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Ustekinumab (Stelara) [Internet]. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health; 2017 Apr.

6 ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Ustekinumab is currently indicated for plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. There is potential for ustekinumab to be used off-label as a treatment option for ulcerative colitis, thus leading to increased overall costs for this class of treatments. Also, ustekinumab is the only available biologic that requires IV infusions for the induction phase, followed by subcutaneous administration for the maintenance phase. Costing discrepancies between these modes of administration may affect the overall cost of treatment and budgets for jurisdictions. The manufacturer provided a response confirming that administration costs of the IV dose for ustekinumab would be reimbursed by the manufacturer under the same program that supports the administration of the IV doses of infliximab (Remicade).

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