

CERTOLIZUMAB PEGOL solution for injection (Cimzia® ▼) for treating moderate to severe plaque psoriasis

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of CERTOLIZUMAB PEGOL solution for injection (Cimzia® ▼), by specialists only, for moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in accordance with NICE TA574.

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Certolizumab pegol is licensed for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in adults who are candidates for systemic therapy¹. Prescribing and monitoring of therapy must be retained by a specialist in the management of plaque psoriasis.

NICE technology appraisal [TA574](#)² recommends certolizumab pegol solution for injection (Cimzia® ▼) as an option for treating moderate to severe plaque psoriasis only if:

- The disease is severe, as defined by a total Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) of 10 or more and a Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) of more than 10 and;
- The disease has not responded to other systemic treatments, including ciclosporin, methotrexate and phototherapy, or these options are contraindicated or not tolerated and;
- The lowest maintenance dosage of certolizumab pegol is used (200 mg every 2 weeks) after the loading dosage and;
- The company provides the drug according to the commercial arrangement.

Stop certolizumab pegol at 16 weeks if the psoriasis has not responded adequately. An adequate response is defined as:

- A 75% reduction in the PASI score (PASI 75) from when treatment started or
- A 50% reduction in the PASI score (PASI 50) and a 5-point reduction in DLQI from when treatment started.

If patients and their clinicians consider certolizumab pegol to be one of a range of suitable treatments, the least expensive should be chosen (taking into account administration costs, dosage, price per dose and commercial arrangements).

Costing information - No significant resource impact is anticipated. NICE have stated that no significant resource impact is expected; that is, it will be less than £5 million per year in England (or £9,100 per 100,000 population).

References

1. UCB Pharma Limited. Summary of Product Characteristics: [Cimzia 200 mg solution for injection in pre-filled pen](#), 22nd March 2019. Accessed online; 4th April 2019.
2. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Certolizumab pegol for treating moderate to severe plaque psoriasis. [NICE Technology Appraisal 574](#); 17 April 2019. Accessed 30 April 2017.

Note: Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this statement may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy. In this situation, follow locally defined processes.