

Medicine: ustekinumab (brand name: Stelara®)

Janssen-Cilag Ltd UK

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed ustekinumab for the treatment of adults with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis, after other medicines have not worked well enough, have stopped working, or where other medicines are not suitable. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted ustekinumab for the treatment of ulcerative colitis as described above.

This advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of ustekinumab.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that ustekinumab for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland.



What is ustekinumab used for?

Ustekinumab is used to treat moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis, which is an inflammatory bowel disease affecting the large intestine. The condition causes the large intestine to become inflamed, and ulcers (large sores) develop on the lining of the intestine which can bleed and produce pus. Symptoms of active ulcerative colitis include bloody diarrhoea, stomach pain, increased frequency of bowel movements and weight loss. It is a long-term condition, with flare-ups of symptoms and remission (symptom-free periods).

How does ustekinumab work?

Ustekinumab works by blocking the actions of proteins (called interleukin 12 and interleukin 23) which are involved in causing the inflammation in ulcerative colitis. By blocking them, ustekinumab can help to reduce the inflammation and symptoms of ulcerative colitis.

How does SMC make its decision?

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.

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Evidence from the company about how well the medicine works compared with current treatments available in Scotland, in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.
- 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.

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.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of ustekinumab by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2250).

More information

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

Crohn's and Colitis UK



<https://www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk>



0300 222 5700

You can find out more about ustekinumab 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>