



Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Simponi	Reduce the signs and symptoms of moderate to severe active Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis and Ankylosing Spondylitis	\$\$	\$17,364

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

Soliris® – A new treatment option for patients with PNH

Soliris® (eculizumab) is a new medication indicated to treat chronic destruction of red blood cells (Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria). PNH is a progressively debilitating and life threatening genetic disease. It results in a multitude of morbidities and complications including: thromboembolism (blood clots), organ failure, severe anemia and fatigue, hypertension in the lungs and severe pain. It is estimated that 35% of patients with PNH die within 5 years and 50% within 10-15 years following diagnosis. PNH is an extremely rare disease, affecting 5.6 patients per million in Canada^{1, 2}.

Current treatment options for PNH are supportive in nature and have not been shown to improve patient outcomes. These include blood transfusions for anemia and anticoagulants to prevent blood clots^{1, 2}. Soliris®, a human monoclonal antibody, is the first drug to target the underlying cause of PNH and has demonstrated a reduction in red blood cell destruction up to 86%^{1, 3}.

Soliris® is administered by intravenous infusion at the recommended dose of 600 mg/week for the first four weeks, 900 mg in the fifth week, followed by 900 mg every other week as maintenance therapy. The annual cost of treatment is \$539,360.00 per patient. Due to its cost-prohibitive nature, Soliris® will be excluded from all ClaimSecure open drug formularies and Managed Formularies until further information on provincial coverage and financial assistance programs become available.

If you require additional information about Soliris®, please contact Genevieve Coutu, Clinical Pharmacist, Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-3031 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3031.

Recommendation: Exclude

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

References:

- 1) Soliris™ Private Payer Submission Binder. Alexion Pharmaceuticals Inc., August, 2009.
- 2) Besa, EC, Woermann, U. Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria. <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/207468-overview>. Accessed August 15, 2009.
- 3) Hillmen, P, et al. The Complement Inhibitor Eculizumab in Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria. The New England Journal of Medicine (2006) 335: 12: 1233- 1243.



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