

Plain English Summary

Ixekizumab and secukinumab for treating non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis

What does the guidance say?

Secukinumab is recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy for adults with non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis.

Ixekizumab is not recommended for government subsidy for this condition.

What is non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis?

Axial spondyloarthritis 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 hips, knees, ankles and fingers 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. It typically occurs in adults less than 45 years of age.

Doctors use scans to detect any changes to the joints in the lower back. When symptoms are present but joint changes are not seen on an X-ray scan, this is known as non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis.

What is secukinumab?

Secukinumab belongs to a group of medicines called biologics which reduce inflammation and relieve symptoms. It is given as an injection.

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

Who can have secukinumab?

Adults with non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis can have secukinumab if their condition has not improved with, or they are unable to take non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

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

Plain English Summary

Ixekizumab and secukinumab for treating non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis

Why was secukinumab recommended for subsidy?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Secukinumab was recommended for subsidy because its benefit in relieving symptoms for certain patients with non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis justifies its cost.

Ixekizumab was not recommended for subsidy because its benefits do not justify its cost compared with secukinumab. If you need ixekizumab for this condition, you can speak to a medical social worker to find out if there is other financial assistance available to help with the cost of treatment.

What does listing on the MAF mean for me?

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

Published: 1 June 2023

 Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE

 Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)

The Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE) was established by the Ministry of Health (Singapore) to drive better decision-making in healthcare through health technology assessment (HTA), clinical guidance and education. It publishes guidances on diagnosing, treating, and preventing different medical conditions based on the latest research information available worldwide.

This summary is not, and should not be regarded as, a substitute for professional or medical advice. Please seek the advice of a qualified healthcare professional about any medical condition.

© Agency for Care Effectiveness, Ministry of Health, Republic of Singapore
All rights reserved. Reproduction of this publication in whole or part in any material form is prohibited without the prior written permission of the copyright holder.

To find out more about ACE visit www.ace-hta.gov.sg