

# Certolizumab pegol (Cimzia)

## This medication is used to treat moderate to severe CROHN'S DISEASE

### Included in a drug class called anti-TNF medications

**Works by reducing  
inflammation that leads  
to the symptoms of  
Crohn's disease**

### DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- Subcutaneous injection (under the skin)
- Pre-filled pen or syringe
- Dose and frequency prescribed by your provider
- Store in refrigerator protected from light

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Anti-drug antibody formation
- Rashes including psoriasis
- Injection site reaction
- Increased risk of infection
- Rare increased risk of lymphoma, melanoma
- Very rare increased risk of multiple sclerosis (nerve disorder), lupus-like reaction (autoimmune), heart failure

**These rare risks are outweighed  
by potential complications  
of untreated inflammatory  
bowel disease**

### ADDITIONAL TESTING AND MONITORING

Prior to starting this medication,  
your doctor may order:

- Blood counts, liver tests, test for tuberculosis (blood test or skin test and/or x-ray) and hepatitis B (blood test), test for inflammation (blood and/or stool test), stool tests to rule out infection, abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy

### While on this medication, your doctor may order:

- Blood counts and liver tests regularly to ensure safety
- Repeat tests for inflammation and abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy to assess your response to treatment

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### Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

**617-754-8888**

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### Lahey Hospital & Medical Center

**781-744-8740**

### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- This medication is safe to use in pregnancy and breast feeding
- Make sure you are up to date on the following vaccinations: annual flu, pneumovax, Prevnar-13, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, and Shingrix (age>50)
- Avoid LIVE vaccines while on this medication
- Obtain an annual skin evaluation by your primary care physician or dermatologist
- Financial assistance may be available
- **This medication should be taken exactly as prescribed to properly treat the disease**
- **Please contact your doctor if you notice any signs or symptoms of infection**
- **Do not stop or hold this medication without contacting your gastroenterologist**

