

Alberta Biosimilars Initiative Updates

Effective June 1, 2020, the Alberta Biosimilars Initiative will be updated with the following changes that will affect adult members on Alberta government-sponsored drug plans.

1. Addition of rituximab biosimilar

On June 1, 2020, a new biosimilar drug, Truxima (rituximab), will be listed on the *Alberta Drug Benefit List* for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and will be subject to the Biosimilars Initiative.

Effective June 1, 2020, all Special Authorization requests for rituximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis will be assessed for coverage with Truxima. Patients currently taking Rituxan for the indication of rheumatoid arthritis are able to complete their current course of treatment; however, Rituxan will not be approved for new rituximab starts or for repeat courses of therapy for patients who have completed a previous two dose course of therapy with Rituxan.

2. Special Authorization criteria changes for Humira

Effective June 1, 2020, Humira will be moved from tier 2 and will be a tier 1 option for the treatment of plaque psoriasis, Crohn's disease, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

For the most current Special Authorization criteria, please visit the Interactive Drug Benefit List and search the drug name. A Healthcare Professionals Guide with additional information and resources is also available at <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/pdfs/Biosimilar-Health-Professionals-Guide.pdf>.

Additional information

The *Alberta Drug Benefit List* will be updated with the changes for the drugs affected by the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative. Additional information can be accessed online on the Alberta Blue Cross website. Furthermore, Alberta Health will also be notifying physicians and patients who are currently on Rituxan.

When you have questions:

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