

Importation of US-labelled Orencia SC 125 mg/ml Syringe Injection due to supply constraints related to the Canadian-authorized Orencia 125 mg/ml Syringe Injection

Due to supply constraints associated with Orencia 125 mg/ml Syringe Injection (abatacept) in Canada, Health Canada has allowed the temporary importation of the US-labelled **Orencia SC 125 mg/ml Syringe Injection**, manufactured by Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) Inc., with English-only labels.

This medication has been added to Health Canada's List of Drugs for Exceptional Importation and Sale in Canada.

A temporary Product Identification Number (PIN) has been assigned to the following product effective July 10, 2024. This product will be available for direct order from Innomar to pharmacies and various wholesalers in Alberta. **This product is anticipated to be available by June 28, 2024.**

PIN	Product description
09858343	Orencia SC 125 mg/ml Syringe Injection

Please note: Orencia SC 125mg/ml Syringe Injection is listed on the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)* via Special Authorization for the treatment of severely active Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) in adult patients. To receive coverage for this temporary benefit, members of a government-sponsored drug plan must have an active Special Authorization in effect to receive coverage of the imported product.

The US-labelled imported product has the **same active ingredient, strength, dosage form, volume, product formulation and route of administration** as the Canadian-authorized product.

The US-labelled product can be used in the same manner as the Canadian-authorized product. Health care professionals should refer to the Canadian Product Monograph for Orencia SC available in English and French on the Drug Product Database (<https://health-products.canada.ca/dpd-bdpp/>).

Information about US-labelled Orencia SC for health care professionals is available for reference in English at <https://www.bms.com/patient-and-caregivers/ourmedicines.html>.

Health care professionals are advised that aspects of the inner and outer labels and packaging of US-labelled product may differ from marketed Orencia SC in Canada. **Proper selection of the intended product must be verified to avoid confusion with other products and prevent medication errors.**

All unit packaging of the US-labelled Orencia SC Injection will include a unique barcode affixed to the unit package (on a plastic bag) that scans in medication management systems in Canada.

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Temporary Benefit added to the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)*

To ensure coverage of this product is provided for members of eligible government-sponsored drug programs, the below products will be considered as a temporary benefit for the *ADBL* via Special Authorization.

As of **July 10, 2024**, all claims for this product will be adjudicated to the price indicated **per syringe**.

PIN	Product description	Price per syringe
09858343	Orencia SC 125 mg/ml Syringe Injection	\$373.7875

Alberta Blue Cross® will continue to monitor the availability of shorted product(s) and potential alternatives, in addition to working with other provinces and territories, manufacturers and Health Canada, to address this shortage and minimize the impact on Albertans.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

