

Plain English Summary

Ixekizumab and secukinumab for treating active ankylosing spondylitis

What does the guidance say?

Ixekizumab and secukinumab are recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy for adults with active ankylosing spondylitis.

What is ankylosing spondylitis?

Ankylosing spondylitis is a type of arthritis which causes long-term inflammation of the joints in the spine. Joints in other parts of the body, such as the shoulders, hips, knees and ankles, may also be affected. Early symptoms include joint stiffness and back pain which is usually worse in the morning but improves with exercise or activity. Ankylosing spondylitis is three times more common in men than in women and typically occurs in adolescents and young adults less than 40 years of age.

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 active ankylosing spondylitis that has not improved with previous treatment (including exercise, physiotherapy and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs).

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 benefit in relieving symptoms for certain patients with active ankylosing spondylitis justifies their cost.

What does listing on the MAF mean for me?

The MAF helps people pay for 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%.

Updated: 31 August 2022

First published: 3 August 2021

 Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE  Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)

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