

# Medicine: certolizumab pegol (brand name: Cimzia®) for plaque psoriasis

UCB Pharma Ltd

## What is certolizumab pegol for?

Certolizumab pegol is used for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis. Psoriasis is a chronic inflammatory skin disease which causes red, raised skin patches that produce dead, flaky skin cells. Plaque psoriasis is the most common type of psoriasis and consists of red scaly plaques on the skin that can be on any part of the body. Certolizumab pegol is for patients who need systemic treatment (a treatment that acts throughout the body).

## How does certolizumab pegol work?

Psoriasis is caused by an over-active immune system. Certolizumab pegol binds to and blocks tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF-alpha), which is a protein involved in the immune system which is over-active in patients with plaque psoriasis. By blocking TNF-alpha, certolizumab pegol decreases the level of inflammation and symptoms of plaque psoriasis.

### What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted certolizumab pegol for restricted use for the treatment of adult patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis who need systemic treatment. This acceptance is limited to use in patients who have not responded to, or are unable to take standard systemic therapies including ciclosporin, methotrexate and phototherapy.



## Why has SMC said this?

SMC looks at how well new medicines work compared with current treatments available in Scotland and in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer (for example, if the medicine has to be given at a clinic or side effects have to be monitored).

SMC carefully considers every new medicine to make sure it benefits patients and is considered to be an acceptable use of the limited resources in NHSScotland. When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not just those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Clinical trial and economic evidence from the company that makes the medicine.
- Advice from healthcare professionals about any benefits of the new medicine compared to current treatment, along with how the new medicine is likely to be used.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.

After careful consideration of the evidence and after the company applied a confidential discount to the cost of the medicine, SMC was able to accept certolizumab pegol as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

### What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that certolizumab pegol for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland. For further information see:

Medicines in Scotland: What's the right treatment for me?

[www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx)



### More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with psoriasis and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

#### Psoriasis Association



<https://www.psoriasis-association.org.uk/>



01604 251620

#### The Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Alliance



<http://www.papaa.org/>



01923 672837

You can find out more about certolizumab pegol in the European public assessment report (EPAR) summary for the public by searching for the medicine name on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website.



<http://www.ema.europa.eu>

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