

## 5.32 USTEKINUMAB

**Injection 45 mg in 0.5 mL vial,  
Injection 45 mg in 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe,  
Injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe,  
Solution for intravenous infusion 130 mg in 26 mL  
vial,  
WEZLANA<sup>®</sup>,  
Amgen Australia Pty Ltd**

### 1 Purpose of Submission

- 1.1 The Category 3 submission requested listing a new biosimilar brand of ustekinumab (UST) (Wezlana<sup>®</sup>) in the following forms under the same circumstances as the PBS-listed reference biologic, Stelara<sup>®</sup>, for the treatment of paediatric severe chronic plaque psoriasis (CPP), severe Crohn disease (CD), moderate to severe ulcerative colitis (UC) and complex refractory fistulising CD.
- 45 mg/0.5 mL injection vial
  - 90 mg/1 mL pre-filled syringe (PFS)
  - 130 mg/26 mL injection vial
- 1.2 The submission also requested the following listings for UST that are not currently on the PBS. Stelara (sponsored by Janssen) was considered for the following listings at the same March 2024 PBAC meeting (item 5.31 refers).
- A new form of 45 mg/0.5 mL PFS under the same circumstances as the PBS-listed reference biologic, Stelara for adult and paediatric severe CPP and PsA.
  - A new form of 90 mg/1 mL PFS under the same circumstances as the PBS-listed reference biologic, Stelara for severe CD and adult CPP. This listing was recommended by the PBAC at its July 2022 meeting but has not been PBS-listed.
- 1.3 The submission presented a cost-minimisation approach of Wezlana compared with Stelara.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 The following three formulations of UST are currently PBS-listed. Table 1 shows the current PBS-listed forms of ustekinumab and submission's requested dose forms.

- UST 45 mg/0.5 mL injection vial is listed as an Authority Required listing for severe psoriatic arthritis (PsA), severe CD, adult and paediatric severe CPP.
- UST 90 mg/1 mL PFS is listed as an Authority Required listing for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis (MSUC) and complex refractory fistulising Crohn disease (fCD).
- UST 130 mg/26 mL injection vial is listed as Section 100 (Highly Specialised Drugs Program) Authority Required listing for severe CD, MSUC and complex refractory fCD.

**Table 1: Current PBS-listed forms of ustekinumab and submission's requested dose forms**

Indication	PBS listed dose forms (Stelara)	Recommended dosing (current PBS dose form units)	Requested dose forms (Wezlana)
Adult Severe CPP	45 mg vial	≤100 kg: 45 mg (1 x 45 mg vial) >100 kg: 90 mg (2 x 45 mg vial) SC injection at Weeks 0 and 4, then every 12 weeks	45 mg PFS 90 mg PFS
Paediatric severe CPP	45 mg vial	<60 kg: 0.75 mg/kg (portion of 45 mg vial) ≥60 to ≤100 kg: 45 mg (1 x 45 mg vial) >100 kg: 90 mg (2 x 45 mg vial) SC injection at Weeks 0 and 4, then every 12 weeks	45 mg vial 45 mg PFS
Severe CD	45 mg vial 130 mg vial	Initiate with 260-520 mg IV infusion (2-4 x 130 mg vial) 90 mg SC injection at Week 8, then every 8 to 12 weeks (2 x 45 mg vial)	90 mg PFS 130 mg vial
Severe PsA	45 mg vial	45 mg SC injection at Weeks 0 and 4, then every 12 weeks (1 x 45 mg vial)	45 mg PFS
Moderate to severe UC	90 mg PFS 130 mg vial	Initiate with 260-520 mg IV infusion (2-4 x 130 mg vial) 90 mg SC injection at Week 8, then every 8 to 12 weeks (1 x 90 mg PFS)	90 mg PFS 130 mg vial
Complex refractory fCD	90 mg PFS 130 mg vial	Initiate with 260-520 mg IV infusion (2-4 x 130 mg vial) 90 mg SC injection at Week 8, then every 8 to 12 weeks (1 x 90 mg PFS)	90 mg PFS 130 mg vial

### **Registration status**

2.2 Wezlana was TGA registered on 22 January 2024 for the same indications as the reference brand, Stelara.

### **Previous PBAC consideration**

2.3 Wezlana has not been previously considered by the PBAC. Stelara is the only brand of UST currently listed on the PBS.

2.4 At its July 2022 meeting, the PBAC recommended the listing of UST 90 mg in 1 mL PFS (Stelara) for the treatment of patients with CD and severe CPP requiring a 90 mg dose of UST, under the same circumstances as the current PBS-listed UST 45 mg vial for these indications (para 6.1, ustekinumab Public Summary Document (PSD), July 2022 PBAC meeting). This recommendation has not been PBS-listed.

2.5 At its July 2023 meeting, the PBAC recommended the listing of UST for the treatment of fistulising CD. UST for fistulising CD was PBS-listed on 1 January 2024.

### 3 Requested listing

- 3.1 The submission requested listing Wezlana under the same circumstances as the PBS-listed reference biologic Stelara with the exception of a lower authority level. The requested restrictions are complex due to the number of items and indications required for this listing. As the submission requested the same restrictions as the reference brand, the full restrictions have not been reproduced.
- 3.2 The submission also requested listing of the two new forms of 45 mg/ 0.5 mL PFS for severe CPP and PsA and 90 mg/1 mL PFS for severe CD and CPP. Shortened versions of the two new listings are presented below.

#### Listing of 45 mg/0.5 mL for severe CPP (paediatric)

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
USTEKINUMAB (Initial 1, 2, 3 whole body, or, face/hand/foot, balance of supply)					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	12669T	1	1	2	Wezlana
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	2	Wezlana

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
USTEKINUMAB (First/Subsequent continuing treatment whole body, or, face/hand/foot)					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	12664M	1	1	1	Stelara Wezlana
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1	Wezlana

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
USTEKINUMAB (Subsequent continuing treatment whole body, or, face/hand/foot)					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	NEW	1	1	5	Wezlana
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	5	Wezlana

#### Listing of 45 mg/0.5 mL PFS for severe CPP (adult)

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
USTEKINUMAB (Initial 1,2,3 whole body, or, face/hand/foot, balance of supply)					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1	Wezlana

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
USTEKINUMAB (First continuing whole body or face/hand/foot, balance of supply)					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1	Wezlana

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MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	№.of Rpts	Available brands
USTEKINUMAB (Subsequent continuing whole body)					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	5	Wezlana

**Listing of 45 mg/0.5 mL PFS for PsA**

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	№.of Rpts	Available brands
USTEKINUMAB (Initial 1,2,3, balance of supply)					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	2	Wezlana

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	№.of Rpts	Available brands
USTEKINUMAB (First continuing, balance of supply, subsequent continuing)					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1	Wezlana

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	№.of Rpts	Available brands
USTEKINUMAB (Subsequent continuing)					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	5	Wezlana

**Listing of 90 mg/1 mL PFS for severe CPP and CD (adult and paediatric)**

MEDICINAL PRODUCT Medicinal Product Pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	№.of Rpts	Available brands
Initial 1,2,3, continuing treatment CD					
USTEKINUMAB					
ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	0	Wezlana
Initial 1,2,3 whole body, or, face/hand/foot, balance of supply paediatric CPP					
USTEKINUMAB					
ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	2	Wezlana
Initial 1,2,3 whole body, or, face/hand/foot, balance of supply adult CPP					
USTEKINUMAB					
ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	2	Wezlana
Continuing treatment whole body, or, face/hand/foot, grandfather treatment paediatric CPP					
USTEKINUMAB					
ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1	Wezlana
Balance of supply continuing treatment whole body, or, face/hand/foot paediatric CPP					
USTEKINUMAB					
ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	0	Wezlana
Continuing treatment whole body, or face/hand/foot, balance of supply adult CPP					
USTEKINUMAB					
ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1	Wezlana

Restriction Summary [new] / Treatment of Concept: [new]	
Concept ID (for internal Dept. use)	Category / Program: GENERAL – General Schedule
	Prescriber type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Practitioners
	Restriction type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authority Required (in writing only via post/HPOS upload) Authority Required (Streamlined)
	Indication: Severe Crohn disease
	Treatment Phase: Initial treatment - Initial 1 (new patient) Initial treatment - Initial 2 (change or recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years) Initial treatment - Initial 3 (recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years)
	Prescribing Instructions: Two completed authority prescriptions should be submitted with every initial application for this drug. One prescription should be written under S100 (Highly Specialised Drugs) for a weight-based loading dose, containing a quantity of up to 4 vials of 130 mg and no repeats. The second prescription should be written under S85 (General) for <del>2 vials of 45 mg and no repeats</del> a total dose of 90 mg and no repeats.
	Prescribing Instructions: A maximum quantity of a weight based loading dose is up to 4 vials with no repeats and the subsequent first dose of 90 mg ( <del>2 vials of 45 mg</del> ) with no repeats provide for an initial 16 week course of this drug will be authorised.
	Prescribing Instructions: Where fewer than € 5 vials in total are requested at the time of the application, authority approvals for a sufficient number of vials based on the patient's weight to complete dosing at weeks 0 and 8 may be requested by telephone through the balance of supply restriction.

- 3.3 The submission requested that Wezlana (and any other UST biosimilars) be Authority Required (Streamlined) listings across all indications and treatment phases to encourage biosimilar uptake for initial listings. The submission noted that the existing PBS listings for Stelara are Authority Required (Written). The submission noted that the PBAC advised that all of the PBS-listed brands of trastuzumab should be made Authority Required (Streamlined) across all indications consistent with its March 2019 recommendation for the first two biosimilar brands of trastuzumab (para 5.4, trastuzumab (Kanjinti) PSD, July 2019 PBAC meeting).
- 3.4 The submission however stated if PBAC deemed the request for an Authority Required (Streamlined) across all treatment phases inappropriate, the sponsor proposes an Authority Required (Written; Electronic/Telephone) for initial treatment and an Authority Required (Streamlined) for the continuing treatment.
- 3.5 The submission requested the addition of an administrative note to encourage the uptake of biosimilar prescribing for treatment-naïve patients.

## 4 Comparator

- 4.1 The submission nominated Stelara as the main comparator. The PBAC considered that the nominated comparator was appropriate. However, the PBAC noted that there are other relevant biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARDs) on the PBS for each indication.

## **5 Consideration of the evidence**

### ***Sponsor hearing***

5.1 There was no hearing for this item.

### ***Consumer comments***

5.2 The PBAC noted and welcomed the input from two organisations via the Consumer Comments facility on the PBS website.

5.3 The PBAC noted the comments from Crohn's and Colitis Australia (CCA), which supported the listing of Wezlana for treatment of CD and UC. CCA also noted many consumers enjoy the freedoms associated with subcutaneous (SC) administration over IV infusion and that SC administration provides flexibility for consumers, avoidance of absence from work, and reduced travel for those in remote or regional areas or with restricted mobility.

5.4 The PBAC noted the advice received from the National Paediatric Medicines Forum (NPMF), which stated that UST usage is increasing in paediatrics as clinicians aim to achieve control of inflammatory bowel diseases as quickly as possible to reduce flares and long-term inflammatory damage. The PBAC noted the NPMF's request that the listing of Wezlana should not have age limit restrictions to allow for prescribers to equitably prescribe to patients of all ages that meet the relevant criteria. The PBAC noted the NPMF's comments that it believes the PBS listing of an UST biosimilar will be immensely beneficial to all patients with inflammatory bowel disease.

### ***Clinical trials***

5.5 The submission presented the following clinical trials to support the claim of biosimilarity of Wezlana to the reference brand, Stelara.

5.6 The clinical trials presented in the submission formed part of the TGA submission to extrapolate Wezlana's indications to Stelara. The ACM advised that Wezlana demonstrated similar pharmacokinetics, efficacy and no additional safety signals compared to Stelara, further noting that the immunogenicity differences are of minimal impact clinically (pg 5, ACM minutes).

5.7 As a Category 3 submission, no evaluation of the clinical evidence was undertaken.

**Table 2: Studies presented in the submission.**

Trial ID	Protocol/Publication title	Study Objectives (Related to Safety)	Study Drug and Dose
20190230	A randomized, double-blind, single-dose, 3-arm, parallel-group to determine pharmacokinetic equivalence of ABP 654 and ustekinumab in healthy adult subjects.	Primary Objective: To demonstrate pharmacokinetics (PK) similarity of ABP 654 (90 mg subcutaneous (SC) injection) with FDA and EU licensed ustekinumab as assessed principally by area under the serum concentration-time curve (AUC) from time 0 extrapolated to infinity ( $AUC_{inf}$ ) and maximum observed serum concentration ( $C_{max}$ ) in healthy adult subjects.	1:1:1 randomization to receive a single 90-mg SC injection of ABP 654, ustekinumab (US), or ustekinumab (EU). Eligible subjects were admitted on Day-1 and received an SC injection of ABP 654, ustekinumab (US), or ustekinumab (EU) on Day 1. Subjects remained resident in the clinical pharmacology until Day 3 for safety evaluations and PK assessments, after which they were discharged.  Subjects returned to the centre on days 7, 9, 11, 13, 21, 28, 35, 49, 56, 70, 98 and 112 for safety evaluations and PK and immunogenicity assessments.
20190232	Randomized, double-blind, active-controlled, study to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and immunogenicity of ABP 654 compared with ustekinumab in subjects with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.	Primary Objective: To compare the efficacy of ABP 654 with ustekinumab in subjects with moderate to severe psoriatic arthritis.	Subjects were randomized 1:1 to receive ABP 654 or ustekinumab at a dose of 45mg (baseline body weight [BW] $\leq$ 100 kg) or 90 mg (baseline BW > 100 kg) administered SC on day 1 (week 0), week 4, and week 16. At week 28, subjects with a 75% improvement in PASI were re-randomized: Those initially randomized to ABP 654 continued to receive ABP 654 and those initially randomized to ustekinumab were re-randomized to either continue on ustekinumab or switch to ABP 654.

PASI: Psoriasis Area and Severity Index; PSO: Severe chronic plaque psoriasis  
Source: Submission main body (Table 2:1)

### **Clinical claim**

- 5.8 The submission claimed that Wezlana is non-inferior in terms of efficacy, safety and immunogenicity compared to Stelara. The TGA considered the extrapolation of indications for Wezlana to all the indications of Stelara in Australia appropriate.
- 5.9 The PBAC considered that the claim of non-inferior comparative effectiveness and safety was reasonable.

### **Economic analysis**

- 5.10 The submission presented a cost-minimisation approach of Wezlana compared with Stelara. The submission stated that all of the Wezlana preparations will directly substitute on a mg to mg basis to the currently listed Stelara as follows.
- Wezlana 1 x 45 mg injection vial = Stelara 1 x 45 mg injection vial
  - Wezlana 1 x 45 mg PFS = Stelara 1 x 45 mg PFS

- Wezlana 1 x 90 mg PFS = Stelara 2 x 45 mg injection vial
  - Wezlana 1 x 130 mg injection vial = Stelara 1 x 130 mg injection vial
- 5.11 The PBAC previously considered the equi-effective doses to be UST 90 mg PFS and 2 x UST 45 mg vials (paragraph 6.2, ustekinumab (Stelara) PSD, July 2022).
- 5.12 The submission presented indicative F2 prices for Wezlana which included the 25% Statutory Price Reduction (SPR) as, if recommended, it will be the first new brand of UST listed on the PBS. The submission noted that, as Stelara has a Special Pricing Agreement (SPA) for each of the PBS-listed indications, the indicative prices presented below would be an overestimate.
- 5.13 As a Category 3 submission, the economic analysis has not been independently evaluated.

**Table 3: Current published DPMQ price for Stelara (F1) and indicative price for Wezlana (F2)**

DPMQ	Current Published F1 price				Estimated F2 prices (25% SPR)*			
	AEMP	DPMQ (S85)	S100 Private	S100 Public	AEMP	DPMQ (S85)	S100 Private	S100 Public
45 mg (PsA/PsO)	\$3,809.08	\$3,944.14 <sup>^</sup>			\$2,856.81	\$3,018.94		
90 mg CD (2 x 45 mg/0.5 mL)	\$7,618.16	\$7,780.29			\$5,713.62	\$5,875.75		
90 mg UC (90 mg/mL PFS)	\$3,809.08	\$3971.21			\$2,856.81	\$3,018.94		
520 mg (UC/CD)	\$15,236.32		\$15,284.69	\$15,236.32	\$11,427.24		\$11,475.61	\$11,427.24
	<b>AEMP/SKU</b>	<b>AEMP/mg</b>			<b>AEMP/SKU</b>	<b>AEMP/mg</b>		
45mg/0.5mL	\$3,809.08	\$84.65			\$2,856.81	\$63.48		
90mg/1 mL	\$3,809.08	\$42.32			\$2,856.81	\$31.74		
130mg /26mL	\$3,809.08	\$29.30			\$2,856.81	\$21.98		
<b>Average \$/mg</b>		<b>\$52.09</b>				<b>\$39.07</b>		

\*Assumption: Current SPA for ustekinumab = 0%, SPR = 25%

<sup>^</sup>A \$27.07 wholesaler mark-up seems to apply to the 45mg vial rather than \$54.14; indicative F2 pricing is based on a \$54.14 wholesaler mark-up

Abbreviations; AEMP = approved ex-manufacturer price; DPMQ = dispensed price for maximum quantity; SPR = statutory price reduction; PsO = psoriasis

### ***Estimated PBS usage and financial implications***

- 5.14 The submission adopted a market share approach to estimate the financial impact of listing Wezlana. A summary of the assumptions is presented below.

Table 4: Summary of assumptions and inputs used in financial estimates.

Variable	Value	Assumption/source																													
<b>Ustekinumab growth, annual</b>	All services = █%; by indication: - PsO = █% - PsA = █% - CD = █% down to █% - UC = █%	Estimated based on historical ustekinumab PBS services data (2018 – 2022)																													
<b>WEZLANA uptake rates</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yr 1</th> <th>Yr 2</th> <th>Yr 3</th> <th>Yr 4</th> <th>Yr 5</th> <th>Yr 6</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>█%</td> <td>█%</td> <td>█%</td> <td>█%</td> <td>█%</td> <td>█%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	█%	█%	█%	█%	█%	█%	Estimated; however, note the financial analysis has been undertaken for the whole market																	
Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6																										
█%	█%	█%	█%	█%	█%																										
<b>WEZLANA price</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="2">F1 Pricing</th> <th colspan="2">F2 Pricing</th> </tr> <tr> <th>AEMP/SKU</th> <th>AEMP/mg</th> <th>AEMP/SKU</th> <th>AEMP/mg</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>45 mg/0.5 mL</td> <td>\$3,809.08</td> <td>\$84.65</td> <td>\$2,856.81</td> <td>\$63.48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90 mg/1 mL</td> <td>\$3,809.08</td> <td>\$42.32</td> <td>\$2,856.81</td> <td>\$31.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>130 mg/26 mL</td> <td>\$3,809.08</td> <td>\$29.30</td> <td>\$2,856.81</td> <td>\$21.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Average \$/mg</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>\$52.09</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>\$39.07</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		F1 Pricing		F2 Pricing		AEMP/SKU	AEMP/mg	AEMP/SKU	AEMP/mg	45 mg/0.5 mL	\$3,809.08	\$84.65	\$2,856.81	\$63.48	90 mg/1 mL	\$3,809.08	\$42.32	\$2,856.81	\$31.74	130 mg/26 mL	\$3,809.08	\$29.30	\$2,856.81	\$21.98	<b>Average \$/mg</b>		<b>\$52.09</b>		<b>\$39.07</b>	25% SPR on entry of biosimilar 0% SPA rebate
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<b>Co-payment</b>	PBS = \$22.47 RPBS = \$5.01	Calculated based on Stelara PBS utilisation for 2022																													

Abbreviations: DPMQ = dispensed price for maximum quantity; SPR = Statutory Price Reduction; SPA = Special Pricing Arrangement; PsO = psoriasis

- 5.15 The submission stated that the listing of Wezlana is anticipated to directly replace Stelara and, as such, not increase the overall use of ustekinumab.
- 5.16 Table below shows the estimated number of scripts, cost of Stelara and Wezlana and the net financial implications to the PBS/RPBS. The financial impact to Services Australia will be determined by that agency as part of the post PBAC process.

Table 5: Estimated use and financial implications

Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
<b>Estimated extent of use</b>						
Number of scripts (PBS/RPBS)	1	2	3	3	3	4
<b>Estimated financial implications of the addition of Stelara to PBS</b>						
Cost to PBS	5	5	6	6	6	7
Less co-payments	8	8	8	8	8	8
Net cost to PBS	5	5	6	6	6	7
<b>Estimated financial implications of the addition of Stelara to RPBS</b>						
Cost to RPBS	9	9	9	9	9	9
Less co-payments	8	8	8	8	8	8
Net cost to RPBS	9	9	9	9	9	9
<b>Total net cost PBS / RPBS</b>	5	5	6	6	6	7
<b>Estimated financial implications of the listing of Stelara to Wezlana to PBS</b>						
Cost to PBS	10	10	10	5	5	5
Less co-payments	8	8	8	8	8	8
Net cost to PBS	10	10	10	5	5	5
<b>Estimated financial implications of the listing of Stelara to Wezlana to RPBS</b>						
Cost to RPBS	9	9	9	9	9	9
Less co-payments	8	8	8	8	8	8
Net cost to RPBS	9	9	9	9	9	9
<b>Total net cost PBS / RPBS</b>	10	10	10	5	5	5
<b>Net financial implications</b>						
<b>Net impact to PBS/RPBS</b>	8	8	8	8	8	8

Abbreviations: PBS = Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme; RPBS = Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Source: Table 4.6, p26 of the submission.

The redacted values correspond to the following ranges

<sup>1</sup> 60,000 to < 70,000

<sup>2</sup> 70,000 to < 80,000

<sup>3</sup> 80,000 to < 90,000

<sup>4</sup> 90,000 to < 100,000

<sup>5</sup> \$400 million to < \$500 million

<sup>6</sup> \$500 million to < \$600 million

<sup>7</sup> \$600 million to < \$700 million

<sup>8</sup> net cost saving

<sup>9</sup> \$0 to < \$10 million

<sup>10</sup> \$300 million to < \$400 million

5.17 The sponsor provided amended financial estimates which included the listing of UST for the treatment of fCD as this recommendation was not PBS-listed at the time the submission was made. The submission claimed that the listing of Wezlana would result in a saving of \$700 million to < \$800 million over the first six years of listing (Year 1 \$100 million to < \$200 million to Year 6 \$100 million to < \$200 million) due to first new brand listing where Stelara would move to F2 and get a 25% SPR. The submission stated that these estimates are uncertain as they do not account for Stelara’s SPAs, unlisted indications, other biosimilar entrants and the subsequent impact of price disclosure.

## 6 PBAC Outcome

- 6.1 The PBAC recommended the listing of a new biosimilar brand of ustekinumab (UST) (Wezlana) in the following forms under the same circumstances as the PBS-listed reference biologic, Stelara, for the treatment of adult and paediatric severe chronic plaque psoriasis (CPP), severe Crohn disease (CD), moderate to severe ulcerative colitis (UC), complex refractory fistulising CD and severe psoriatic arthritis (PsA).
- injection 45 mg in 0.5 mL
  - Injection 90 mg in 1 mL single use pre-filled syringe (PFS)
  - Solution for I.V. infusion 130 mg in 26 mL
- 6.2 The PBAC also recommended the following new forms of UST listings under the same circumstances as Stelara:
- Injection 45 mg in 0.5 mL single use PFS for adult and paediatric severe CPP and PsA
  - Injection 90 mg in 1 mL single use PFS for severe CD and adult CPP.
- 6.3 The PBAC's recommendation for listing was based on, among other matters, its assessment that the cost-effectiveness of Wezlana would be acceptable if it were cost-minimised to Stelara.
- 6.4 The PBAC advised the equi-effective doses to be the following:
- Wezlana 1 x 45 mg injection vial = Stelara 1 x 45 mg injection vial
  - Wezlana 1 x 45 mg PFS = Stelara 1 x 45 mg PFS
  - Wezlana 1 x 90 mg PFS = Stelara 2 x 45 mg injection vial
  - Wezlana 1 x 130 mg injection vial = Stelara 1 x 130 mg injection vial
- 6.5 The PBAC noted that the TGA considered the extrapolation of indications for Wezlana to all the indications of Stelara in Australia appropriate. The PBAC noted and considered the claim of non-inferior comparative effectiveness and safety of Wezlana to Stelara was appropriate and consistent with TGA.
- 6.6 The PBAC considered that the claim of biosimilarity for Wezlana compared to Stelara was reasonably supported by the data. The PBAC noted the TGA Delegate's view that Wezlana is biosimilar to Stelara and that there were no clinically meaningful differences in the comparative pharmacology, pharmacokinetic and toxicity studies.
- 6.7 The PBAC advised that biosimilar uptake drivers, including the differential authority requirements for subsequent continuing treatment between the reference and biosimilar brand and inclusion of an administrative note encouraging the use of biosimilar brand for treatment naïve patients, should apply to Wezlana.

- 6.8 The PBAC advised that, under Section 101(4AACD) of the *National Health Act 1953*, in the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits, equivalent strengths and forms of Stelara PFS and Wezlana PFS should be treated as equivalent to each other; and equivalent strengths and forms of Stelara and Wezlana injection vial should be treated as equivalent for the purposes of substitution (i.e. 'a' flagged in the schedule).
- 6.9 The PBAC noted that the listing of Wezlana would likely substitute Stelara and not increase overall market utilisation. The PBAC therefore considered that the estimated net cost to the PBS/RPBS would be nil.
- 6.10 The PBAC noted that its recommendation was on a cost-minimisation basis and advised that, because Wezlana is not expected to provide a substantial and clinically relevant improvement in efficacy, or reduction of toxicity over Stelara, or not expected to address a high and urgent unmet clinical need given the presence of an alternative therapy, the criteria prescribed by the *National Health (Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines – Cost Recovery) Regulations 2022* for Pricing Pathway A were not met.
- 6.11 The PBAC noted that this submission is not eligible for an Independent Review as it received a positive recommendation.

**Outcome:**

Recommended

## **7 Recommended listing**

- 7.1 Add Wezlana biosimilar, with schedule equivalence ('a' flag) for the same indications as Stelara.
- 7.2 Amend existing/recommended listing as follow:

- Authority Required listing of Wezlana, with the Authority type for each treatment phase and indication to be consistent with current listings for Stelara. A separate Authority Required (STREAMLINED) listing of Wezlana for the subsequent continuing treatment restriction for relevant listings for Stelara.
- The application of the 'Biosimilar prescribing policy' administrative note encouraging the use of biosimilar brands for treatment naïve patients:

*Prescribing of the biosimilar brand Wezlana is encouraged for treatment naïve patients.*

*Encouraging biosimilar prescribing for treatment naïve patients is Government policy. A viable biosimilar market is expected to result in reduced costs for biological medicines, allowing the Government to reinvest in new treatments. Further information can be found on the B Medicines webpage ([www.health.gov.au/health-topics/medicines](http://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/medicines))*

### Severe psoriatic arthritis (PsA)

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
<b>Initial 1, 2, 3, Balance of supply</b>					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	10774C	1	1	2	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	2	Wezlana
<b>First continuing, Balance of supply, Subsequent continuing</b>					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	10767Q	1	1	1	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1	Wezlana
<b>Subsequent continuing - STREAMLINED</b>					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	NEW	1	1	5	Wezlana
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	5	Wezlana

### Severe chronic plaque psoriasis (paediatric)

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
<b>Initial 1, 2, 3, Balance of supply (whole body or face, hand, foot)</b>					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	12669T	1	1	2	Wezlana
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	2	Wezlana
<b>First continuing (whole body), Subsequent continuing (whole body), First continuing (face, hand, foot), Subsequent continuing (face hand, foot)</b>					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	12664M	1	1	1	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1	Wezlana
<b>Subsequent continuing (whole body), (face, hand, foot) – STREAMLINED</b>					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	NEW	1	1	5	Wezlana
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	5	Wezlana

### Severe chronic plaque psoriasis (adult)

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
<b>Initial 1, 2, 3 (face, hand, foot), Initial 1, 2, 3 (whole body), balance of supply</b>					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	9304Q	1	1	1	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1	Wezlana
<b>First continuing (whole body), first continuing (face, hand, foot), balance of supply, subsequent continuing (whole body), subsequent continuing (face, hand, foot)</b>					

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ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	9305R	1	1	1	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1	Wezlana
<b>Subsequent continuing (whole body), subsequent continuing (face, hand, foot) – STREAMLINED</b>					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	NEW	1	1	5	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>A</sup>
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	5	Wezlana

	<b>Indication:</b> Severe chronic plaque psoriasis
	<b>Treatment Phase:</b> Initial treatment – Initial 1, Whole body (new patient) Initial treatment – Initial 2, Whole body (change or re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years) Initial treatment – Initial 3, Whole body (re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years) Initial treatment – Initial 1, Face, hand, foot (new patient) Initial treatment – Initial 2, Face, hand, foot (change or re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years) Initial treatment – Initial 3, Face, hand, foot (re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years)
	<b>Prescriber Instructions:</b> <del>At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single injection. Up to a maximum of 2 repeats will be authorised.</del>

	<b>Indication:</b> Severe chronic plaque psoriasis
	<b>Treatment Phase:</b> Continuing treatment, Whole body Continuing treatment, Face, hand, foot
	<b>Prescriber Instructions:</b> <del>At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single injection. Up to a maximum of 1 repeats will be authorised.</del>

**Severe Crohn disease**

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	№.of Rpts	Available brands
<b>Initial 1, 2, 3, balance of supply, first continuing, subsequent continuing</b>					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	11178H	2	2	0	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	2	2	0	Wezlana
<b>Subsequent continuing – STREAMLINED</b>					
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL vial	NEW	2	2	5	Wezlana
ustekinumab 45 mg/0.5 mL injection, 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	2	2	5	Wezlana
<b>Initial 1, 2, 3</b>					

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ustekinumab 130 mg/26 mL injection, 26 mL vial	11164N (HS)	4	4	0	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab 130 mg/26 mL injection, 26 mL vial	11182M (HB)	4	4	0	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>

	<b>Indication:</b> Severe Crohn disease
	<b>Treatment Phase:</b> Initial treatment – Initial 1 (new patient) Initial treatment – Initial 2 (change or recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years) Initial treatment – Initial 3 (recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years)
	<b>Prescriber Instructions:</b> Two completed authority prescriptions should be submitted with every initial application for this drug. One prescription should be written under S100 (Highly Specialised Drugs) for a weight-based loading dose, containing a quantity of up to 4 vials of 130 mg and no repeats. The second prescription should be written under S85 (General) for 2 vials of 45 mg and with no repeats.
	<b>Prescriber Instructions:</b> A maximum quantity of a weight based loading dose is up to 4 vials with no repeats and the subsequent first dose of 90 mg (2 vials of 45 mg) with no repeats provide for an initial 16 week course of this drug will be authorised.

**Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis**

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
<b>Initial 1, 2, 3</b>					
ustekinumab 130 mg/26 mL injection, 26 mL vial	13255P (HS)	4	4	0	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab 130 mg/26 mL injection, 26 mL vial	13272M (HB)	4	4	0	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
<b>Initial 1, 2, 3</b>					
ustekinumab 90 mg/mL injection, 1 mL syringe	13273N	1	1	0	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
<b>First continuing, subsequent continuing, balance of supply</b>					
ustekinumab 90 mg/mL injection, 1 mL syringe	13261Y	1	1	1	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
<b>Subsequent continuing – STREAMLINED</b>					
ustekinumab 90 mg/mL injection, 1 mL syringe	NEW	1	1	5	Wezlana

	<b>Indication:</b> Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis
	<b>Treatment Phase:</b> Initial treatment – Initial 1 (new patient) Initial treatment – Initial 2 (change or recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years) Initial treatment – Initial 3 (recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years)
	<b>Prescriber Instructions:</b>

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Two completed authority prescriptions should be submitted with every initial application for this drug. One prescription should be written under S100 (Highly Specialised Drugs) for a weight-based loading dose, containing a quantity of up to 4 vials of 130 mg and no repeats. The second prescription should be written under S85 (General) for the subsequent first dose, containing a quantity of 1 pre-filled syringe of 90 mg and with no repeats.
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### Complex refractory fistulising Crohn disease

MEDICINAL PRODUCT medicinal product pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
<b>Initial 1, 2, balance of supply</b>					
ustekinumab 130 mg/26 mL injection, 26 mL vial	13804M (HS)	4	4	0	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab 130 mg/26 mL injection, 26 mL vial	13781H (HB)	4	4	0	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
<b>Initial 1, 2, balance of supply</b>					
ustekinumab 90 mg/mL injection, 1 mL syringe	13805N	1	1	0	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
<b>First continuing, grandfather, subsequent continuing</b>					
ustekinumab 90 mg/mL injection, 1 mL syringe	13805N	1	1	1	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
<b>Subsequent continuing – STREAMLINED</b>					
ustekinumab 90 mg/mL injection, 1 mL syringe	NEW	1	1	1	Wezlana <sup>a</sup>

<b>Indication:</b> Complex refractory Fistulising Crohn disease
<b>Treatment Phase:</b> Initial treatment – Initial 1 (new patient or recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years) Initial treatment – Initial 2 (change or recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years)
<b>Prescriber Instructions:</b> Two completed authority prescriptions should be submitted with every initial application for this drug. One prescription should be written under S100 (Highly Specialised Drugs) for a weight-based loading dose, containing a quantity of up to 4 vials of 130 mg and no repeats. The second prescription should be written under S85 (General) for 1 vial or pre-filled syringe of 90 mg and with no repeats.

### Listing of 90 mg/1 mL PFS for severe CPP and CD (adult and paediatric)

MEDICINAL PRODUCT Medicinal Product Pack	PBS item code	Max. qty packs	Max. qty units	No. of Rpts	Available brands
Initial 1,2,3, continuing treatment CD					
USTEKINUMAB ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	0	Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
Initial 1,2,3 whole body, or, face/hand/foot, balance of supply paediatric CPP					
USTEKINUMAB ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	2	Wezlana <sup>a</sup> Stelara <sup>a</sup>
Initial 1,2,3 whole body, or, face/hand/foot, balance of supply adult CPP					

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USTEKINUMAB						Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	2		
Continuing treatment whole body, or, face/hand/foot, grandfather treatment paediatric CPP						
USTEKINUMAB						Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1		
Balance of supply continuing treatment whole body, or, face/hand/foot paediatric CPP						
USTEKINUMAB						Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	0		
Continuing treatment whole body, or face/hand/foot, balance of supply adult CPP						
USTEKINUMAB						Stelara <sup>a</sup> Wezlana <sup>a</sup>
ustekinumab injection 90 mg in 1 mL pre-filled syringe	NEW	1	1	1		

Restriction Summary [new] / Treatment of Concept: [new]	
Concept ID (for internal Dept. use)	Category / Program: GENERAL – General Schedule
	Prescriber type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Practitioners
	Restriction type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authority Required (in writing only via post/HPOS upload)
	Indication: Severe Crohn disease
	Treatment Phase: Initial treatment – Initial 1 (new patient) Initial treatment – Initial 2 (change or recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years) Initial treatment – Initial 3 (recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years)
	Prescribing Instructions: Two completed authority prescriptions should be submitted with every initial application for this drug. One prescription should be written under S100 (Highly Specialised Drugs) for a weight-based loading dose, containing a quantity of up to 4 vials of 130 mg and no repeats. The second prescription should be written under S85 (General) for <del>2 vials of 45 mg and no repeats</del> a total dose of 90 mg and no repeats.
	Prescribing Instructions: A maximum quantity of a weight based loading dose is up to 4 vials with no repeats and the subsequent first dose of 90 mg ( <del>2 vials of 45 mg</del> ) with no repeats provide for an initial 16 week course of this drug will be authorised.
	Prescribing Instructions: Where fewer than € 5 vials in total are requested at the time of the application, authority approvals for a sufficient number of vials based on the patient's weight to complete dosing at weeks 0 and 8 may be requested by telephone through the balance of supply restriction.

***This restriction may be subject to further review. Should there be any changes made to the restriction the Sponsor will be informed.***

## 8 Context for Decision

The PBAC helps decide whether and, if so, how medicines should be subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in Australia. It considers applications regarding the listing of medicines on the PBS and provides advice about other matters relating to the operation of the PBS in this context. A PBAC decision in relation to PBS listings does not necessarily represent a final PBAC view about the

merits of the medicine or the circumstances in which it should be made available through the PBS. The PBAC welcomes applications containing new information at any time.

## **9 Sponsor's Comment**

The sponsor had no comment.