







PBS Authorities – Changes to ulcerative colitis program

We understand having access to PBS-subsidised medicines can be critical to patient care. That's why Services Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care are continuing to work together to increase the number of PBS medicines that can be requested and approved using the Online PBS Authorities system (the system). This will include adalimumab, etrasimod, golimumab, infliximab, ozanimod, tofacitinib, upadacitinib, ustekinumab and vedolizumab for the treatment of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis from 1 April 2025.

These changes will make it easier for you to request authority approval for these medicines from Services Australia. You will no longer need to submit written authority applications, details of the proposed prescriptions and test results for certain medicines and treatment phases. Instead, you will be able to use the system to apply for authority approval and provide evidence digitally.

Summary of changes from 1 April 2025

Medicine	Authority Level	Details of Changes
adalimumab; etrasimod; golimumab; infliximab; ozanimod; tofacitinib; upadacitinib; ustekinumab; vedolizumab	Online / Written: <i>Initial, grandfather (etrasimod only), recommencement & change treatments</i> 	Authority applications can be made using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing. When submitted online, the application may still require assessment by a Services Australia operator (process known as a Full (Delayed) Assessment). When assessed you will receive an outcome notification directly to your Health Professional Online Service (HPOS) mailbox.
	Online / Telephone: <i>Continuing & balance of supply treatments</i> 	No change to continuing or balance of supply treatments. Authority applications can be made in real-time using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.
	Streamlined: <i>Subsequent continuing treatments</i>	Authorities for subsequent continuing treatments with PBS-subsidised biosimilar brands of biological medicines are Authority Required (STREAMLINED)
 Request authority online – Immediate Assessment		 Request authority online – Full (Delayed) Assessment
		 Request authority by telephone
		 Upload form via HPOS or post

If you're submitting the authority application form via post or Health Professional Online Service (HPOS) form upload facility, you'll still need to submit the authority application form and details of the proposed prescriptions.

Please note, the authority application forms that are updated as part of PBS listings changes in April and May 2025 will have the title fields in the prescriber and patient details removed. All remaining forms will be updated on 1 June 2025.

For more information about the **Online PBS Authorities system** visit www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hppbsauthorities

Services Australia has a broad range of educational resources on the **Health Professional Education Resources** website. This includes simulations, podcast and an infographic on the Online PBS Authorities system. Visit <https://hpe.servicesaustralia.gov.au/pharmaceutical-benefits-scheme.html>

If you require additional assistance or have any queries, please email authority.comms.change@servicesaustralia.gov.au.