

## Patient Information Sheet

### Long acting Antibody to Tumor Necrosis Factor (Certolizumab) for Inflammatory Bowel Disease

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#### **What is tumor necrosis factor (TNF)?**

Tumor necrosis factor is a protein that circulates in our body naturally. It is used by the body to fight infection. In inflammatory bowel disease the body appears to produce too much TNF, which then damages the intestine.

#### **What is antibody to TNF?**

Antibody to TNF is an antibody designed to “soak up” the excess TNF that circulates in your body. This antibody to TNF (Certolizumab) is genetically engineered from proteins you normally have in your body.

#### **How does Certolizumab differ from older antibodies to TNF?**

Certolizumab is 100% human antibody protein while older antibodies to TNF (ie. Infliximab) are made up of both human and mouse protein. It is felt that with 100% human construction there will be less risk of allergic reactions with Certolizumab.

#### **Does Certolizumab work in IBD?**

We don't know yet how well Certolizumab will work in IBD. Clinical trials are still underway. Nevertheless, it is effective in rheumatoid arthritis and is expected to be effective in IBD.

#### **Do other antibodies to TNF work in IBD?**

Yes. About 80% of patients get a good response to older versions of antibody to TNF.

#### **Do I need to be on other medications as well as Certolizumab?**

As part of the clinical trial you will be instructed not to change your medication without contacting your doctor first.

#### **How is Certolizumab given?**

Certolizumab is not a pill. Certolizumab can only be given by injection, usually every 4 weeks.

#### **What are the side effects of Certolizumab?**

Common side effects are flu-like symptoms and headache. Patients exposed to tuberculosis in the past may see a reactivation. For this reason you may be asked to have a TB skin test and chest X-ray performed. Because Certolizumab is a protein it is possible that your own body will react to it during the infusion, causing an allergic reaction similar to the reaction some people get with bee stings. If this allergic reaction occurs you may be given medication to counteract the allergic reaction and/or the Certolizumab infusion may be slowed or stopped.

#### **Do I need to get any blood tests when I am getting Certolizumab?**

Yes, your doctor will be doing blood tests and regular routine physical examinations.

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### What is the cost of Certolizumab?

Certolizumab is a new class of genetically engineered biologic medications. It is extremely expensive to make. While the drug is in clinical trials it will be supplied free. Ultimately, once the drug is approved for prescription use in Canada, the cost will be approximately \$1000 per dose depending upon your body weight and how much of the medication you require.

