

Plain English Summary

Interleukin inhibitors for treating chronic plaque psoriasis and active psoriatic arthritis

What does the guidance say?

Ixekizumab and secukinumab are recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy for patients with chronic plaque psoriasis or active psoriatic arthritis.

Guselkumab is not recommended for subsidy.

What are plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis?

Chronic plaque psoriasis is a long-term inflammatory skin condition, characterised by well-defined, slightly raised, pink or red areas with silvery white scales (also known as plaques) on the knees, elbows and trunk. Other areas of the body can be involved too.

Psoriatic arthritis causes inflammation in and around the joints. It usually affects people who have psoriasis, although some people may develop arthritic symptoms before the skin symptoms. Symptoms of psoriatic arthritis include pain and stiffness in and around joints, swollen fingers and toes, and a stiff back or neck.

What are ixekizumab and secukinumab?

Ixekizumab and secukinumab belong to a group of medicines called biologics which reduce inflammation and relieve symptoms. Both treatments are given as an injection.

Your doctor will regularly assess if ixekizumab or secukinumab is working for you and if you are likely to benefit from continued treatment.

Who can have ixekizumab or secukinumab?

Adults can have ixekizumab or secukinumab if they have chronic plaque psoriasis or active psoriatic arthritis that has not improved with previous treatment. Children aged 6 years and above with chronic plaque psoriasis can also have secukinumab.

Your doctor can advise if ixekizumab or secukinumab is a suitable treatment for you.

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Why were ixekizumab and secukinumab recommended for MAF?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Ixekizumab and secukinumab were recommended for subsidy because their benefits in relieving symptoms for certain patients with chronic plaque psoriasis or active psoriatic arthritis justifies their costs.

Guselkumab was not recommended for subsidy because its benefits do not justify its cost.

What does listing on the MAF mean for me?

The MAF helps people pay for expensive treatments that are clinically necessary. If your doctor prescribes ixekizumab or secukinumab for you, and you meet the MAF criteria, your treatment cost will be subsidised by 40% to 75%.

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