



# Effective Health Care

## Biologics vs. Conventional Systemic Treatments for Moderate and Severe Psoriasis

### Nomination Summary Document

#### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Biologics vs. conventional systemic treatments for moderate and severe psoriasis is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time; however, it will be developed as a technical brief by the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.

#### Topic Description

**Nominator:** Individual

**Nomination Summary:** The nominator questions the comparative effectiveness of etanercept vs. methotrexate for patients with moderate to severe psoriasis. The nominator is interested in relative effectiveness, including harms, and cost effectiveness.

**Key Questions from Nominator:** 1. For patients with moderate to severe psoriasis, what is the comparative effectiveness of using etanercept (Enbrel) vs. methotrexate?

#### Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- The IOM report titled *Initial National Priorities for Comparative Effectiveness Research* listed psoriasis treatment in its top 100 comparative effectiveness research priorities, stating that research should “compare the effectiveness (including effects on quality of life) of treatment strategies (e.g., topical steroids, ultraviolet light, methotrexate, biologic response modifiers) for psoriasis.”
- Studies comparing different biologic and conventional systemic treatment options for moderate to severe psoriasis have only recently begun. Because there is limited data in this area, this topic will be developed as a technical brief which would outline the current state of the research and lay the foundation for potential future research in this area.