukinumab will be added to the online version of the JointHealth™ Arthritis Medications Report Card and to the next print version of the JointHealth™ Medications Guide in early 2017.