



## Recently Introduced Products

| Drug Name | Indication  | Potential Impact | Expected Avg. Annual Cost |
|-----------|---|------------------|---------------------------|
| Lotemax   | Treatment of post-operative inflammation following cataract surgery | \$               | \$55.00                   |
| Alrex     | Treatment of seasonal allergic conjunctivitis (SAC)                 | \$               | \$324.00                  |

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

## Simponi<sup>®</sup> and Cimzia<sup>®</sup> – New treatment alternatives for Rheumatoid Arthritis

Simponi<sup>®</sup> (golimumab) and Cimzia<sup>®</sup> (certolizumab pegol) are the two newest members of the expanding biologic drug class. Both Simponi and Cimzia are indicated for adult patients with moderately to severely active Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)<sup>1,2</sup>. Simponi is also approved for the treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis and Ankylosing Spondylitis<sup>1</sup>. It is anticipated that these drugs will receive Health Canada approval for other indications, such as plaque psoriasis, Crohn's disease and/or Ulcerative Colitis in the near future.

Current therapies available on the market for the treatment of RA, such as Enbrel<sup>®</sup> and Humira<sup>®</sup>, are injected weekly and every other week, respectively<sup>3</sup>. Simponi<sup>®</sup> and Cimzia<sup>®</sup> offer the convenience of less frequent dosing. Both products are administered by subcutaneous injection, once monthly, using an ergonomic autoinjector. The autoinjectors are designed for patients with reduced dexterity, as commonly seen in patients with RA. Simplified dosing and improved injection devices may increase patient compliance<sup>1,2</sup>.

The annual cost of treatment with Simponi<sup>®</sup> and Cimzia<sup>®</sup> is \$17,364 and \$17,277, respectively. This is in line with the cost of treatment for RA with current biologic drugs. ClaimSecure clients will fully cover Simponi<sup>®</sup> and Cimzia<sup>®</sup> under their existing open drug formularies. However, for clients who subscribe to ClaimSecure Managed Formularies or Specialty Drug Programs, these drugs will be placed under Special Authorization. The use of biologic drugs is reserved for patients who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapies<sup>3</sup>. The Special Authorization program will ensure that plan members have tried and failed first-line therapies, such as methotrexate, leflunomide and/or NSAIDs. In addition, Special Authorization will allow coordination of benefits with available provincial healthcare plans.

*If you require additional information about Simponi<sup>®</sup> and Cimzia<sup>®</sup>, please contact Genevieve Coutu, Clinical Pharmacist, Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-3031 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3031.*

### Recommendation: Special Authorization

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

#### References:

- 1) Simponi<sup>™</sup> Private Payer Submission Binder. Schering-Plough Canada Inc., Sept, 2009.
- 2) Cimzia<sup>™</sup> Private Payer Submission Binder. UCB Canada Inc., Sept, 2009.
- 3) Smith, HR. Rheumatoid Arthritis. <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/331715-overview>. Accessed September 17, 2009.

