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MEDIA RELEASE

PHARMAC FUNDS TREATMENT FOR A LEADING CAUSE OF PREVENTABLE BLINDNESS [1,2]

- *HUMIRA®* (adalimumab,) *is now funded by PHARMAC to treat severe or chronic eye inflammation (uveitis).*[3]
- *HUMIRA® is used to treat adults with non-infectious intermediate, posterior and pan-uveitis, with inflammation affecting the back of the eye and children from 2 years of age with chronic non-infectious anterior uveitis with inflammation affecting the eye.*[7]
- *Uveitis (ocular inflammation) is a general term for a group of inflammatory diseases that affect the eye.*[4]
- *Uveitis can lead to reduced vision or vision loss*[1] *and is the third-leading cause of preventable blindness worldwide*[2]

Wellington, 1 September 2019 – AbbVie (NYSE: ABBV) New Zealand today announced New Zealanders with severe or chronic eye inflammation (uveitis) now have fully funded access to HUMIRA® (adalimumab), through PHARMAC to treat the condition.[3]

Uveitis can lead to reduced vision or vision loss[1] and is the third-leading cause of preventable blindness worldwide.[2]

Andrew Tompkin, General Manager AbbVie New Zealand said the funding of Humira for non-infectious uveitis would bring a welcome treatment option for people suffering from this disease.

“Uveitis can be a debilitating disease impacting people’s lives through vision loss[1] and we thank PHARMAC for funding access to Humira (adalimumab) to include this condition.” Andrew said.

Corticosteroids are the mainstay treatment but may have side effects with long term use.[5]

New Zealanders with uveitis are encouraged to see their doctor to have their eye health assessed and to discuss treatment options.

Uveitis is a general term that encompasses several inflammatory eye diseases of the uvea and other structures within the eye.[1] The persistent inflammation and associated complications cause damage of eye tissue that may lead to reduced vision or, in some cases, blindness.[2]

Uveitis is a common cause of visual disability in the working- age population.[1] Uveitis is less common in children.[6]

Humira is used to treat adults with non-infectious intermediate, posterior and pan-uveitis, with inflammation affecting the back of the eye and children from 2 years of age with chronic non-infectious anterior uveitis with inflammation affecting the eye. Inflammation may lead to a decrease of vision and/or the presence of floaters in the eye (black dots or wispy lines that move across the field of vision). Humira works by reducing this inflammation. Signs and symptoms include inflammation, vision impairment and pain. [7]

The usual dose for adults with non-infectious uveitis is an initial dose of 80 mg, followed by 40 mg given every fortnight starting one week after the initial dose.[7] For further information regarding dosing for paediatric patients, please refer to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have adverse effects and may impact different people in different ways. The most common side effects of HUMIRA are injection site reactions (e.g. pain, swelling, redness etc), respiratory tract infections, headache, dizziness, tiredness, mouth ulcers, tummy pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, itching, muscle pain and infections caused by viruses, bacteria or fungi, as well as abnormal laboratory tests such as reduced blood cell count, increased liver test results, increased blood lipid test results, etc.[7] Refer to the Consumer Medicines Information or your doctor or pharmacist for further information about HUMIRA.

PHARMAC Pharmaceutical Schedule: Humira is fully subsidised under Special Authority for the treatment of patients with severe or chronic ocular inflammation (uveitis). [3] Normal pharmacy prescription charges apply. Normal doctor's charges apply.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT HUMIRA

HUMIRA is a prescription medicine containing adalimumab. HUMIRA is available as a single use pre-filled syringe (containing 20mg or 40mg adalimumab) or single-use pre-filled pen (containing 40mg adalimumab). It is used in the treatment of patients with rheumatoid arthritis, polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis, enthesitis-related arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis, chronic plaque psoriasis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, non-infectious uveitis, and hidradenitis suppurativa. HUMIRA is only used in patients of a specific age group, in diseases of certain severity (e.g. moderate to severe), and/or after some other treatments have been tried (e.g. conventional therapy).

HUMIRA has risks and benefits. Do not use Humira if you have: an allergy to any medicines containing adalimumab or any of the other ingredients in HUMIRA; a severe infection; tuberculosis (TB); moderate to severe heart failure; or are using a medicine containing anakinra (Kineret®) or abatacept (Orencia®). Before you use HUMIRA tell your doctor if you have: a current infection or a history of recurring

infections (including TB, hepatitis B, fungal or any other infection); any conditions that increase the risk of infections; had close contact with someone with TB; a nervous system disease (such as multiple sclerosis); blood disorders; low resistance to disease; heart conditions; cancer; autoimmune disease; lung disease; uveitis (an eye problem); kidney or liver problems; psoriasis and have undergone phototherapy; or if you have any allergies. Your risk of getting serious infections or certain kinds of cancer may increase if you take HUMIRA. In rare cases these infections may be life-threatening. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Tell your doctor right away: if symptoms of TB or any other infection appear during treatment (such as fever, cough, feeling tired, wounds etc); if you develop cancer, skin lesions, or if existing lesions change appearance; if you develop symptoms of an allergy (such as chest tightness, swelling, rash, shortness of breath), heart problems (shortness of breath, swollen feet), blood disorders (bruising, bleeding, paleness), nervous system disorders such as multiple sclerosis (numbness, tingling, muscle weakness) or if you become pregnant while using HUMIRA. If you use HUMIRA during pregnancy, your baby may have a higher risk of getting an infection. It is important that you tell your baby's doctors and other healthcare professionals about your HUMIRA use during your pregnancy before the baby receives any vaccine. Tell your doctor: if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription; if you are going to have surgery, or if you are scheduled for any vaccines. Patients taking HUMIRA should not receive live vaccines. Tell all doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using HUMIRA. Side Effects: Tell your doctor if you experience any side effects that make you feel unwell. The most common side effects of HUMIRA are injection site reactions (e.g. pain, swelling, redness etc), respiratory tract infections, headache, dizziness, tiredness, mouth ulcers, tummy pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, itching, muscle pain and infections caused by viruses, bacteria or fungi, as well as abnormal laboratory tests such as reduced blood cell count, increased liver test results, increased blood lipid test results, etc.

If you have any questions about using Humira, including the risks and benefits, how much to use, how and when to use it, or the storage conditions, ask your healthcare professional and refer to the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) available from www.HUMIRA.co.nz or phone free on 0800 900 030. **Ask your doctor if HUMIRA is right for you**. **Use strictly as directed. If symptoms continue, or you have side effects, see your doctor, pharmacist or healthcare professional.**

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About AbbVie New Zealand

AbbVie is a global, research and development-based biopharmaceutical company committed to developing innovative advanced therapies for some of the world's most complex and critical conditions. The company's mission is to use its expertise, dedicated people and unique approach to innovation to markedly improve treatments across four primary therapeutic areas: immunology, oncology, virology

and neuroscience. In more than 75 countries, AbbVie employees are working every day to advance health solutions for people around the world. Our heritage in New Zealand reaches back more than 70 years and we employ passionate people who contribute to the company's vision of making a remarkable impact on patient lives. For further information please visit www.abbvie.co.nz. Follow @abbvie_NZ or follow us on Facebook or our LinkedIn page.

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