



## Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
YAZ	For conception control and treatment of moderate acne vulgaris in women 14 years of age and older	\$	\$188.50
Xamiol	For the topical treatment of moderate to severe scalp psoriasis for up to 4 weeks	\$	\$755.55

\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of <1%\* \$\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of 1-5%\* \$\$\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of >5%\*

## Stelara® - A New Treatment Option for Patients with Chronic Plaque Psoriasis

Stelara® is the newest member of the “biologic” drug class to treat chronic, plaque psoriasis in adult patients. Psoriasis is an auto-immune disease that affects 1-2% of the Canadian population. Plaque psoriasis, the most common type of psoriasis, manifests itself as inflamed, dry patches of skin and is most often found on the trunk, extremities (knees and elbows) and scalp. Although family history plays a significant role in the development of psoriasis, environmental factors such as sun exposure, smoking and stress, affect the severity and frequency of flare-ups. Psoriasis is non-contagious and benign<sup>1</sup>. Despite this, psoriasis can have a strong negative impact on one’s self-confidence, and consequently on the individual’s social and professional life. Therefore, effective treatment plays a key role in improving quality of life.

Similar to current biologics such as Enbrel® and Humira®, Stelara® is a human monoclonal antibody that targets and blocks agents in the body that provoke inflammation. The main advantage Stelara® has over Humira® and Enbrel® is a convenient dosing regimen. Stelara is administered by subcutaneous injection every 12 weeks as opposed to once weekly and bi-weekly with Enbrel® and Humira®, respectively<sup>2</sup>.

Stelara® is supplied in pre-filled 45 mg syringes. Patients with insufficient response to the 45 mg dosing or who weigh over 100 kg may require a 90 mg dose. Currently, the manufacturer provides financial assistance to patients who require 90 mgs, but whose private payer only covers the 45 mg dose. The Spectrum Assistance Program will cover the additional 45 mg dose. The program is limited in time until a 90 mg formulation becomes available and is covered by private payers<sup>2</sup>.

The annual cost of treatment with Stelara® is approximately \$18,200 to \$33,600, depending on whether the 45 mg or 90 mg dose is used. ClaimSecure clients will fully cover Stelara® under their existing open drug formularies. However, for clients who subscribe to ClaimSecure Managed Formularies, Stelara® will be placed under Special Authorization. The Special Authorization program will ensure that prior to using Stelara, plan members are seen and diagnosed by a specialist (dermatologist) and have failed first-line therapies, such as corticosteroid creams and phototherapy. In addition, Special Authorization will allow coordination of benefits with available provincial healthcare plans.

If you require additional information about Stelara®, please contact Shellina Sevany, Manager, Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-3025 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3025.

### Recommendation: Special Authorization

*ClaimSecure reserves the right to amend in part or in its entirety stated special authorization clinical guidelines*

References:

- 1) Plaque Psoriasis. eMedicine Health. [http://www.emedicinehealth.com/plaque\\_psoriasis/article\\_em.htm](http://www.emedicinehealth.com/plaque_psoriasis/article_em.htm)
- 2) Stelara™ Private Payer Submission Binder. Janssen-Ortho Inc., January, 2009.

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\* Based on the Financial Impact Analysis per 100 000 lives covered  
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