

Ustekinumab/STELARA Patient Startup sheet

Assistance with Coverage

Alberta Blue Cross Non-Group Coverage is a government-assisted program

- that helps people who do not have benefits obtain medication
- Works with existing insurance.

Information is available from Alberta Health government website

You can get an application online at <https://cfr.forms.gov.ab.ca/form/ahc201.pdf>

You will be required to pay a monthly premium.

They will not however cover the cost of the drug without special authorization

Completed by your gastroenterologist.

There is a 3+ month waiting period for any coverage so send in your application ASAP.

Currently Alberta Blue Cross Non Group will not cover this medication

Our **IBD nurses** will:

1. Enroll you in a free program through **BioAdvance**®
2. Provide you with information on the new medication, dosing frequency and cost of the medication; as well you will receive requisitions (Chest x-ray, TB skin Tests and blood work) that require the testing to be completed prior to starting the new therapy

If you are switching from another biologic you may not require pre testing.

BioAdvance® will:

1. Will contact the patient (you) once your referral is received, they will ask questions about current and previous medications, current symptoms and insurance coverage
2. Complete the orders for your infusion and injections and send the prescriptions ordered by your physician to the infusion clinic and the pharmacy of your choice.
3. Arrange your 1st infusion which is scheduled once testing and approval is complete and arrange injection training and support
4. Complete renewals of prescriptions and special authorizations as needed. You must contact BioAdvance® if there is a problem with your prescription or if there is a problem or change in insurance.

Private Coverage

Find out if you have private benefits that will cover the medication. Call your individual benefit provider and give them this information:

Drug Identification #'s

(DIN) 02320681 90 mg syringe and (DIN) 02459671 IV

****BE SURE TO ASK IF THERE IS A CAP ON THE AMOUNT OF COVERAGE YOU CAN GET/YEAR****

BioAdvance® is a free Patient Support program that works independently of the University of Alberta, and assists in the coordination of medication, insurance and arranging for the booking of **Stelara** infusions/injections. They will help you ensure that you have adequate insurance to cover the costs. You will need to complete a "Release of Information form" so they can access your medical charts. You can get this form from our IBD nurses or the biologic coordinator.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

You can call **BioAdvance**® (see card)

You can reach the IBD nurse by calling your physician's office and selecting the option for the IBD Nurse (780-492-8691, ext. 9).

Dosing Schedule

Week 0 (Day 1) Stelara IV Infusion weight based dosing

Week 8 – 1st injection (needle) training arranged

Maintenance 1 needle every 8 weeks

Follow-up

Fecal Calprotectin Testing prior to day 1 infusion

Fecal Calprotectin Testing prior to 2nd maintenance dose at week 16 infusion

Follow-up in IBD Clinic please make an appointment to be seen by your gastroenterologist 4-5 months after starting medication

While awaiting coverage

Your IBD physician/nurse will give you requisitions to have a chest X-ray and some blood work and instructions about getting a TB skin test. You will need to complete testing prior to starting Stelara. A list of vaccinations, including childhood immunizations which can be obtained either through your Family Physician or Public Health Centre by phone at 780-413-7985.

Do Not Take Any Live Vaccine prior to or while taking this medication

If you are switching from another biologic you may not require pre testing.

Ready to Start

Your prescription will be ordered from the pharmacy of your choice. You may need to pick up your medication prior to your first infusion. It will need to be kept refrigerated. **BioAdvance**® will set you up to receive **1 IV loading doses at week 0 (Day 1) and then maintenance dose of 1 needle every 8 weeks.**

It is important that you have a scheduled follow –up appointment with your gastroenterologist 4 weeks after your 2nd injection

What to Bring

Bring something to do for a couple of hours, books, magazines, music, movie DVD. You may be in a room with other people, so if you choose to listen to music or watch a movie please bring headphones. Because everyone has a possibility of being sensitive to a new medication, your first infusion will take approximately 1 hour. Subsequent visits may be shorter if you have no reaction.

IBD Health Practitioner Checklist

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chest X-ray |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | TB Skin Test |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hepatitis & HIV Serology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fecal Calprotectin prior to day one and prior to 2 nd injection |

Family Physician Checklist

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Routine breast exam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pap smear for HPV & HPV vaccine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Skin exam for atypical moles (dermatologist consult if relevant) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Vaccinations to be up-to-date |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Annual dental exam |