









PBS Authorities – Changes to severe psoriatic arthritis 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, Disability and Ageing 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, bimekizumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, guselkumab, infliximab, ixekizumab, risankizumab, secukinumab, tofacitinib, upadacitinib and ustekinumab for the treatment of severe psoriatic arthritis from 1 July 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.

We recommend you document your patient's baseline values and previous treatment failures in their records as you may need to provide previously supplied information in your application to demonstrate patient eligibility for change, recommencement and continuing treatments.

Summary of changes from 1 July 2025

Medicine	Authority Level	Details of Changes	
adalimumab; bimekizumab; certolizumab pegol; etanercept; golimumab; guselkumab; infliximab; ixekizumab; risankizumab; secukinumab; tofacitinib; upadacitinib; ustekinumab	Online / Written: <i>Initial, grandfather (bimekizumab & risankizumab only), change/recommencement, continuing 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 / Written: First continuing & subsequent continuing (adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab only)  		
	Streamlined: Subsequent continuing (biosimilar brands of adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab only)	Subsequent continuing treatment applications for biosimilar brands of adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab remain as Authority Required (STREAMLINED).	
 Request authority online – Immediate Assessment		 Request authority online – Full (Delayed) Assessment	 Upload form via HPOS or post

Important Information

PBS Authorities items criteria

Under the PBS, medicines are made available based on recommendations from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC). Patients must meet the set criteria to be eligible for PBS-subsidised medicines. Services Australia are unable to provide approval for an Authority Required medication where a patient does not meet the criteria established by PBAC.

If you have concerns or questions about the eligibility criteria set by PBAC, you can contact the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing by email at pbs@health.gov.au.

Release of information

The transfer of a patient's personal information, including baseline values and previous failures, must be arranged by health professionals and the patient.

Note: all severe psoriatic arthritis forms will be updated on the first of the month. If submitting in writing, using the most recent form will help avoid delays in obtaining authority approval.

Submitting PBS Written Applications through Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) form upload

When submitting PBS authority forms through HPOS form upload, it is important to remember that only yourself or your delegate/s are authorised to do this.

Make sure you've:

- linked your prescriber number to your Provider Digital Access (PRODA) account for HPOS; and
- Set up your delegations in HPOS.

Visit servicesaustralia.gov.au/HPOS for more information on how to Link your Health Identifiers to HPOS and Manage delegations.

Reminders

PBS Authorities – written authority application forms

To align with PBS listing changes, forms are updated on the first of the month. Using the most recent form will help avoid delays in obtaining authority approval.

Correct online authority number

When prescribing PBS medicines via the Online PBS Authorities system, ensure you have selected the correct medicine to match what is on the prescription. This will avoid delays with providing patients with the medication they require.

Ensuring you are providing accurate data

It's important to ensure you are providing accurate and up to date information when completing an authority application. Failure to do so may result in your authority request being rejected.

More information

Contact **PBS Complex Drugs** on 1800 700 270 for further information about these changes.

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.