



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

SCHEDULE OF PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

EFFECTIVE 1 March 2011

PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

These changes to the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits are effective from 1 March 2011. The Schedule is updated on the first day of each month and is available on the Internet at www.pbs.gov.au.

Fees, Patient Contributions and Safety Net Thresholds

The following fees, patient contributions and safety net thresholds apply as at 1 March 2011 and are included, where applicable, in prices published in the Schedule —

Dispensing Fees:	Ready-prepared	\$6.42
	Dangerous drug fee	\$2.71
	Extemporaneously-prepared	\$8.46
	Allowable additional patient charge*	\$3.92
Additional Fees (for safety net prices):	Ready-prepared	\$1.07
	Extemporaneously-prepared	\$1.41
Patient Co-payments:	General	\$34.20
	Concessional	\$5.60
Safety Net Thresholds:	General	\$1317.20
	Concessional	\$336.00
Safety Net Card Issue Fee:		\$8.58

*The allowable additional patient charge is a discretionary charge to general patients if a pharmaceutical item has a dispensed price for maximum quantity less than the general patient co-payment. The pharmacist may charge general patients the allowable additional fee but the fee cannot take the cost of the prescription above the general patient co-payment for the medicine. This fee does not count towards the Safety Net threshold.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Additions

Additions – Items

5484P	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Lysine and low in Tryptophan , Sachets 25 g, 30 (<i>GA express</i>)
5483N	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Phenylalanine , Oral gel 85 g, 30 (<i>PKU squeeze</i>)
5482M	Arginine with Carbohydrate , Sachets 4 g containing 2 g arginine, 30 (<i>Arginine 2000 Amino Acid Supplement</i>)
5488W	Bortezomib , Powder for injection 3.5 mg (solvent required) (code 7088C applies to above item with approved solvent) (<i>Velcade</i>)
5489X	Bortezomib , Powder for injection 3.5 mg (solvent required) (code 7089D applies to above item with approved solvent) (<i>Velcade</i>)
5477G	Cephazolin , Powder for injection 500 mg (<i>Hospira Pty Limited</i>)
5478H	Cephazolin , Powder for injection 1 g (<i>Cefazolin Sandoz, Cephazolin Alphapharm, Hospira Pty Limited, Kefzol</i>)
5479J	Cephazolin , Powder for injection 2 g (<i>Cefazolin Sandoz, Cephazolin Alphapharm</i>)
5481L	Citrulline with Carbohydrate , Sachets 4 g containing 1 g citrulline, 30 (<i>Citrulline 1000 Amino Acid Supplement</i>)
5485Q	Docetaxel , Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg in 2 mL (<i>DBL Docetaxel Concentrated Injection, Docetaxel Ebewe</i>)
5486R	Docetaxel , Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg in 2 mL (<i>DBL Docetaxel Concentrated Injection, Docetaxel Ebewe</i>)
5487T	Docetaxel , Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 80 mg in 8 mL (<i>DBL Docetaxel Concentrated Injection, Docetaxel Ebewe</i>)

5470X	Ondansetron , Tablet (orally disintegrating) 4 mg (<i>Ondansetron ODT-DRLA</i>)
5471Y	Ondansetron , Tablet (orally disintegrating) 8 mg (<i>Ondansetron ODT-DRLA</i>)
5472B	Ondansetron , Tablet (orally disintegrating) 4 mg (<i>Ondansetron ODT-DRLA</i>) (Diff. Max Qty and Rpts)
5473C	Ondansetron , Tablet (orally disintegrating) 8 mg (<i>Ondansetron ODT-DRLA</i>) (Diff. Max Qty and Rpts)

Additions – Brands

8604W	<i>Bicard 2.5, SI</i> – Bisoprolol Fumarate , Tablet 2.5 mg
8605X	<i>Bicard 5, SI</i> – Bisoprolol Fumarate , Tablet 5 mg
8606Y	<i>Bicard 10, SI</i> – Bisoprolol Fumarate , Tablet 10 mg
3161J	<i>Ranzepam, RA</i> – Diazepam , Tablet 2 mg
5071X	<i>Ranzepam, RA</i> – Diazepam , Tablet 2 mg (Dental)
5357Y	<i>Ranzepam, RA</i> – Diazepam , Tablet 2 mg (Palliative Care)
5355W	<i>Ranzepam, RA</i> – Diazepam , Tablet 2 mg (Palliative Care) (Diff. Max. Rpts)
8534E	<i>Zircol, AF</i> – Lercanidipine Hydrochloride , Tablet 10 mg
8679T	<i>Zircol, AF</i> – Lercanidipine Hydrochloride , Tablet 20 mg
8883M	<i>Axit 45, AF</i> – Mirtazapine , Tablet 45 mg
8144P	<i>Sumatriptan generichealth, GQ</i> – Sumatriptan , Tablet 50 mg (as succinate)

Additions – Bioequivalence Indicators

5462L	<i>Taxotere, SW</i> – Docetaxel , Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg in 1 mL
5463M	<i>Taxotere, SW</i> – Docetaxel , Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg in 1 mL (Diff. Max. Qty)
5464N	<i>Taxotere, SW</i> – Docetaxel , Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 80 mg in 4 mL
9291B	<i>Taxotere, SW</i> – Docetaxel , Injection set containing 1 single use vial concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg (anhydrous) in 0.5 mL with solvent
8071T	<i>Taxotere, SW</i> – Docetaxel , Injection set containing 1 single use vial concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg (anhydrous) in 0.5 mL with solvents (Diff. Max. Qty)
8074Y	<i>Taxotere, SW</i> – Docetaxel , Injection set containing 1 single use vial concentrate for I.V. infusion 80 mg (anhydrous) in 2 mL with solvent

Additions – Notes

1256D	Cephazolin , Powder for injection 500 mg (<i>Hospira Pty Limited</i>)
1257E	Cephazolin , Powder for injection 1 g (<i>Cefazolin Sandoz, Cephazolin Alphapharm, Hospira Pty Limited, Kefzol</i>)
9326W	Cephazolin , Powder for injection 2 g (<i>Cefazolin Sandoz, Cephazolin Alphapharm</i>)
5462L	Docetaxel , Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg in 1 mL (<i>Taxotere</i>)
5463M	Docetaxel , Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg in 1 mL (<i>Taxotere</i>)
5464N	Docetaxel , Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 80 mg in 4 mL (<i>Taxotere</i>)
8071T	Docetaxel , Injection set containing 1 single use vial concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg (anhydrous) in 0.5 mL with solvent (<i>Taxotere</i>)
8074Y	Docetaxel , Injection set containing 1 single use vial concentrate for I.V. infusion 80 mg (anhydrous) in 2 mL with solvent (<i>Taxotere</i>)
9291B	Docetaxel , Injection set containing 1 single use vial concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg (anhydrous) in 0.5 mL with solvent (<i>Taxotere</i>)
8410P	Ondansetron , Wafer 4 mg (<i>Ondaz Zydis, Zofran Zydis</i>)
8411Q	Ondansetron , Wafer 8 mg (<i>Ondaz Zydis, Zofran Zydis</i>)
8412R	Ondansetron , Wafer 4 mg (<i>Ondaz Zydis, Zofran Zydis</i>)
8413T	Ondansetron , Wafer 8 mg (<i>Ondaz Zydis, Zofran Zydis</i>)

Deletions

Deletions – Brands

2315W	<i>Blenoxane, BQ</i> – Bleomycin Sulfate , Powder for injection 15,000 i.u. (solvent required) (code 6896Y applies to above item with approved solvent) (Special Pharmaceutical Benefits)
3058Y	<i>Cephabell, BF</i> – Cephalexin , Capsule 250 mg
3317N	<i>Cephabell, BF</i> – Cephalexin , Capsule 250 mg (Dental)
1368B	<i>Enalabell, BF</i> – Enalapril , Tablet containing enalapril maleate 10 mg
1369C	<i>Enalabell, BF</i> – Enalapril , Tablet containing enalapril maleate 20 mg
1370D	<i>Enalabell, BF</i> – Enalapril , Tablet containing enalapril maleate 5 mg
8389M	<i>Pendine 800, AF</i> – Gabapentin , Tablet 800 mg
8370M	<i>Naltrexone QP, XF</i> – Naltrexone Hydrochloride , Tablet 50 mg
3062E	<i>Visken 5, NV</i> – Pindolol , Tablet 5 mg
1978D	<i>Ranixexal, HX</i> – Ranitidine Hydrochloride , Tablet 150 mg (base)
2000G	<i>Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd, PF</i> – Salbutamol Sulfate , Nebuliser solution single dose units 2.5 mg (base) in 2.5 mL, 30
3496B	<i>Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd, PF</i> – Salbutamol Sulfate , Nebuliser solution single dose units 2.5 mg (base) in 2.5 mL, 30 (Emergency Drug Supplies)

Deletions – Bioequivalence Indicators

3062E	<i>Barbloc 5, AF</i> – Pindolol , Tablet 5 mg
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Alterations

Alterations – Item Description

From:

9438R	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Lysine and low in Tryptophan , Sachets 20 g, 30 (<i>GA gel</i>)
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To:

9438R	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Lysine and low in Tryptophan , Sachets 24 g, 30 (<i>GA gel</i>)
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From:

8677Q	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Methionine , Sachets 20 g, 30 (<i>HCU gel</i>)
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To:

8677Q	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Methionine , Sachets 24 g, 30 (<i>HCU gel</i>)
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From:

3444G	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Methionine, Threonine and Valine and low in Isoleucine , Sachets 20 g, 30 (<i>MMA/PA gel</i>)
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To:

3444G	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Methionine, Threonine and Valine and low in Isoleucine , Sachets 24 g, 30 (<i>MMA/PA gel</i>)
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From:

8555G	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Phenylalanine , Sachets 20 g, 30 (<i>PKU-gel</i>)
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To:

8555G	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Phenylalanine , Sachets 24 g, 30 (<i>PKU gel</i>)
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From:

8631G	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Phenylalanine and Tyrosine , Sachets 20 g, 30 (<i>TYR gel</i>)
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To:	
8631G	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Phenylalanine and Tyrosine , Sachets 24 g, 30 (<i>TYR gel</i>)
From:	
8592F	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Valine, Leucine and Isoleucine , Sachets 20 g, 30 (<i>MSUD-gel</i>)
To:	
8592F	Amino Acid Formula with Vitamins and Minerals without Valine, Leucine and Isoleucine , Sachets 24 g, 30 (<i>MSUD gel</i>)
From:	
1140B	BCG Immunotherapeutic (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin/ Connaught strain) , Single dose set comprising 1 vial powder for intravesical administration containing 6.6 to 19.2 x 10 ⁸ CFU and 1 vial diluent 3 mL (<i>ImmuCyst</i>)
To:	
1140B	BCG Immunotherapeutic (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin/ Connaught strain) , Powder for intravesical administration containing 6.6 to 19.2 x 10 ⁸ CFU (<i>ImmuCyst</i>)
From:	
9157Y	Cinacalcet Hydrochloride , Tablet 30 mg (base) (<i>Sensipar</i>)
To:	
9157Y	Cinacalcet , Tablet 30 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Sensipar</i>)
From:	
9158B	Cinacalcet Hydrochloride , Tablet 60 mg (base) (<i>Sensipar</i>)
To:	
9158B	Cinacalcet , Tablet 60 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Sensipar</i>)
From:	
9159C	Cinacalcet Hydrochloride , Tablet 90 mg (base) (<i>Sensipar</i>)
To:	
9159C	Cinacalcet , Tablet 90 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Sensipar</i>)

Alterations – Maximum Quantity

		From:	To:
2234N	Mesalazine , Sachet containing prolonged release granules, 1 g per sachet (<i>Pentasa</i>)	100	120

Alterations – Restrictions

8094B	Bicalutamide , Tablet 50 mg (<i>APO-Bicalutamide, Bicalutamide-GA, Bicalutamide Ranbaxy, Calutex, Cosamide, Cosudex</i>)
9117W	Bortezomib , Powder for injection 3.5 mg (solvent required) (code 7086Y applies to above item with approved solvent) (<i>Velcade</i>)
9118X	Bortezomib , Powder for injection 3.5 mg (solvent required) (code 7087B applies to above item with approved solvent) (<i>Velcade</i>)
1256D	Cephazolin , Powder for injection 500 mg (<i>Hospira Pty Limited</i>)
1257E	Cephazolin , Powder for injection 1 g (<i>Cefazolin Sandoz, Cephazolin Alphapharm, Hospira Pty Limited, Kefzol</i>)
9326W	Cephazolin , Powder for injection 2 g (<i>Cefazolin Sandoz, Cephazolin Alphapharm</i>)
9157Y	Cinacalcet , Tablet 30 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Sensipar</i>)
9158B	Cinacalcet , Tablet 60 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Sensipar</i>)
9159C	Cinacalcet , Tablet 90 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Sensipar</i>)
1208N	Ciprofloxacin , Tablet 250 mg (effective 20 January 2011)
1209P	Ciprofloxacin , Tablet 500 mg (effective 20 January 2011)
1210Q	Ciprofloxacin , Tablet 750 mg (effective 20 January 2011)
9166K	Erlotinib , Tablet 25 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Tarceva</i>)

9167L	Erlotinib , Tablet 100 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Tarceva</i>)
9168M	Erlotinib , Tablet 150 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Tarceva</i>)
1417N	Flutamide , Tablet 250 mg (<i>Eulexin</i> , <i>Flutamin</i>)
8131Y	Nilutamide , Tablet 150 mg (<i>Anandron</i>)

Alterations – Notes

9425C	Adalimumab , Injection 40 mg in 0.8 mL pre-filled syringe (<i>Humira</i>)
9426D	Adalimumab , Injection 40 mg in 0.8 mL pre-filled pen (<i>Humira</i>)
9037P	Etanercept , Injection set containing 4 vials powder for injection 25 mg and 4 pre-filled syringes solvent 1 mL (<i>Enbrel</i>)
9429G	Etanercept , Injection set containing 4 vials powder for injection 25 mg and 4 pre-filled syringes solvent 1 mL (<i>Enbrel</i>) (Diff. Max. Rpts)
9091L	Etanercept , Injections 50 mg in 1 mL single use pre-filled syringes, 4 (<i>Enbrel</i>)
9431J	Etanercept , Injections 50 mg in 1 mL single use pre-filled syringes, 4 (<i>Enbrel</i>) (Diff. Max. Rpts)
9461Y	Etanercept , Injection 50 mg in 1 mL single use auto-injector, 4 (<i>Enbrel</i>)
9462B	Etanercept , Injection 50 mg in 1 mL single use auto-injector, 4 (<i>Enbrel</i>) (Diff. Max. Rpts)
8694N	Pioglitazone , Tablet 15 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Actos</i>)
8695P	Pioglitazone , Tablet 30 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Actos</i>)
8696Q	Pioglitazone , Tablet 45 mg (as hydrochloride) (<i>Actos</i>)
8689H	Rosiglitazone , Tablet 4 mg (as maleate) (<i>Avandia</i>)
8690J	Rosiglitazone , Tablet 8 mg (as maleate) (<i>Avandia</i>)
9059T	Rosiglitazone with Metformin , Tablet containing 2 mg rosiglitazone (as maleate) with 500 mg metformin hydrochloride (<i>Avandamet</i>)
9060W	Rosiglitazone with Metformin , Tablet containing 2 mg rosiglitazone (as maleate) with 1 g metformin hydrochloride (<i>Avandamet</i>)
9061X	Rosiglitazone with Metformin , Tablet containing 4 mg rosiglitazone (as maleate) with 500 mg metformin hydrochloride (<i>Avandamet</i>)
9062Y	Rosiglitazone with Metformin , Tablet containing 4 mg rosiglitazone (as maleate) with 1 g metformin hydrochloride (<i>Avandamet</i>)
9180E	Sitagliptin , Tablet 25 mg (as phosphate monohydrate) (<i>Januvia</i>)
9181F	Sitagliptin , Tablet 50 mg (as phosphate monohydrate) (<i>Januvia</i>)
9182G	Sitagliptin , Tablet 100 mg (as phosphate monohydrate) (<i>Januvia</i>)
9449H	Sitagliptin with Metformin , Tablet containing 50 mg sitagliptin (as phosphate monohydrate) with 500 mg metformin hydrochloride (<i>Janumet</i>)
9450J	Sitagliptin with Metformin , Tablet containing 50 mg sitagliptin (as phosphate monohydrate) with 850 mg metformin hydrochloride (<i>Janumet</i>)
9451K	Sitagliptin with Metformin , Tablet containing 50 mg sitagliptin (as phosphate monohydrate) with 1000 mg metformin hydrochloride (<i>Janumet</i>)
9304Q	Ustekinumab , Injection 45 mg in 0.5 mL (<i>Stelara</i>)
3415R	Vildagliptin , Tablet 50 mg (<i>Galvus</i>)

Alterations – Restriction and Notes

9427E	Adalimumab , Injection 40 mg in 0.8 mL pre-filled syringe (<i>Humira</i>)
9428F	Adalimumab , Injection 40 mg in 0.8 mL pre-filled pen (<i>Humira</i>)
3423E	Exenatide , Injection solution 5 micrograms per dose in pre-filled pen, 60 doses (<i>Byetta 5 microgram</i>)
3424F	Exenatide , Injection solution 10 micrograms per dose in pre-filled pen, 60 doses (<i>Byetta 10 microgram</i>)
9305R	Ustekinumab , Injection 45 mg in 0.5 mL (<i>Stelara</i>)

Alterations – Brands

From:

5399E **Methadone Hydrochloride**, Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 200 mL (**Palliative Care**) (Sigma Pharmaceuticals (Australia) Pty Ltd)

To:

5399E **Methadone Hydrochloride**, Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 200 mL (**Palliative Care**) (*Sigma Methadone Syrup*)

From:

5400F **Methadone Hydrochloride**, Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 200 mL (**Palliative Care**) (Sigma Pharmaceuticals (Australia) Pty Ltd)

To:

5400F **Methadone Hydrochloride**, Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 200 mL (**Palliative Care**) (*Sigma Methadone Syrup*)

From:

8523N **Tramadol Hydrochloride**, Tablet 100 mg (twice daily sustained release) (*Tramahexal SR*)

To:

8523N **Tramadol Hydrochloride**, Tablet 100 mg (twice daily sustained release) (*Tramadol Sandoz SR*)

From:

5234L **Tramadol Hydrochloride**, Tablet 100 mg (twice daily sustained release) (*Tramahexal SR*) (**Dental**)

To:

5234L **Tramadol Hydrochloride**, Tablet 100 mg (twice daily sustained release) (*Tramadol Sandoz SR*) (**Dental**)

Alterations – Brand and Manufacturer's Code

From:

3010K **Norfloxacin**, Tablet 400 mg (*Ascent Pharmaceuticals, GN*)

To:

3010K **Norfloxacin**, Tablet 400 mg (*Norfloxacin-GA, GM*)

Alterations – Authorised Prescriber

Items which can now be prescribed by Nurse Practitioners:

1214X **Codeine Phosphate**, Tablet 30 mg (*Fawns and McAllan Proprietary Limited*)

5295Q **Palonosetron**, Injection 250 micrograms (as hydrochloride) in 5 mL (*Aloxi*)

3415R **Vildagliptin**, Tablet 50 mg (*Galvus*)

SECTION 100 – HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM

Alterations

Alterations – Manufacturer's Code

		<i>From:</i>	<i>To:</i>
5746K	Fosamprenavir , Tablet 700 mg (as calcium) (<i>Telzir</i>) (Public)	GK	VI
6453P	Fosamprenavir , Tablet 700 mg (as calcium) (<i>Telzir</i>) (Private)	GK	VI

Alterations

Alterations – Item Description

From:

5621W **Cinacalcet Hydrochloride**, Tablet 30 mg (base) (*Sensipar*) (**Public**)

To:

5621W **Cinacalcet**, Tablet 30 mg (as hydrochloride) (*Sensipar*) (**Public**)

From:

9625N **Cinacalcet Hydrochloride**, Tablet 30 mg (base) (*Sensipar*) (**Private**)

To:

9625N **Cinacalcet**, Tablet 30 mg (as hydrochloride) (*Sensipar*) (**Private**)

From:

5622X **Cinacalcet Hydrochloride**, Tablet 60 mg (base) (*Sensipar*) (**Public**)

To:

5622X **Cinacalcet**, Tablet 60 mg (as hydrochloride) (*Sensipar*) (**Public**)

From:

9626P **Cinacalcet Hydrochloride**, Tablet 60 mg (base) (*Sensipar*) (**Private**)

To:

9626P **Cinacalcet**, Tablet 60 mg (as hydrochloride) (*Sensipar*) (**Private**)

From:

5623Y **Cinacalcet Hydrochloride**, Tablet 90 mg (base) (*Sensipar*) (**Public**)

To:

5623Y **Cinacalcet**, Tablet 90 mg (as hydrochloride) (*Sensipar*) (**Public**)

From:

9627Q **Cinacalcet Hydrochloride**, Tablet 90 mg (base) (*Sensipar*) (**Private**)

To:

9627Q **Cinacalcet**, Tablet 90 mg (as hydrochloride) (*Sensipar*) (**Private**)

Alterations – Note

5758C **Infliximab**, Powder for I.V. infusion 100 mg (*Remicade*) (**Public**)

9617E **Infliximab**, Powder for I.V. infusion 100 mg (*Remicade*) (**Private**)

SECTION 100 – OPIATE DEPENDENCE TREATMENT PROGRAM***Alterations – Brands****From:*

6171T **Methadone Hydrochloride**, Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 200 mL (*Sigma Pharmaceuticals (Australia) Pty Ltd*)

To:

6171T **Methadone Hydrochloride**, Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 200 mL (*Sigma Methadone Syrup*)

From:

6172W **Methadone Hydrochloride**, Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 1 L (*Sigma Pharmaceuticals (Australia) Pty Ltd*)

To:

6172W **Methadone Hydrochloride**, Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 1 L (*Sigma Methadone Syrup*)

ADVANCE NOTICES

DELETIONS

Advance Notice – Deletion of Items

The following items will be deleted from the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits on 1 April 2011:

Items discontinued by the manufacturer—

- 1350C **Dydrogesterone**, Tablet 10 mg, (*Duphaston*)
- 8556H **Pancreatic Extract**, Capsule (containing enteric coated minimicrospheres) providing not less than 5,000 BP units of lipase activity (*Creon 5000*)
- 9225M **Pancreatic Extract**, Capsule (containing enteric coated minimicrospheres) providing not less than 5,000 BP units of lipase activity (*Creon 5000*) (*Diff.Max.Rpts*)

Item deletions requested by the manufacturer—

- 2772X **Norethisterone with ethinyloestradiol**, Tablets 500 micrograms-35 micrograms, 21 (*Brevinor*)
- 2773Y **Norethisterone with ethinyloestradiol**, Tablets 1 mg-35 micrograms, 21 (*Brevinor*)

The following items will be deleted from the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits on 1 June 2011:

Items discontinued by the manufacturer—

- 2059J **Memantine Hydrochloride**, Oral drops 10 mg per g, 50 g (*Ebixa*)

Advance Notice — Deletion of Brands

The following brands will be deleted from the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits on 1 May 2011:

Brands discontinued by the manufacturer—

- 2132F *Alprazolam-GA, GN* — **Alprazolam**, Tablet 1 mg
- 8118G *Alprazolam-GA, GN* — **Alprazolam**, Tablet 2 mg
- 8202Q *DBL Aspirin 100 mg, GY* — **Aspirin**, Tablet 100 mg
- 2457H *Lisinopril Hexal, HX* — **Lisinopril**, Tablet 10 mg

REPATRIATION PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Alterations

Alterations – Manufacturer's Code

		<i>From:</i>	<i>To:</i>
4408B	Pine Tar with Triethanolamine Lauryl Sulfate , Solution 23 mg-60 mg per mL (2.3%-6%), 500 mL (<i>Hamilton Pine Tar Solution</i>)	HA	VT
4549K	Skin Cleanser , Lotion 500 mL (<i>Hamilton Skin Therapy Wash</i>)	HA	VT
4122Y	Skin Emollient , Bath oil 500 mL (<i>Hamilton Skin Therapy Oil</i>)	HA	VT
4544E	Sunscreens , Cream 100 g (<i>Hamilton Sunscreen Family Sunscreen Cream SPF 15</i>)	HA	VT
4546G	Sunscreens , Lotion (non-alcoholic) 125 mL (<i>Hamilton Sunscreen Family Sunscreen Milk SPF 15</i>)	HA	VT
4543D	Sunscreens , Solid stick 4.5 g (<i>Hamilton Solastick 30+</i>)	HA	VT
4042R	Urea , Cream 100 mg per g (10%), 100 g (<i>Urederm</i>)	HA	VT

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price	Maximum	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					for Max. Qty \$	Recordable Value for Safety Net \$	

ADALIMUMAB

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe adalimumab may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application Forms) is available on the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Written applications for authority to prescribe adalimumab should be forwarded to:

Medicare Australia
Prior Written Approval of Specialised Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
GPO Box 9826
HOBART TAS 7001;

Note

TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE CHRONIC PLAQUE PSORIASIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological agents adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab, for adult patients with severe chronic plaque psoriasis. Therefore, where the term 'biological agents' appears in the following NOTES and restrictions, it only refers to adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab.

From 1 March 2010, all patients will be able to commence a 'Biological Treatment Cycle' (Cycle), where they may trial adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab without having to meet the initial treatment criteria, that is they will not need to experience a disease flare when swapping to an alternate agent. Under these interchangeability arrangements, within a single Cycle, patients may receive long-term treatment with a biological agent as long as they sustain a response to therapy.

A patient who received PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis prior to 1 March 2010 is considered to be in their first Cycle as of 1 March 2010.

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 biological agent at any 1 time.

Within the same Treatment Cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised biological agent more than once. Therefore once a patient fails to meet the response criteria for a PBS-subsidised biological agent, they must change to an alternate agent if they wish to continue PBS-subsidised biological treatment. A patient who, prior to 1 March 2010, was authorised to receive PBS-subsidised initial treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis with the same agent twice, is exempt from this condition in respect of applications approved prior to 1 March 2010.

Patients must be assessed for response to each course of continuing treatment according to the criteria included in the relevant continuing treatment restriction.

Once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 3 times, they are deemed to have completed a Treatment Cycle and they must have, at a minimum, a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised biological agent therapy before they are eligible to commence the next Cycle. The 5-year break is measured from the date of the last approval for PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment in the most recent Cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with a biological agent under the new Treatment Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of less than 5 years duration has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, may commence a further course of treatment within that Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of 5 years or more has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, are eligible to commence a new Cycle.

There is no limit to the number of Biological Treatment Cycles a patient may undertake in their lifetime.

How to prescribe biological agents for the treatment of severe chronic plaque psoriasis after 1 March 2010.

There are separate restrictions for both the initial and continuing treatment for psoriasis affecting the whole body, versus psoriasis affecting the face, hands and feet.

(1) Application for approval for initial treatment.

Applications for a course of initial treatment should be made in the following situations:

- (i) patients have received no prior PBS-subsidised biological treatment and wish to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or
- (ii) patients have received prior PBS-subsidised biological therapy and wish to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under '(4) Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iii) patients who wish to re-commence treatment following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

All applications for initial treatment will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment in the case of adalimumab and etanercept,

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

						Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	
Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	\$	\$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	
	22 weeks of treatment in the case of infliximab and 28 weeks of treatment in the case of ustekinumab.							

(2) Assessment of response to initial treatment.

When prescribing initial treatment with a biological agent, a PASI assessment must be conducted after at least 12 weeks of treatment. This assessment must be submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of the completion of this initial treatment course. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

(3) Application for continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course of a biological agent to which an adequate response has been demonstrated, patients may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that biological agent. Patients are eligible to continue to receive continuous treatment with 24 week courses providing they continue to sustain a response.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, patients will be deemed to have failed to sustain a response to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

(4) Swapping therapy.

Once an authority for initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised biological agent is approved, patients may swap to an alternate agent within the same Treatment Cycle without having to requalify with respect to disease severity (i.e. a PASI score of greater than 15), or prior treatment requirements.

Patients who are not able to complete a minimum of 12 weeks of an initial treatment course will be deemed to have failed treatment with that agent.

Patients may trial an alternate biological agent at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy with a biological agent at the time of the application or not. However, they cannot swap to a particular agent if they have failed to respond to treatment with that particular agent within the same Cycle.

Patients who commenced treatment with adalimumab prior to 1 June 2009 or ustekinumab prior to 1 March 2010 access these interchangeability arrangements in the same way as patients who have not.

To ensure patients receive the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under the interchangeability arrangements, it is important that they are assessed for response to every course of treatment approved, within the timeframes specified in the relevant restriction.

To avoid confusion, applications for patients who wish to swap to an alternate biological agent should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the agent being ceased.

(5) Baseline measurements to determine response.

Medicare Australia will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated, based on the baseline PASI assessment submitted with the first authority application for a biological agent. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority is submitted within a Treatment Cycle and subsequent response will be assessed according to this revised PASI score.

To ensure consistency in determining response, the same body area assessed at the baseline PASI assessment must be assessed for demonstration of response to treatment for the purposes of all continuing treatment applications.

(6) Re-commencement of treatment after a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised therapy.

Patients who wish to trial a second or subsequent Biological Treatment Cycle, following a break in PBS-subsidised biological therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment according to the criteria of the relevant restriction and index of disease severity. Patients must have had at least 1 prior treatment, as listed in the criteria, for a minimum of 6 weeks, and must have a PASI assessment conducted preferably whilst still on treatment, but no later than 1 month following cessation of treatment. The PASI assessment must be no older than 1 month at the time of application.

Authority required

Initial treatment [Initial 1, Whole body (New patients — No prior biological agent)]

Initial treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have severe chronic plaque psoriasis where lesions have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; and
- (b) have not received any prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for	Maximum Recordable Value for	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Max. Qty \$	Safety Net \$	

(c) have signed a patient and prescriber acknowledgement indicating they understand and acknowledge that PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if they do not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment (whole body); and

(d) have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 3 of the following 4 treatments:

(i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; and/or

(ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; and/or

(iii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; and/or

(iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks.

If treatment with any of the above-mentioned drugs is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, please provide details at the time of application.

If intolerance to treatment develops during the relevant period of use, which is of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, please provide details of the degree of this toxicity at the time of application. Details of acceptable toxicities including severity, associated with phototherapy, methotrexate, cyclosporin and acitretin, can be found on the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au).

The following initiation criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response and must be demonstrated in all patients at the time of the application:

(a) A current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score of greater than 15, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment.

(b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment.

(c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

(a) a completed authority prescription form; and

(b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:

(i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]; and

(ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]; and

(iii) the signed patient and prescriber acknowledgements.

A maximum of 16 weeks of treatment with adalimumab will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 4 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 16 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with adalimumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised adalimumab treatment.

Authority required

Initial or re-Treatment [Initial 2, Whole body (Received prior biological agent under PBS)]

Treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

(a) have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis; and

(b) have received prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and

(c) have not failed PBS-subsidised therapy with adalimumab for the treatment of this condition in the current Treatment Cycle.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

(a) a completed authority prescription form; and

(b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:

(i) the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]; and

(ii) details of prior biological treatment, including dosage, date and duration of treatment.

Applications for patients who have demonstrated a response to PBS-subsidised adalimumab treatment within this Treatment Cycle and who wish to re-commence adalimumab treatment within the same Cycle following a break in therapy, will only be approved where evidence of the patient's response to their most recent course of PBS-subsidised adalimumab treatment has been submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of cessation of treatment.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

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					\$	\$	

A maximum of 16 weeks of treatment with adalimumab will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 4 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 16 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with adalimumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised adalimumab treatment.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Authority required

Initial treatment [Initial 1, Face, hand, foot (New patients — No prior biological agent)]

Initial treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot where the plaque or plaques have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; and
- (b) have not received any prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have signed a patient and prescriber acknowledgement indicating they understand and acknowledge that PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if they do not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment (face, hand, foot); and
- (d) have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 3 of the following 4 treatments:
 - (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks.

If treatment with any of the above-mentioned drugs is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, please provide details at the time of application.

If intolerance to treatment develops during the relevant period of use, which is of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, please provide details of the degree of this toxicity at the time of application. Details of acceptable toxicities including severity, associated with phototherapy, methotrexate, cyclosporin and acitretin, can be found on the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au).

The following initiation criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response and must be demonstrated in all patients at the time of the application:

- (a) Chronic plaque psoriasis classified as severe due to a plaque or plaques on the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot where:
 - (i) at least 2 of the 3 Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for erythema, thickness and scaling are rated as severe or very severe, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment; or
 - (ii) the skin area affected is 30% or more of the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment.
- (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment.
- (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]; and
 - (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]; and
 - (iii) the signed patient and prescriber acknowledgements.

A maximum of 16 weeks of treatment with adalimumab will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 4 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

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					\$	\$	

5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 16 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with adalimumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised adalimumab treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

Authority required

Initial or re-Treatment [Initial 2, Face, hand, foot (Received prior biological agent under PBS)]

Treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot; and
- (b) have received prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have not failed PBS-subsidised therapy with adalimumab for the treatment of this condition in the current Treatment Cycle.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]; and
 - (ii) details of prior biological treatment, including dosage, date and duration of treatment.

Applications for patients who have demonstrated a response to PBS-subsidised adalimumab treatment within this Treatment Cycle and who wish to re-commence adalimumab treatment within the same Cycle following a break in therapy, will only be approved where evidence of the patient's response to their most recent course of PBS-subsidised adalimumab treatment has been submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of cessation of treatment.

A maximum of 16 weeks of treatment with adalimumab will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 4 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 16 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with adalimumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised adalimumab treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Note

No applications for increased maximum quantities and/or repeats will be authorised.

Note

Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

9425C	Injection 40 mg in 0.8 mL pre-filled syringe	2	4	..	1774.36	34.20	Humira	AB
9426D	Injection 40 mg in 0.8 mL pre-filled pen	2	4	..	1774.36	34.20	Humira	AB

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

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					\$	\$	

ADALIMUMAB

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe adalimumab may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application Forms) is available on the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Written applications for authority to prescribe adalimumab should be forwarded to:

Medicare Australia
Prior Written Approval of Specialised Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
GPO Box 9826
HOBART TAS 7001;

Note

TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE CHRONIC PLAQUE PSORIASIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological agents adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab, for adult patients with severe chronic plaque psoriasis. Therefore, where the term 'biological agents' appears in the following NOTES and restrictions, it only refers to adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab.

From 1 March 2010, all patients will be able to commence a 'Biological Treatment Cycle' (Cycle), where they may trial adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab without having to meet the initial treatment criteria, that is they will not need to experience a disease flare when swapping to an alternate agent. Under these interchangeability arrangements, within a single Cycle, patients may receive long-term treatment with a biological agent as long as they sustain a response to therapy.

A patient who received PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis prior to 1 March 2010 is considered to be in their first Cycle as of 1 March 2010.

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 biological agent at any 1 time.

Within the same Treatment Cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised biological agent more than once. Therefore once a patient fails to meet the response criteria for a PBS-subsidised biological agent, they must change to an alternate agent if they wish to continue PBS-subsidised biological treatment. A patient who, prior to 1 March 2010, was authorised to receive PBS-subsidised initial treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis with the same agent twice, is exempt from this condition in respect of applications approved prior to 1 March 2010.

Patients must be assessed for response to each course of continuing treatment according to the criteria included in the relevant continuing treatment restriction.

Once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 3 times, they are deemed to have completed a Treatment Cycle and they must have, at a minimum, a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised biological agent therapy before they are eligible to commence the next Cycle. The 5-year break is measured from the date of the last approval for PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment in the most recent Cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with a biological agent under the new Treatment Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of less than 5 years duration has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, may commence a further course of treatment within that Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of 5 years or more has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, are eligible to commence a new Cycle.

There is no limit to the number of Biological Treatment Cycles a patient may undertake in their lifetime.

How to prescribe biological agents for the treatment of severe chronic plaque psoriasis after 1 March 2010.

There are separate restrictions for both the initial and continuing treatment for psoriasis affecting the whole body, versus psoriasis affecting the face, hands and feet.

(1) Application for approval for initial treatment.

Applications for a course of initial treatment should be made in the following situations:

- (i) patients have received no prior PBS-subsidised biological treatment and wish to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or
- (ii) patients have received prior PBS-subsidised biological therapy and wish to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under '(4) Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iii) patients who wish to re-commence treatment following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

All applications for initial treatment will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment in the case of adalimumab and etanercept, 22 weeks of treatment in the case of infliximab and 28 weeks of treatment in the case of ustekinumab.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

(2) Assessment of response to initial treatment.

When prescribing initial treatment with a biological agent, a PASI assessment must be conducted after at least 12 weeks of treatment. This assessment must be submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of the completion of this initial treatment course. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

(3) Application for continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course of a biological agent to which an adequate response has been demonstrated, patients may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that biological agent. Patients are eligible to continue to receive continuous treatment with 24 week courses providing they continue to sustain a response.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, patients will be deemed to have failed to sustain a response to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

(4) Swapping therapy.

Once an authority for initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised biological agent is approved, patients may swap to an alternate agent within the same Treatment Cycle without having to requalify with respect to disease severity (i.e. a PASI score of greater than 15), or prior treatment requirements.

Patients who are not able to complete a minimum of 12 weeks of an initial treatment course will be deemed to have failed treatment with that agent.

Patients may trial an alternate biological agent at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy with a biological agent at the time of the application or not. However, they cannot swap to a particular agent if they have failed to respond to treatment with that particular agent within the same Cycle.

Patients who commenced treatment with adalimumab prior to 1 June 2009 or ustekinumab prior to 1 March 2010 access these interchangeability arrangements in the same way as patients who have not.

To ensure patients receive the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under the interchangeability arrangements, it is important that they are assessed for response to every course of treatment approved, within the timeframes specified in the relevant restriction.

To avoid confusion, applications for patients who wish to swap to an alternate biological agent should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the agent being ceased.

(5) Baseline measurements to determine response.

Medicare Australia will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated, based on the baseline PASI assessment submitted with the first authority application for a biological agent. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority is submitted within a Treatment Cycle and subsequent response will be assessed according to this revised PASI score.

To ensure consistency in determining response, the same body area assessed at the baseline PASI assessment must be assessed for demonstration of response to treatment for the purposes of all continuing treatment applications.

(6) Re-commencement of treatment after a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised therapy.

Patients who wish to trial a second or subsequent Biological Treatment Cycle, following a break in PBS-subsidised biological therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment according to the criteria of the relevant restriction and index of disease severity. Patients must have had at least 1 prior treatment, as listed in the criteria, for a minimum of 6 weeks, and must have a PASI assessment conducted preferably whilst still on treatment, but no later than 1 month following cessation of treatment. The PASI assessment must be no older than 1 month at the time of application.

Authority required

Continuing treatment (Whole body)

Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over:

- (a) who have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis; and
- (b) whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised biological treatment for this condition in this Treatment Cycle was with adalimumab; and
- (c) who have demonstrated an adequate response to their most recent course of treatment with adalimumab.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

An adequate response to treatment is defined as:

A Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score which is reduced by 75% or more, or is sustained at this level, when compared with the pre-biological treatment baseline value for this Treatment Cycle.

This assessment must be provided to Medicare Australia no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with adalimumab, the assessment of response must be after a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with an initial course.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
- (i) the completed Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheet along with the date of the assessment of the patient's condition.

The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Approval will be based on the PASI assessment of response to the most recent course of treatment with adalimumab.

A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with adalimumab will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 5 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for continuing authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the treatment period beyond 24 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response must be conducted within 4 weeks prior to completion of this course of treatment. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for further continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with adalimumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised adalimumab treatment.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Authority required

Continuing treatment (Face, hand, foot)

Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over:

- (a) who have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot; and
- (b) whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised biological treatment for this condition in this Treatment Cycle was with adalimumab; and
- (c) who have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment with adalimumab.

An adequate response to adalimumab treatment is defined as the plaque or plaques assessed prior to biological treatment showing:

- (i) a reduction in the Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for all 3 of erythema, thickness and scaling, to slight or better, or sustained at this level, as compared to the pre-biological treatment baseline values; or
- (ii) a reduction by 75% or more in the skin area affected, or sustained at this level, as compared to the pre-biological treatment baseline value.

This assessment must be provided to Medicare Australia no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with adalimumab, the assessment of response must be after a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with an initial course.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
- (i) the completed Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheet and face, hand, foot area diagrams along with the date of the assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]].

The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with adalimumab will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 5 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for continuing authority applications, or for treatment

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

that would otherwise extend the treatment period beyond 24 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response must be conducted within 4 weeks prior to completion of this course of treatment. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for further continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with adalimumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised adalimumab treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area assessed at baseline.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Note

No applications for increased maximum quantities and/or repeats will be authorised.

Note

Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

9427E	Injection 40 mg in 0.8 mL pre-filled syringe	2	5	..	1774.36	34.20	Humira	AB
9428F	Injection 40 mg in 0.8 mL pre-filled pen	2	5	..	1774.36	34.20	Humira	AB

AMINO ACID FORMULA with VITAMINS and MINERALS without LYSINE and low in TRYPTOPHAN

Restricted benefit

A child aged from 6 months up to 10 years with proven glutaric aciduria type 1.

9438R NP	Sachets 24 g, 30	4	5	..	*2114.38	34.20	GA gel	VF
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AMINO ACID FORMULA with VITAMINS and MINERALS without LYSINE and low in TRYPTOPHAN

Restricted benefit

A patient aged 3 years or older with proven glutaric aciduria type 1.

5484P NP	Sachets 25 g, 30	4	5	..	*3154.42	34.20	GA express	VF
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AMINO ACID FORMULA with VITAMINS and MINERALS without METHIONINE

Restricted benefit

Pyridoxine non-responsive homocystinuria.

8677Q NP	Sachets 24 g, 30	4	5	..	*2114.38	34.20	HCU gel	VF
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AMINO ACID FORMULA with VITAMINS and MINERALS without METHIONINE, THREONINE and VALINE and low in ISOLEUCINE

Restricted benefit

Methylmalonic acidemia;

Propionic acidemia.

3444G NP	Sachets 24 g, 30	4	5	..	*2114.38	34.20	MMA/PA gel	VF
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AMINO ACID FORMULA with VITAMINS and MINERALS without PHENYLALANINE

Restricted benefit

Phenylketonuria.

5483N NP	Oral gel 85 g, 30	4	5	..	*1058.62	34.20	PKU squeeze	VF
8555G NP	Sachets 24 g, 30	4	5	..	*1058.62	34.20	PKU gel	VF

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	
AMINO ACID FORMULA with VITAMINS and MINERALS without PHENYLALANINE and TYROSINE								
<u>Restricted benefit</u>								
Tyrosinaemia.								
8631G NP	Sachets 24 g, 30	4	5	..	*2114.38	34.20	TYR gel	VF
AMINO ACID FORMULA with VITAMINS and MINERALS without VALINE, LEUCINE and ISOLEUCINE								
<u>Restricted benefit</u>								
Maple syrup urine disease.								
8592F NP	Sachets 24 g, 30	4	5	..	*2114.38	34.20	MSUD gel	VF
ARGININE with CARBOHYDRATE								
<u>Restricted benefit</u>								
Urea cycle disorders.								
<u>Note</u>								
Arginine with carbohydrate is not indicated for the treatment of arginase deficiency and other inborn errors of protein metabolism.								
5482M NP	Sachets 4 g containing 2 g arginine, 30	4	5	..	*770.82	34.20	Arginine 2000 Amino Acid Supplement	VF
BCG IMMUNOTHERAPEUTIC (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin/ Connaught strain)								
<u>Restricted benefit</u>								
Treatment of carcinoma in situ of the urinary bladder.								
1140B	Powder for intravesical administration containing 6.6 to 19.2 x 10 ⁸ CFU	3	1	..	*459.87	34.20	ImmuCyst	SW
BICALUTAMIDE								
<u>Authority required (STREAMLINED)</u>								
3674								
Metastatic (equivalent to stage D) prostatic carcinoma in combination with GnRH (LH-RH) analogue therapy.								
<u>Note</u>								
No applications for increased maximum quantities and/or repeats will be authorised.								
<u>Note</u>								
Shared Care Model:								
For prescribing by nurse practitioners where care of a patient is shared between a nurse practitioner and medical practitioner in a formalised arrangement with an agreed management plan. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.								
8094B NP	Tablet 50 mg	28	5	..	165.11	34.20	^a APO-Bicalutamide	TX
							^a Bicalutamide-GA	GM
							^a Bicalutamide Ranbaxy	RA
							^a Calutex	SI
							^a Cosamide	AF
							^a Cosudex	AP
BISOPROLOL FUMARATE								
<u>Authority required (STREAMLINED)</u>								
3234								
Moderate to severe heart failure in a patient stabilised on conventional therapy which must include an ACE inhibitor or Angiotensin II antagonist, if tolerated.								
<u>Note</u>								
Continuing Therapy Only:								
For prescribing by nurse practitioners as continuing therapy only, where the treatment of, and prescribing of medicine for, a patient has been initiated by a medical practitioner. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.								
8604W NP	Tablet 2.5 mg	28	5	..	48.40	34.20	^a Bicard 2.5	SI

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
8605X NP	Tablet 5 mg	28	5	..	57.94	34.20	^a Bicolor AL
							^a Bisoprolol Sandoz SZ
							^a Bispro 2.5 AF
							^a Bicard 5 SI
							^a Bicolor AL
8606Y NP	Tablet 10 mg	28	5	..	70.83	34.20	^a Bisoprolol Sandoz SZ
							^a Bispro 5 AF
							^a Bicard 10 SI
							^a Bicolor AL
							^a Bisoprolol Sandoz SZ
							^a Bispro 10 AF

BORTEZOMIB

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe bortezomib may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms) is available on the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Applications for authority to prescribe bortezomib should be forwarded to:

Medicare Australia
Prior Written Approval of Specialised Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
GPO Box 9826
HOBART TAS 7001.

Authority required

Initial treatment with PBS-subsidised bortezomib.

Initial PBS-subsidised treatment, as monotherapy or in combination with a corticosteroid and/or cyclophosphamide, of a patient with a histological diagnosis of multiple myeloma who has progressive disease after at least 1 prior therapy and who has undergone or is ineligible for a primary stem cell transplant. The patient must have experienced treatment failure after a trial of at least four (4) weeks of thalidomide at a dose of at least 100 mg daily or have failed to achieve at least a minimal response after eight (8) or more weeks of thalidomide-based therapy for progressive disease.

If the dosing requirement for thalidomide cannot be met, the application must state the reasons why this criterion cannot be satisfied.

Progressive disease is defined as at least 1 of the following:

- (a) at least a 25% increase and an absolute increase of at least 5 g per L in serum M protein (monoclonal protein); or
- (b) at least a 25% increase in 24-hour urinary light chain M protein excretion, and an absolute increase of at least 200 mg per 24 hours; or
- (c) in oligo-secretory and non-secretory myeloma patients only, at least a 50% increase of the difference between involved free light chain and uninvolved free light chain; or
- (d) at least a 25% relative increase and at least a 10% absolute increase in plasma cells in a bone marrow aspirate or on biopsy; or
- (e) an increase in the size or number of lytic bone lesions (not including compression fractures); or
- (f) at least a 25% increase in the size of an existing or the development of a new soft tissue plasmacytoma (determined by clinical examination or diagnostic imaging); or
- (g) development of hypercalcaemia (corrected serum calcium greater than 2.65 mmol per L not attributable to any other cause).

Oligo-secretory and non-secretory patients are defined as having active disease with less than 10 g per L serum M protein and less than 200 mg per 24 hour Bence-Jones proteinuria.

Thalidomide treatment failure is defined as:

- (1) confirmed disease progression during thalidomide treatment or within 6 months of discontinuing thalidomide treatment; or
- (2) severe intolerance or toxicity unresponsive to clinically appropriate dose adjustment.

Severe intolerance due to thalidomide is defined as unacceptable somnolence or sedation interfering with activities of daily living.

Toxicity from thalidomide is defined as peripheral neuropathy (Grade 2 or greater, interfering with function), drug-related seizures, serious Grade 3 or Grade 4 drug-related dermatological reactions, such as Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, or other Grade 3 or 4 toxicity.

Any queries concerning additional details about treatment failure may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

Failure to achieve at least a minimal response after 8 or more weeks of thalidomide-based therapy for progressive disease is defined as:

- (1) less than a 25% reduction in serum or urine M protein; or
- (2) in oligo-secretory and non-secretory myeloma patients only, less than a 25% reduction in the difference between involved and uninvolved serum free light chain levels.

Bortezomib will only be subsidised for patients with multiple myeloma who are not receiving concomitant PBS-subsidised lenalidomide.

The authority application must be made in writing and must include:

- (1) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (2) a completed Multiple Myeloma Authority Application - Supporting Information Form, which includes details of the histological diagnosis of multiple myeloma, prior treatments including name(s) of drug(s) and date of most recent treatment cycle and record of prior stem cell transplant or ineligibility for prior stem cell transplant; details of thalidomide treatment failure; details of the basis of the diagnosis of progressive disease or failure to respond; and nomination of which disease activity parameters will be used to assess response.

To enable confirmation by Medicare Australia, current diagnostic reports of at least one of the following are required:

- (a) the level of serum monoclonal protein; or
- (b) Bence-Jones proteinuria — the results of 24-hour urinary light chain M protein excretion; or
- (c) the serum level of free kappa and lambda light chains; or
- (d) bone marrow aspirate or trephine; or
- (e) if present, the size and location of lytic bone lesions (not including compression fractures); or
- (f) if present, the size and location of all soft tissue plasmacytomas by clinical or radiographic examination i.e. MRI or CT-scan; or
- (g) if present, the level of hypercalcaemia, corrected for albumin concentration.

As these parameters will be used to determine response, results for either (a) or (b) or (c) should be provided for all patients. Where the patient has oligo-secretory or non-secretory multiple myeloma, either (c) or (d) or if relevant (e), (f) or (g) should be provided. Where the prescriber plans to assess response in patients with oligo-secretory or non-secretory multiple myeloma with free light chain assays, evidence of the oligo-secretory or non-secretory nature of the multiple myeloma (either previous or current serum M protein less than 10 g per L and urinary Bence-Jones protein undetectable or less than 200 mg per 24 hours) must be provided; and

- (3) duration of thalidomide and daily dose prescribed; and
- (4) a signed patient acknowledgment.

Authority required

Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment, as monotherapy or in combination with a corticosteroid and/or cyclophosphamide, of multiple myeloma in a patient who has previously received 4 treatment cycles of bortezomib and who, at the time of application, has demonstrated at least a partial response to bortezomib.

If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels are measurable, partial response (PR) compared with baseline (prior to treatment with bortezomib) is defined as:

- (a) at least a 50% reduction in the level of serum M protein (monoclonal protein); or
- (b) at least a 90% reduction in 24-hour urinary light chain M protein excretion or to less than 200 mg per 24 hours.

If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels are unmeasurable as in non-secretory/oligo-secretory multiple myeloma, partial response compared with baseline is defined as:

- (c) at least a 50% reduction in the difference between involved and uninvolved serum free light chain (FLC) levels.

If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein and serum FLC are unmeasurable/unavailable, partial response compared with baseline is defined as:

- (d) at least a 50% reduction in bone marrow plasma cells; or
- (e) no increase in size or number of lytic bone lesions (development of compression fracture does not exclude response); or
- (f) at least a 50% reduction in the size of soft tissue plasmacytoma (by clinical or applicable radiographic examination, i.e. MRI or CT-Scan); or
- (g) normalisation of corrected serum calcium to less than or equal to 2.65 mmol per L.

For the purpose of assessing eligibility for continuing PBS-subsidised bortezomib treatment beyond 4 cycles, the patient must have achieved at least a partial response at the completion of cycle 4. The results of the response assessment must be included in a written application to Medicare Australia for further treatment. Where a response assessment is not submitted to Medicare Australia prior to cycle 5, patients will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with bortezomib. Continuing PBS-subsidised supply will not be approved if there is a gap of more than 6 months between the initial application and subsequent applications.

The same parameters provided for the diagnosis of progressive disease are to be used to demonstrate at least a partial response to treatment.

The authority application must be made in writing and must include:

- (1) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (2) a completed Multiple Myeloma Authority Application - Supporting Information Form; and
- (3) diagnostic reports demonstrating the patient has achieved at least a partial response.

Diagnostic reports must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Patients who fail to demonstrate at least a partial response after 8 cycles will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with bortezomib.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	
No more than 2 cycles of treatment beyond the cycle at which a confirmed complete response was first achieved will be authorised. Confirmation requires 2 determinations a minimum of 6 weeks apart.							
<u>Note</u> Special Pricing Arrangements apply.							
9117W	Powder for injection 3.5 mg (solvent required) (code 7086Y applies to above item with approved solvent)	4	3	..	*7002.38	34.20	Velcade JC

BORTEZOMIB

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe bortezomib may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms) is available on the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Applications for authority to prescribe bortezomib should be forwarded to:

Medicare Australia
Prior Written Approval of Specialised Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
GPO Box 9826
HOBART TAS 7001.

Authority required

Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment, as monotherapy or in combination with a corticosteroid and/or cyclophosphamide, of multiple myeloma in a patient who has previously received 8 treatment cycles with bortezomib and who, at the time of application, has demonstrated at least a partial response to bortezomib but who has not received 2 treatment cycles after first achieving a confirmed complete response.

If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels are measurable, partial response (PR) compared with baseline (prior to treatment with bortezomib) is defined as:

- (a) at least a 50% reduction in the level of serum M protein (monoclonal protein); or
- (b) at least a 90% reduction in 24-hour urinary light chain M protein excretion or to less than 200 mg per 24 hours.

If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels are unmeasurable as in non-secretory/oligo-secretory multiple myeloma, partial response compared with baseline is defined as:

- (c) the difference between involved and uninvolved serum free light chain (FLC) levels, with at least a 50% reduction in this value.

If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels and serum FLC are unmeasurable/unavailable, partial response compared with baseline is defined as:

- (d) at least a 50% reduction in bone marrow plasma cells; or
- (e) no increase in size or number of lytic bone lesions (development of compression fracture does not exclude response); or
- (f) at least a 50% reduction in the size of soft tissue plasmacytoma (by clinical or applicable radiographic examination, i.e. MRI or CT-Scan); or
- (g) normalisation of corrected serum calcium to less than or equal to 2.65 mmol per L.

The same parameters provided for the diagnosis of progressive disease are to be used to demonstrate at least a partial response to treatment.

Diagnostic reports must be within 1 month of the date of application.

For the purpose of assessing eligibility for continuing PBS-subsidised bortezomib treatment beyond 8 cycles, the patient must have achieved at least a partial response at the completion of cycle 8. The results of the response assessment must be included in a written application to Medicare Australia for further treatment. Where a response assessment is not submitted to Medicare Australia prior to cycle 9, patients will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with bortezomib. Continuing PBS-subsidised supply will not be approved if there is a gap of more than 10 months between the initial application and an application following completion of 8 treatment cycles.

The authority application must be made in writing and must include:

- (1) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (2) a completed Multiple Myeloma Authority Application - Supporting Information Form; and
- (3) diagnostic reports demonstrating the patient has achieved at least a partial response.

No more than 2 cycles of treatment beyond the cycle at which the complete response was first achieved will be authorised. Confirmation requires 2 determinations a minimum of 6 weeks apart.

Applications for PBS-subsidised treatment with bortezomib that extends beyond 11 cycles per treatment course will not be approved.

Note

Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for	Maximum Recordable Value for	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Max. Qty \$	Safety Net \$	
9118X	Powder for injection 3.5 mg (solvent required) (code 7087B applies to above item with approved solvent)	4	2	..	*7002.38	34.20	Velcade JC

BORTEZOMIB

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe bortezomib may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms) is available on the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Applications for authority to prescribe bortezomib should be forwarded to:

Medicare Australia
Prior Written Approval of Specialised Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
GPO Box 9826
HOBART TAS 7001.

Authority required

Retreatment of a patient who has been previously treated with PBS-subsidised bortezomib.

Initial PBS-subsidised treatment, as monotherapy or in combination with a corticosteroid and/or cyclophosphamide, of a patient with multiple myeloma who has progressive disease and who has been previously treated with PBS-subsidised bortezomib. The patient must have experienced at least a partial response to the most recent course of PBS-subsidised bortezomib therapy.

Progressive disease is defined as at least 1 of the following:

- (a) at least a 25% increase and an absolute increase of at least 5 g per L in serum M protein (monoclonal protein); or
- (b) at least a 25% increase in 24-hour urinary light chain M protein excretion, and an absolute increase of at least 200 mg per 24 hours; or
- (c) in oligo-secretory and non-secretory myeloma patients only, at least a 50% increase of the difference between involved free light chain and uninvolved free light chain; or
- (d) at least a 25% relative increase and at least a 10% absolute increase in plasma cells in a bone marrow aspirate or on biopsy; or
- (e) an increase in the size or number of lytic bone lesions (not including compression fractures); or
- (f) at least a 25% increase in the size of an existing or the development of a new soft tissue plasmacytoma (determined by clinical examination or diagnostic imaging); or
- (g) development of hypercalcaemia (corrected serum calcium greater than 2.65 mmol per L not attributable to any other cause).

Oligo-secretory and non-secretory patients are defined as having active disease with less than 10 g per L serum M protein and less than 200 mg per 24 hour Bence-Jones proteinuria.

If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels are measurable, partial response (PR) compared with baseline (prior to re-treatment with bortezomib) is defined as:

- (a) at least a 50% reduction in the level of serum M protein (monoclonal protein); or
- (b) at least a 90% reduction in 24-hour urinary light chain M protein excretion or to less than 200 mg per 24 hours.

If serum M protein and Bence-Jones protein levels are unmeasurable as in non-secretory/oligo-secretory multiple myeloma, partial response compared with baseline is defined as:

- (c) the difference between involved and uninvolved serum free light chain (FLC) levels, with at least a 50% reduction in this value.

If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels and serum FLC are unmeasurable/unavailable, partial response compared with baseline is defined as:

- (d) at least a 50% reduction in bone marrow plasma cells; or
- (e) no increase in size or number of lytic bone lesions (development of compression fracture does not exclude response); or
- (f) at least a 50% reduction in the size of soft tissue plasmacytoma (by clinical or applicable radiographic examination, i.e. MRI or CT-scan); or
- (g) normalization of corrected serum calcium to less than or equal to 2.65 mmol per L.

The same parameters provided for the diagnosis of progressive disease are to be used to demonstrate at least a partial response to treatment.

Bortezomib will only be subsidised for patients with multiple myeloma who are not receiving concomitant PBS-subsidised lenalidomide.

The authority application must be made in writing and must include:

- (1) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (2) a completed Multiple Myeloma Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes details of the basis of the current diagnosis of progressive disease and nomination of which disease activity parameters will be used to assess response; and
- (3) diagnostic reports demonstrating the patient has achieved at least a partial response to the most recent course of PBS-subsidised bortezomib, if not previously provided to Medicare Australia.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for	Maximum Recordable Value for	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Max. Qty \$	Safety Net \$	
	To enable confirmation by Medicare Australia, current diagnostic reports of at least one of the following are required: (a) the level of serum monoclonal protein; or (b) Bence-Jones proteinuria — the results of 24-hour urinary light chain M protein excretion; or (c) the serum level of free kappa and lambda light chains; or (d) bone marrow aspirate or trephine; or (e) if present, the size and location of lytic bone lesions (not including compression fractures); or (f) if present, the size and location of all soft tissue plasmacytomas by clinical or radiographic examination i.e. MRI or CT-scan; or (g) if present, the level of hypercalcaemia, corrected for albumin concentration. As these parameters will be used to determine response, results for either (a) or (b) or (c) should be provided for all patients. Where the patient has oligo-secretory or non-secretory multiple myeloma, either (c) or (d) or if relevant (e), (f) or (g) should be provided. Where the prescriber plans to assess response in patients with oligo-secretory or non-secretory multiple myeloma with free light chain assays, evidence of the oligo-secretory or non-secretory nature of the multiple myeloma (either previous or current serum M protein less than 10 g per L and urinary Bence-Jones protein undetectable or less than 200 mg per 24 hours) must be provided; and (4) a signed patient acknowledgment. Authority required Continuing retreatment of a patient who has been previously treated with PBS-subsidised bortezomib. Continuing PBS-subsidised retreatment, as monotherapy or in combination with a corticosteroid and/or cyclophosphamide, of multiple myeloma in a patient who has received 4 treatment cycles of bortezomib in the current treatment course and who, at the time of application, has demonstrated at least a partial response to bortezomib. If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels are measurable, partial response (PR) compared with baseline (prior to treatment with bortezomib) is defined as: (a) at least a 50% reduction in the level of serum M protein (monoclonal protein); or (b) at least a 90% reduction in 24-hour urinary light chain M protein excretion or to less than 200 mg per 24 hours. If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels are unmeasurable as in non-secretory/oligo-secretory multiple myeloma, partial response compared with baseline is defined as: (c) at least a 50% reduction in the difference between involved and uninvolved serum free light chain (FLC) levels. If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein and serum FLC are unmeasurable/unavailable, partial response compared with baseline is defined as: (d) at least a 50% reduction in bone marrow plasma cells; or (e) no increase in size or number of lytic bone lesions (development of compression fracture does not exclude response); or (f) at least a 50% reduction in the size of soft tissue plasmacytoma (by clinical or applicable radiographic examination, i.e. MRI or CT-Scan); or (g) normalisation of corrected serum calcium to less than or equal to 2.65 mmol per L. For the purpose of assessing eligibility for continuing the current course of PBS-subsidised bortezomib treatment beyond 4 cycles, the patient must have achieved at least a partial response at the completion of cycle 4. The results of the response assessment must be included in a written application to Medicare Australia for further treatment. Where a response assessment is not submitted to Medicare Australia prior to cycle 5, patients will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with bortezomib. Continuing PBS-subsidised supply will not be approved if there is a gap of more than 6 months between the initial application and subsequent applications. The same parameters provided for the diagnosis of progressive disease are to be used to demonstrate at least a partial response to treatment. The authority application must be made in writing and must include: (1) a completed authority prescription form; and (2) a completed Multiple Myeloma Authority Application - Supporting Information Form; and (3) diagnostic reports demonstrating the patient has achieved at least a partial response. Diagnostic reports must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application. Patients who fail to demonstrate at least a partial response after 8 cycles will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with bortezomib. No more than 2 cycles of treatment beyond the cycle at which a confirmed complete response was first achieved will be authorised. Confirmation requires 2 determinations a minimum of 6 weeks apart. Note Special Pricing Arrangements apply.						
5488W	Powder for injection 3.5 mg (solvent required) (code 7088C applies to above item with approved solvent)	4	3	..	*7002.38	34.20	Velcade JC

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

BORTEZOMIB

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe bortezomib may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms) is available on the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Applications for authority to prescribe bortezomib should be forwarded to:

Medicare Australia
Prior Written Approval of Specialised Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
GPO Box 9826
HOBART TAS 7001.

Authority required

Continuing retreatment of a patient who has been previously treated with PBS-subsidised bortezomib.

Continuing PBS-subsidised retreatment, as monotherapy or in combination with a corticosteroid and/or cyclophosphamide, of multiple myeloma in a patient who has received 8 treatment cycles with bortezomib in the current treatment course and who, at the time of application, has demonstrated at least a partial response to bortezomib but who has not received 2 treatment cycles after first achieving a confirmed complete response.

If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels are measurable, partial response (PR) compared with baseline (prior to treatment with bortezomib) is defined as:

- (a) at least a 50% reduction in the level of serum M protein (monoclonal protein); or
- (b) at least a 90% reduction in 24-hour urinary light chain M protein excretion or to less than 200 mg per 24 hours.

If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels are unmeasurable as in non-secretory/oligo-secretory multiple myeloma, partial response compared with baseline is defined as:

- (c) the difference between involved and uninvolved serum free light chain (FLC) levels, with at least a 50% reduction in this value.

If serum M protein and urine Bence-Jones protein levels and serum FLC are unmeasurable/unavailable, partial response compared with baseline is defined as:

- (d) at least a 50% reduction in bone marrow plasma cells; or
- (e) no increase in size or number of lytic bone lesions (development of compression fracture does not exclude response); or
- (f) at least a 50% reduction in the size of soft tissue plasmacytoma (by clinical or applicable radiographic examination, i.e. MRI or CT-Scan); or
- (g) normalisation of corrected serum calcium to less than or equal to 2.65 mmol per L.

The same parameters provided for the diagnosis of progressive disease are to be used to demonstrate at least a partial response to treatment.

Diagnostic reports must be within 1 month of the date of application.

For the purpose of assessing eligibility for continuing PBS-subsidised bortezomib treatment beyond 8 cycles, the patient must have achieved at least a partial response at the completion of cycle 8. The results of the response assessment must be included in a written application to Medicare Australia for further treatment. Where a response assessment is not submitted to Medicare Australia prior to cycle 9, patients will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with bortezomib. Continuing PBS-subsidised supply will not be approved if there is a gap of more than 10 months between the initial application and an application following completion of 8 treatment cycles.

The authority application must be made in writing and must include:

- (1) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (2) a completed Multiple Myeloma Authority Application - Supporting Information Form; and
- (3) diagnostic reports demonstrating the patient has achieved at least a partial response.

No more than 2 cycles of treatment beyond the cycle at which the complete response was first achieved will be authorised. Confirmation requires 2 determinations a minimum of 6 weeks apart.

Applications for PBS-subsidised treatment with bortezomib that extends beyond 11 cycles per treatment course will not be approved.

Note

Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

5489X	Powder for injection 3.5 mg (solvent required) (code 7089D applies to above item with approved solvent)	4	2	..	*7002.38	34.20	Velcade	JC
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CEPHAZOLIN

Restricted benefit

Infections where positive bacteriological evidence confirms that this antibiotic is an appropriate therapeutic agent;

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Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	
	Septicaemia, suspected; Septicaemia, proven.							
	Note							
	Shared Care Model:							
	For prescribing by nurse practitioners where care of a patient is shared between a nurse practitioner and medical practitioner in a formalised arrangement with an agreed management plan. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.							
1256D NP	Powder for injection 500 mg	10	..	..	*39.88	34.20	Hospira Pty Limited	HH
1257E NP	Powder for injection 1 g	10	..	..	*56.92	34.20	^a Hospira Pty Limited	HH
				..	56.93	34.20	^a Cefazolin Sandoz	SZ
							^a Cephalozin Alphapharm	AF
							^a Kefzol	AS
9326W NP	Powder for injection 2 g	10	..	..	*104.22	34.20	^a Cefazolin Sandoz	SZ
							^a Cephalozin Alphapharm	AF
	CEPHAZOLIN							
	Restricted benefit							
	Cellulitis.							
5477G NP	Powder for injection 500 mg	10	..	..	*39.88	34.20	Hospira Pty Limited	HH
5478H NP	Powder for injection 1 g	10	..	..	*56.92	34.20	^a Hospira Pty Limited	HH
				..	56.93	34.20	^a Cefazolin Sandoz	SZ
							^a Cephalozin Alphapharm	AF
							^a Kefzol	AS
5479J NP	Powder for injection 2 g	10	..	..	*104.22	34.20	^a Cefazolin Sandoz	SZ
							^a Cephalozin Alphapharm	AF
	CINACALCET							
	Authority required (STREAMLINED)							
	3673							
	Maintenance therapy, following initiation and stabilisation of treatment with cinacalcet, of a patient with chronic kidney disease on dialysis who has a decrease of at least 30% in iPTH concentrations after 6 months treatment;							
	3672							
	Maintenance therapy, following initiation and stabilisation of treatment with cinacalcet, of a patient with chronic kidney disease on dialysis who has iPTH greater than 15 pmol per L and an (adjusted) serum calcium concentration of less than 2.6 mmol per L after 6 months treatment.							
	Note							
	During the titration phase, intact PTH should be monitored 4 weekly (measured at least 12 hours post dose) and dose titrated until an appropriate iPTH concentration is achieved. During the titration phase, approval will be limited to sufficient supply for 4 weeks treatment at a time, with doses between 30 and 180 mg per day according to the patient's response and tolerability.							
	During the maintenance phase, approval will be limited to provide sufficient quantity for 4 weeks treatment up to a maximum of 6 months supply for doses between 30 and 180 mg per day according to the patient's response and tolerability. Intact PTH should be monitored quarterly (measured at least 12 hours post dose) and dose adjusted as necessary to maintain an appropriate iPTH concentration.							
	Note							
	Shared Care Model:							
	For prescribing by nurse practitioners where care of a patient is shared between a nurse practitioner and medical practitioner in a formalised arrangement with an agreed management plan. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.							
	Note							
	Special Pricing Arrangements apply.							
9157Y NP	Tablet 30 mg (as hydrochloride)	28	5	..	343.60	34.20	Sensipar	AN
9158B	Tablet 60 mg (as hydrochloride)	28	5	..	670.32	34.20	Sensipar	AN

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NP								
9159C	Tablet 90 mg (as hydrochloride)	28	5	..	1002.27	34.20	Sensipar	AN
NP								
CITRULLINE with CARBOHYDRATE								
<u>Restricted benefit</u>								
Urea cycle disorders in order to prevent low plasma arginine or citrulline levels.								
<u>Note</u>								
Citrulline with carbohydrate is not indicated for the treatment of arginase deficiency and other inborn errors of protein metabolism.								
5481L	Sachets 4 g containing 1 g citrulline, 30	4	5	..	*516.02	34.20	Citrulline 1000 Amino Acid Supplement	VF
NP								
CODEINE PHOSPHATE								
1214X	Tablet 30 mg	20	..	..	16.87	17.94	Fawns and McAllan Proprietary Limited	FM
NP								
DIAZEPAM								
<u>Note</u>								
Authorities for increased maximum quantities and/or repeats for the oral forms of diazepam will be granted only for								
(i) the treatment of disabling spasticity; or								
(ii) malignant neoplasia (late stage); or								
(iii) use by patients who are receiving long-term nursing care on account of age, infirmity or other condition in hospitals, nursing homes or residential facilities and who have been demonstrated, within the past six months, to be benzodiazepine dependent by an unsuccessful attempt at gradual withdrawal; or								
(iv) use by a patient who is receiving long-term nursing care and in respect of whom a Carer Allowance is payable as a disabled adult and who has been demonstrated, within the past six months, to be benzodiazepine dependent by an unsuccessful attempt at gradual withdrawal.								
Up to six months' treatment (i.e. one month's treatment with five repeats) may be requested.								
3161J	Tablet 2 mg	50	..	..	7.72	8.79	^a Antenex 2	AF
NP							^a Ranzepam	RA
							^a Valpam 2	SI
				^B 0.82	8.54	8.79	^a Valium	RO
DIAZEPAM								
5071X	Tablet 2 mg (Dental)	50	..	..	7.72	8.79	^a Antenex 2	AF
							^a Ranzepam	RA
							^a Valpam 2	SI
				^B 0.82	8.54	8.79	^a Valium	RO
DIAZEPAM								
<u>Authority required</u>								
Initial supply, for up to 4 months, for a palliative care patient where anxiety is a problem.								
<u>Note</u>								
No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.								
5355W	Tablet 2 mg	50	3	..	7.72	8.79	^a Antenex 2	AF
NP	(Palliative Care)						^a Ranzepam	RA
							^a Valpam 2	SI
				^B 0.82	8.54	8.79	^a Valium	RO

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$		Brand Name and Manufacturer
DIAZEPAM								
<u>Authority required</u>								
Continuing supply for a palliative care patient where anxiety is a problem.								
<u>Note</u>								
Where consultation with a palliative care specialist or service has occurred, applications for increased repeats may be authorised.								
5357Y NP	Tablet 2 mg (Palliative Care)	50	..	..	7.72	8.79	^a	Antenex 2 AF
							^a	Ranzepam RA
							^a	Valpam 2 SI
				^B 0.82	8.54	8.79	^a	Valium RO
DOCETAXEL								
<u>Authority required</u>								
Neoadjuvant treatment of a patient with a WHO performance status of 1 or less, with inoperable Stage III, IVa or IVb squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, larynx, oropharynx or hypopharynx, in combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil.								
<u>Note</u>								
The carcinoma can be considered inoperable for technical or organ preservation reasons.								
<u>Note</u>								
The solution concentrates for I.V. infusion and solution for I.V. infusion (after reconstitution) are bioequivalent.								
5485Q	Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg in 2 mL	1	..	..	334.39	34.20	^a	DBL Docetaxel Concentrated Injection HH
							^a	Docetaxel Ebewe IT
5462L	Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg in 1 mL	1	..	..	334.39	34.20	^a	Taxotere SW
9291B	Injection set containing 1 single use vial concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg (anhydrous) in 0.5 mL with solvent	1	..	..	334.39	34.20	^a	Taxotere SW
DOCETAXEL								
<u>Authority required</u>								
Adjuvant treatment of node-positive breast cancer in combination with an anthracycline and cyclophosphamide;								
Advanced breast cancer after failure of prior therapy;								
Advanced metastatic ovarian cancer after failure of prior therapy which includes a platinum compound;								
Locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer;								
Treatment of HER2 positive early breast cancer in combination with trastuzumab.								
<u>Authority required</u>								
Treatment of androgen independent (hormone refractory) metastatic carcinoma of the prostate in a patient with a Karnofsky performance-status score of at least 60%. Docetaxel must be used as first-line chemotherapy and administered in three weekly cycles.								
<u>Note</u>								
A maximum of 10 cycles of treatment with docetaxel will be authorised under this restriction.								
<u>Authority required</u>								
Adjuvant treatment of operable breast cancer in combination with cyclophosphamide.								
<u>Note</u>								
A maximum of four cycles of treatment will be authorised under this restriction.								
<u>Note</u>								
The solution concentrates for I.V. infusion and solution for I.V. infusion (after reconstitution) are bioequivalent.								
5486R	Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg in 2 mL	2	..	..	*651.16	34.20	^a	DBL Docetaxel Concentrated Injection HH
							^a	Docetaxel Ebewe IT
5463M	Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg in 1 mL	2	..	..	*651.16	34.20	^a	Taxotere SW
8071T	Injection set containing 1 single use vial	2	..	..	*651.16	34.20	^a	Taxotere SW

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					\$	\$	
	concentrate for I.V. infusion 20 mg (anhydrous) in 0.5 mL with solvent						

DOCETAXEL

Authority required

Neoadjuvant treatment of a patient with a WHO performance status of 1 or less, with inoperable Stage III, IVa or IVb squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, larynx, oropharynx or hypopharynx, in combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil.

Note

The carcinoma can be considered inoperable for technical or organ preservation reasons.

Authority required

Adjuvant treatment of node-positive breast cancer in combination with an anthracycline and cyclophosphamide;

Advanced breast cancer after failure of prior therapy;

Advanced metastatic ovarian cancer after failure of prior therapy which includes a platinum compound;

Locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer;

Treatment of HER2 positive early breast cancer in combination with trastuzumab.

Authority required

Treatment of androgen independent (hormone refractory) metastatic carcinoma of the prostate in a patient with a Karnofsky performance-status score of at least 60%. Docetaxel must be used as first-line chemotherapy and administered in three weekly cycles.

Note

A maximum of 10 cycles of treatment with docetaxel will be authorised under this restriction.

Authority required

Adjuvant treatment of operable breast cancer in combination with cyclophosphamide.

Note

A maximum of four cycles of treatment will be authorised under this restriction.

Note

The solution concentrates for I.V. infusion and solution for I.V. infusion (after reconstitution) are bioequivalent.

5487T	Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 80 mg in 8 mL	1	..	..	1280.83	34.20	^a	DBL Docetaxel Concentrated Injection	HH
							^a	Docetaxel Ebewe	IT
5464N	Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 80 mg in 4 mL	1	..	..	1280.83	34.20	^a	Taxotere	SW
8074Y	Injection set containing 1 single use vial concentrate for I.V. infusion 80 mg (anhydrous) in 2 mL with solvent	1	..	..	1280.83	34.20	^a	Taxotere	SW

ERLOTINIB

Authority required

Initial PBS-subsidised treatment, as monotherapy, in a patient with locally advanced or metastatic (stage IIIB or IV) non-small cell lung cancer with a WHO performance status of 3 or less, after prior treatment with platinum-based chemotherapy, where:

- (1) (a) disease progression has occurred following treatment with docetaxel or pemetrexed; or
- (b) treatment with docetaxel and pemetrexed is either contraindicated or cannot be tolerated; and
- (2) further cytotoxic chemotherapy is not appropriate.

Authority required

Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment, as monotherapy, in a patient with locally advanced or metastatic (stage IIIB or IV) non-small cell lung cancer who has previously been issued with an authority prescription for this drug and who does not have progressive disease.

Note

Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

9166K	Tablet 25 mg (as hydrochloride)	30	3	..	794.19	34.20		Tarceva	RO
9167L	Tablet 100 mg (as hydrochloride)	30	3	..	2703.34	34.20		Tarceva	RO
9168M	Tablet 150 mg (as hydrochloride)	30	3	..	3309.66	34.20		Tarceva	RO

ETANERCEPT

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe etanercept may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

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Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

Prescribing information (including Authority Application Forms) is available on the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Written applications for authority to prescribe etanercept should be forwarded to:

Medicare Australia
Prior Written Approval of Specialised Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
GPO Box 9826
HOBART TAS 7001;

Note

TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE CHRONIC PLAQUE PSORIASIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological agents adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab, for adult patients with severe chronic plaque psoriasis. Therefore, where the term 'biological agents' appears in the following NOTES and restrictions, it only refers to adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab.

From 1 March 2010, all patients will be able to commence a 'Biological Treatment Cycle' (Cycle), where they may trial adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab without having to meet the initial treatment criteria, that is they will not need to experience a disease flare when swapping to an alternate agent. Under these interchangeability arrangements, within a single Cycle, patients may receive long-term treatment with a biological agent as long as they sustain a response to therapy.

A patient who received PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis prior to 1 March 2010 is considered to be in their first Cycle as of 1 March 2010.

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 biological agent at any 1 time.

Within the same Treatment Cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised biological agent more than once. Therefore once a patient fails to meet the response criteria for a PBS-subsidised biological agent, they must change to an alternate agent if they wish to continue PBS-subsidised biological treatment. A patient who, prior to 1 March 2010, was authorised to receive PBS-subsidised initial treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis with the same agent twice, is exempt from this condition in respect of applications approved prior to 1 March 2010.

Patients must be assessed for response to each course of continuing treatment according to the criteria included in the relevant continuing treatment restriction.

Once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 3 times, they are deemed to have completed a Treatment Cycle and they must have, at a minimum, a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised biological agent therapy before they are eligible to commence the next Cycle. The 5-year break is measured from the date of the last approval for PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment in the most recent Cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with a biological agent under the new Treatment Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of less than 5 years duration has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, may commence a further course of treatment within that Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of 5 years or more has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, are eligible to commence a new Cycle.

There is no limit to the number of Biological Treatment Cycles a patient may undertake in their lifetime.

How to prescribe biological agents for the treatment of severe chronic plaque psoriasis after 1 March 2010.

There are separate restrictions for both the initial and continuing treatment for psoriasis affecting the whole body, versus psoriasis affecting the face, hands and feet.

(1) Application for approval for initial treatment.

Applications for a course of initial treatment should be made in the following situations:

- (i) patients have received no prior PBS-subsidised biological treatment and wish to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or
- (ii) patients have received prior PBS-subsidised biological therapy and wish to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under '(4) Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iii) patients who wish to re-commence treatment following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

All applications for initial treatment will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment in the case of adalimumab and etanercept, 22 weeks of treatment in the case of infliximab and 28 weeks of treatment in the case of ustekinumab.

(2) Assessment of response to initial treatment.

When prescribing initial treatment with a biological agent, a PASI assessment must be conducted after at least 12 weeks of treatment. This assessment must be submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of the completion of this initial treatment course. Where a response

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for	Maximum Recordable Value for	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Max. Qty \$	Safety Net \$	

assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

(3) Application for continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course of a biological agent to which an adequate response has been demonstrated, patients may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that biological agent. Patients are eligible to continue to receive continuous treatment with 24 week courses providing they continue to sustain a response.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, patients will be deemed to have failed to sustain a response to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

(4) Swapping therapy.

Once an authority for initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised biological agent is approved, patients may swap to an alternate agent within the same Treatment Cycle without having to requalify with respect to disease severity (i.e. a PASI score of greater than 15), or prior treatment requirements.

Patients who are not able to complete a minimum of 12 weeks of an initial treatment course will be deemed to have failed treatment with that agent.

Patients may trial an alternate biological agent at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy with a biological agent at the time of the application or not. However, they cannot swap to a particular agent if they have failed to respond to treatment with that particular agent within the same Cycle.

Patients who commenced treatment with adalimumab prior to 1 June 2009 or ustekinumab prior to 1 March 2010 access these interchangeability arrangements in the same way as patients who have not.

To ensure patients receive the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under the interchangeability arrangements, it is important that they are assessed for response to every course of treatment approved, within the timeframes specified in the relevant restriction.

To avoid confusion, applications for patients who wish to swap to an alternate biological agent should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the agent being ceased.

(5) Baseline measurements to determine response.

Medicare Australia will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated, based on the baseline PASI assessment submitted with the first authority application for a biological agent. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority is submitted within a Treatment Cycle and subsequent response will be assessed according to this revised PASI score.

To ensure consistency in determining response, the same body area assessed at the baseline PASI assessment must be assessed for demonstration of response to treatment for the purposes of all continuing treatment applications.

(6) Re-commencement of treatment after a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised therapy.

Patients who wish to trial a second or subsequent Biological Treatment Cycle, following a break in PBS-subsidised biological therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment according to the criteria of the relevant restriction and index of disease severity. Patients must have had at least 1 prior treatment, as listed in the criteria, for a minimum of 6 weeks, and must have a PASI assessment conducted preferably whilst still on treatment, but no later than 1 month following cessation of treatment. The PASI assessment must be no older than 1 month at the time of application.

Authority required

Initial treatment [Initial 1, Whole body (New patients — No prior biological agent)]

Initial treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have severe chronic plaque psoriasis where lesions have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; and
- (b) have not received any prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have signed a patient and prescriber acknowledgement indicating they understand and acknowledge that PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if they do not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment (whole body); and
- (d) have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 3 of the following 4 treatments:
 - (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; and/or

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					\$	\$	
	(ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; and/or						
	(iii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; and/or						
	(iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks.						

If treatment with any of the above-mentioned drugs is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, please provide details at the time of application.

If intolerance to treatment develops during the relevant period of use, which is of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, please provide details of the degree of this toxicity at the time of application. Details of acceptable toxicities including severity, associated with phototherapy, methotrexate, cyclosporin and acitretin, can be found on the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au).

The following initiation criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response and must be demonstrated in all patients at the time of the application:

- (a) A current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score of greater than 15, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment.
- (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment.
- (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)];
 - (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]; and
 - (iii) the signed patient and prescriber acknowledgements.

A maximum of 16 weeks of treatment with etanercept will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 3 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 16 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with etanercept. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised etanercept treatment.

Authority required

Initial or re-Treatment [Initial 2, Whole body (Received prior biological agent under PBS)]

Treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis; and
- (b) have received prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have not failed PBS-subsidised therapy with etanercept for the treatment of this condition in the current Treatment Cycle.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)];
 - (ii) details of prior biological treatment, including dosage, date and duration of treatment.

Applications for patients who have demonstrated a response to PBS-subsidised etanercept treatment within this Treatment Cycle and who wish to re-commence etanercept treatment within the same Cycle following a break in therapy, will only be approved where evidence of the patient's response to their most recent course of PBS-subsidised etanercept treatment has been submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of cessation of treatment.

A maximum of 16 weeks of treatment with etanercept will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 3 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that

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would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 16 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with etanercept. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised etanercept treatment.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Authority required

Initial treatment [Initial 1, Face, hand, foot (New patients — No prior biological agent)]

Initial treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot where the plaque or plaques have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; and
- (b) have not received any prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have signed a patient and prescriber acknowledgement indicating they understand and acknowledge that PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if they do not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment (face, hand, foot); and
- (d) have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 3 of the following 4 treatments:
 - (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks.

If treatment with any of the above-mentioned drugs is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, please provide details at the time of application.

If intolerance to treatment develops during the relevant period of use, which is of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, please provide details of the degree of this toxicity at the time of application. Details of acceptable toxicities including severity, associated with phototherapy, methotrexate, cyclosporin and acitretin, can be found on the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au).

The following initiation criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response and must be demonstrated in all patients at the time of the application:

- (a) Chronic plaque psoriasis classified as severe due to a plaque or plaques on the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot where:
 - (i) at least 2 of the 3 Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for erythema, thickness and scaling are rated as severe or very severe, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment; or
 - (ii) the skin area affected is 30% or more of the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment.
- (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment.
- (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]; and
 - (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]; and
 - (iii) the signed patient and prescriber acknowledgements.

A maximum of 16 weeks of treatment with etanercept will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 3 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 16 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response

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assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with etanercept. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised etanercept treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

Authority required

Initial or re-Treatment [Initial 2, Face, hand, foot (Received prior biological agent under PBS)]

Treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot; and
- (b) have received prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have not failed PBS-subsidised therapy with etanercept for the treatment of this condition in the current Treatment Cycle.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]; and
 - (ii) details of prior biological treatment, including dosage, date and duration of treatment.

Applications for patients who have demonstrated a response to PBS-subsidised etanercept treatment within this Treatment Cycle and who wish to re-commence etanercept treatment within the same Cycle following a break in therapy, will only be approved where evidence of the patient's response to their most recent course of PBS-subsidised etanercept treatment has been submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of cessation of treatment.

A maximum of 16 weeks of treatment with etanercept will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 3 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 16 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with etanercept. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised etanercept treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Note

No applications for increased maximum quantities and/or repeats will be authorised.

Note

Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

9037P	Injection set containing 4 vials powder for injection 25 mg and 4 pre-filled syringes solvent 1 mL	2	3	..	*1829.00	34.20	Enbrel	WX
9091L	Injections 50 mg in 1 mL single use pre-filled syringes, 4	1	3	..	1774.37	34.20	Enbrel	WX
9461Y	Injection 50 mg in 1 mL single use auto-injector, 4	1	3	..	1774.37	34.20	Enbrel	WX

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ETANERCEPT

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe etanercept may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application Forms) is available on the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Written applications for authority to prescribe etanercept should be forwarded to:

Medicare Australia
Prior Written Approval of Specialised Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
GPO Box 9826
HOBART TAS 7001;

Note

TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE CHRONIC PLAQUE PSORIASIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological agents adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab, for adult patients with severe chronic plaque psoriasis. Therefore, where the term 'biological agents' appears in the following NOTES and restrictions, it only refers to adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab.

From 1 March 2010, all patients will be able to commence a 'Biological Treatment Cycle' (Cycle), where they may trial adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab without having to meet the initial treatment criteria, that is they will not need to experience a disease flare when swapping to an alternate agent. Under these interchangeability arrangements, within a single Cycle, patients may receive long-term treatment with a biological agent as long as they sustain a response to therapy.

A patient who received PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis prior to 1 March 2010 is considered to be in their first Cycle as of 1 March 2010.

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 biological agent at any 1 time.

Within the same Treatment Cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised biological agent more than once. Therefore once a patient fails to meet the response criteria for a PBS-subsidised biological agent, they must change to an alternate agent if they wish to continue PBS-subsidised biological treatment. A patient who, prior to 1 March 2010, was authorised to receive PBS-subsidised initial treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis with the same agent twice, is exempt from this condition in respect of applications approved prior to 1 March 2010.

Patients must be assessed for response to each course of continuing treatment according to the criteria included in the relevant continuing treatment restriction.

Once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 3 times, they are deemed to have completed a Treatment Cycle and they must have, at a minimum, a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised biological agent therapy before they are eligible to commence the next Cycle. The 5-year break is measured from the date of the last approval for PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment in the most recent Cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with a biological agent under the new Treatment Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of less than 5 years duration has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, may commence a further course of treatment within that Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of 5 years or more has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, are eligible to commence a new Cycle.

There is no limit to the number of Biological Treatment Cycles a patient may undertake in their lifetime.

How to prescribe biological agents for the treatment of severe chronic plaque psoriasis after 1 March 2010.

There are separate restrictions for both the initial and continuing treatment for psoriasis affecting the whole body, versus psoriasis affecting the face, hands and feet.

(1) Application for approval for initial treatment.

Applications for a course of initial treatment should be made in the following situations:

- (i) patients have received no prior PBS-subsidised biological treatment and wish to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or
- (ii) patients have received prior PBS-subsidised biological therapy and wish to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under '(4) Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iii) patients who wish to re-commence treatment following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

All applications for initial treatment will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment in the case of adalimumab and etanercept, 22 weeks of treatment in the case of infliximab and 28 weeks of treatment in the case of ustekinumab.

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(2) Assessment of response to initial treatment.

When prescribing initial treatment with a biological agent, a PASI assessment must be conducted after at least 12 weeks of treatment. This assessment must be submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of the completion of this initial treatment course. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

(3) Application for continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course of a biological agent to which an adequate response has been demonstrated, patients may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that biological agent. Patients are eligible to continue to receive continuous treatment with 24 week courses providing they continue to sustain a response.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, patients will be deemed to have failed to sustain a response to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

(4) Swapping therapy.

Once an authority for initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised biological agent is approved, patients may swap to an alternate agent within the same Treatment Cycle without having to requalify with respect to disease severity (i.e. a PASI score of greater than 15), or prior treatment requirements.

Patients who are not able to complete a minimum of 12 weeks of an initial treatment course will be deemed to have failed treatment with that agent.

Patients may trial an alternate biological agent at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy with a biological agent at the time of the application or not. However, they cannot swap to a particular agent if they have failed to respond to treatment with that particular agent within the same Cycle.

Patients who commenced treatment with adalimumab prior to 1 June 2009 or ustekinumab prior to 1 March 2010 access these interchangeability arrangements in the same way as patients who have not.

To ensure patients receive the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under the interchangeability arrangements, it is important that they are assessed for response to every course of treatment approved, within the timeframes specified in the relevant restriction.

To avoid confusion, applications for patients who wish to swap to an alternate biological agent should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the agent being ceased.

(5) Baseline measurements to determine response.

Medicare Australia will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated, based on the baseline PASI assessment submitted with the first authority application for a biological agent. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority is submitted within a Treatment Cycle and subsequent response will be assessed according to this revised PASI score.

To ensure consistency in determining response, the same body area assessed at the baseline PASI assessment must be assessed for demonstration of response to treatment for the purposes of all continuing treatment applications.

(6) Re-commencement of treatment after a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised therapy.

Patients who wish to trial a second or subsequent Biological Treatment Cycle, following a break in PBS-subsidised biological therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment according to the criteria of the relevant restriction and index of disease severity. Patients must have had at least 1 prior treatment, as listed in the criteria, for a minimum of 6 weeks, and must have a PASI assessment conducted preferably whilst still on treatment, but no later than 1 month following cessation of treatment. The PASI assessment must be no older than 1 month at the time of application.

Authority required

Continuing treatment (Whole body)

Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over:

- (a) who have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis; and
- (b) whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised biological treatment for this condition in this Treatment Cycle was with etanercept; and
- (c) who have demonstrated an adequate response to their most recent course of treatment with etanercept.

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An adequate response to treatment is defined as:

A Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score which is reduced by 75% or more, or is sustained at this level, when compared with the pre-biological treatment baseline value for this Treatment Cycle.

This assessment must be provided to Medicare Australia no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with etanercept, the assessment of response must be after a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with an initial course.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
- (i) the completed Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheet along with the date of the assessment of the patient's condition.

The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Approval will be based on the PASI assessment of response to the most recent course of treatment with etanercept.

A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with etanercept will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 5 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for continuing authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the treatment period beyond 24 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response must be conducted within 4 weeks prior to completion of this course of treatment. This assessment must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with etanercept. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised etanercept treatment.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Authority required

Continuing treatment (Face, hand, foot)

Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over:

- (a) who have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot; and
- (b) whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised biological treatment for this condition in this Treatment Cycle was with etanercept; and
- (c) who have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment with etanercept.

An adequate response to etanercept treatment is defined as the plaque or plaques assessed prior to biological treatment showing:

- (i) a reduction in the Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for all 3 of erythema, thickness and scaling, to slight or better, or sustained at this level, as compared to the pre-biological treatment baseline values; or
- (ii) a reduction by 75% or more in the skin area affected, or sustained at this level, as compared to the pre-biological treatment baseline value.

This assessment must be provided to Medicare Australia no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with etanercept, the assessment of response must be after a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with an initial course.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
- (i) the completed Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheet and face, hand, foot area diagrams along with the date of the assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)].

The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with etanercept will be authorised under this restriction.

Where fewer than 5 repeats are requested at the time of the authority application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for continuing authority applications, or for treatment

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that would otherwise extend the treatment period beyond 24 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response must be conducted within 4 weeks prior to completion of this course of treatment. This assessment must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with etanercept. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised etanercept treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area assessed at baseline.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Note

No applications for increased maximum quantities and/or repeats will be authorised.

Note

Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

9429G	Injection set containing 4 vials powder for injection 25 mg and 4 pre-filled syringes solvent 1 mL	2	5	..	*1829.00	34.20	Enbrel	WX
9431J	Injections 50 mg in 1 mL single use pre-filled syringes, 4	1	5	..	1774.37	34.20	Enbrel	WX
9462B	Injection 50 mg in 1 mL single use auto-injector, 4	1	5	..	1774.37	34.20	Enbrel	WX

EXENATIDE

Note

Exenatide is not PBS-subsidised as monotherapy or in combination with an insulin, a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin).

Authority required

Dual combination therapy with metformin or a sulfonylurea

Initiation of therapy, in combination with either metformin or a sulfonylurea, in a patient with type 2 diabetes who has an HbA1c greater than 7% prior to initiation of a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin), a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1 and in whom a combination of metformin and a sulfonylurea is contraindicated or not tolerated.

The date and level of the HbA1c must be documented in the patient's medical records at the time therapy with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated. The HbA1c must be no more than 4 months old at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated.

Blood glucose monitoring as an alternative assessment to HbA1c levels will be accepted in the following circumstances:

- (a) clinical conditions with reduced red blood cell survival, including haemolytic anaemias and haemoglobinopathies; and/or
- (b) red cell transfusion within the previous 3 months.

Patients in these circumstances will be eligible for treatment where blood glucose monitoring over a 2 week period shows blood glucose levels greater than 10 mmol per L in more than 20% of tests. The results of this blood glucose monitoring, which must be no more than 4 months old at the time of initiation of treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1, must be documented in the patient's medical record;

Continuation of therapy, in combination with either metformin or a sulfonylurea, in a patient with type 2 diabetes where the patient has previously been issued with an authority prescription for exenatide.

Authority required

Triple combination therapy with metformin and a sulfonylurea

Initiation of therapy, in combination with metformin and a sulfonylurea, in a patient with type 2 diabetes who has an HbA1c greater than 7% prior to initiation of a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin), a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1 despite maximally tolerated doses of metformin and a sulfonylurea.

The date and level of the HbA1c must be documented in the patient's medical records at the time therapy with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated. The HbA1c must be no more than 4 months old at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated.

Blood glucose monitoring as an alternative assessment to HbA1c levels will be accepted in the following circumstances:

- (a) clinical conditions with reduced red blood cell survival, including haemolytic anaemias and haemoglobinopathies; and/or
- (b) red cell transfusion within the previous 3 months.

Patients in these circumstances will be eligible for treatment where blood glucose monitoring over a 2 week period shows blood glucose levels greater than 10 mmol per L in more than 20% of tests. The results of this blood glucose monitoring, which must be no more than 4 months old at the time of initiation of treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1, must be documented in the patient's medical record;

Continuation of therapy, in combination with metformin and a sulfonylurea, in a patient with type 2 diabetes where the patient has previously been issued with an authority prescription for exenatide.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$		Brand Name and Manufacturer
	Note Special Pricing Arrangements apply.							
3423E <i>NP</i>	Injection solution 5 micrograms per dose in pre-filled pen, 60 doses	1	5	..	176.39	34.20		Byetta LY
3424F <i>NP</i>	Injection solution 10 micrograms per dose in pre-filled pen, 60 doses	1	5	..	176.39	34.20		Byetta LY
								10 microgram
	FLUTAMIDE							
	Authority required (STREAMLINED)							
	3674							
	Metastatic (equivalent to stage D) prostatic carcinoma in combination with GnRH (LH-RH) analogue therapy.							
	Note							
	No applications for increased maximum quantities and/or repeats will be authorised.							
	Note							
	Shared Care Model:							
	For prescribing by nurse practitioners where care of a patient is shared between a nurse practitioner and medical practitioner in a formalised arrangement with an agreed management plan. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.							
1417N <i>NP</i>	Tablet 250 mg	100	5	..	201.69	34.20	^a	Eulexin SH
							^a	Flutamin AF
	LERCANIDIPINE HYDROCHLORIDE							
8534E <i>NP</i>	Tablet 10 mg	28	5	..	15.70	16.77	^a	APO-Lercanidipine TX
							^a	Chem mart CH
								Lercanidipine
							^a	Lercadip GM
							^a	Lercan SI
							^a	Lercanidipine SZ
								Sandoz
							^a	Terry White TW
								Chemists Lercanidipine
							^a	Zircol AF
				^B 1.84	17.54	16.77	^a	Zanidip SM
8679T <i>NP</i>	Tablet 20 mg	28	5	..	21.92	22.99	^a	APO-Lercanidipine TX
							^a	Chem mart CH
								Lercanidipine
							^a	Lercadip GM
							^a	Lercan SI
							^a	Lercanidipine SZ
								Sandoz
							^a	Terry White TW
								Chemists Lercanidipine
							^a	Zircol AF
				^B 3.27	25.19	22.99	^a	Zanidip SM
	MESALAZINE							
	Authority required (STREAMLINED)							
	1708							
	Ulcerative colitis where hypersensitivity to sulfonamides exists;							
	1709							
	Ulcerative colitis where intolerance to sulfasalazine exists;							
	2268							
	Crohn disease where hypersensitivity to sulfonamides exists;							
	2269							
	Crohn disease where intolerance to sulfasalazine exists.							

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	
<u>Note</u> Continuing Therapy Only: For prescribing by nurse practitioners as continuing therapy only, where the treatment of, and prescribing of medicine for, a patient has been initiated by a medical practitioner. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.								
2234N NP	Sachet containing prolonged release granules, 1 g per sachet	120	5	..	330.67	34.20	Pentasa	FP
METHADONE HYDROCHLORIDE <u>Caution</u> The risk of drug dependence is high. <u>Authority required</u> Initial supply, for up to 3 months, for a palliative care patient with chronic severe disabling pain not responding to non-narcotic analgesics. <u>Note</u> Telephone approvals are limited to 1 month's therapy. <u>Note</u> Shared Care Model: For prescribing by nurse practitioners where care of a patient is shared between a nurse practitioner and medical practitioner in a formalised arrangement with an agreed management plan. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.								
5399E NP	Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 200 mL (Palliative Care)	1	2	..	18.92	19.99	Sigma Methadone Syrup	SI
METHADONE HYDROCHLORIDE <u>Caution</u> The risk of drug dependence is high. <u>Authority required</u> Continuing supply for a palliative care patient with chronic severe disabling pain not responding to non-narcotic analgesics. <u>Note</u> Where consultation with a palliative care specialist or service has occurred, applications for increased repeats for up to 3 months' supply may be authorised. Telephone approvals are limited to 1 month's therapy. <u>Note</u> Shared Care Model: For prescribing by nurse practitioners where care of a patient is shared between a nurse practitioner and medical practitioner in a formalised arrangement with an agreed management plan. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.								
5400F NP	Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 200 mL (Palliative Care)	1	..	..	18.92	19.99	Sigma Methadone Syrup	SI
MIRTAZAPINE <u>Restricted benefit</u> Major depressive disorders. <u>Note</u> Continuing Therapy Only: For prescribing by nurse practitioners as continuing therapy only, where the treatment of, and prescribing of medicine for, a patient has been initiated by a medical practitioner. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.								
8883M NP	Tablet 45 mg	30	5	..	39.54	34.20	^a APO-Mirtazapine	TX
							^a Axit 45	AF
							^a Chem mart Mirtazapine	CH
							^a Mirtazapine Sandoz	SZ
							^a Mirtazon	SI
							^a Terry White Chemists Mirtazapine	TW
				^B 2.95	42.49	34.20	^a Avanza	SH

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
NILUTAMIDE							
<u>Authority required (STREAMLINED)</u>							
3675							
Locally advanced (equivalent to stage C) or metastatic (equivalent to stage D) prostatic carcinoma, in combination with GnRH (LH-RH) analogue therapy;							
3300							
Locally advanced (equivalent to stage C) or metastatic (equivalent to stage D) prostatic carcinoma, in conjunction with surgical orchidectomy.							
<u>Note</u>							
Shared Care Model:							
For prescribing by nurse practitioners where care of a patient is shared between a nurse practitioner and medical practitioner in a formalised arrangement with an agreed management plan. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.							
8131Y NP	Tablet 150 mg	30	5	..	236.56	34.20	Anandron SW
NORFLOXACIN							
<u>Authority required</u>							
Acute bacterial enterocolitis;							
Complicated urinary tract infection.							
3010K NP	Tablet 400 mg	14	1	..	17.16	18.23	^a Chem mart CH ^a Norfloxacin GX ^a GenRx Norfloxacin SZ ^a Norflohexal GM ^a Norfloxacin-GA AF ^a Nufloxib SI ^a Roxin TW ^a Terry White Chemists Norfloxacin MK
				^B 3.91	21.07	18.23	^a Noroxin
ONDANSETRON							
<u>Restricted benefit</u>							
Management of nausea and vomiting associated with cytotoxic chemotherapy being used to treat malignancy which occurs within 48 hours of chemotherapy administration.							
Increased maximum quantities will be limited to a maximum of 7 days per chemotherapy cycle.							
<u>Note</u>							
Bioequivalence has been demonstrated between the orally disintegrating tablets and wafers.							
5470X NP	Tablet (orally disintegrating) 4 mg	4	..	..	38.78	34.20	^a Ondansetron ODT-DRLA RZ
5471Y NP	Tablet (orally disintegrating) 8 mg	4	..	..	54.99	34.20	^a Ondansetron ODT-DRLA RZ
8410P NP	Wafer 4 mg	4	..	..	38.78	34.20	^a Ondaz Zydis SZ ^a Zofran Zydis GK
8411Q NP	Wafer 8 mg	4	..	..	54.99	34.20	^a Ondaz Zydis SZ ^a Zofran Zydis GK
ONDANSETRON							
<u>Authority required (STREAMLINED)</u>							
3611							
Management of nausea and vomiting associated with radiotherapy being used to treat malignancy.							
<u>Note</u>							
Bioequivalence has been demonstrated between the orally disintegrating tablets and wafers.							
5472B NP	Tablet (orally disintegrating) 4 mg	10	1	..	83.79	34.20	^a Ondansetron ODT-DRLA RZ

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	
5473C NP	Tablet (orally disintegrating) 8 mg	10	1	..	127.64	34.20 ^a	Ondansetron ODT- DRLA	RZ
8412R NP	Wafer 4 mg	10	1	..	83.79	34.20 ^a	Ondaz Zydis	SZ
							Zofran Zydis	GK
8413T NP	Wafer 8 mg	10	1	..	127.64	34.20 ^a	Ondaz Zydis	SZ
							Zofran Zydis	GK

PALONOSETRON

Restricted benefit

Management of nausea and vomiting associated with cytotoxic chemotherapy being used to treat malignancy which occurs within 48 hours of chemotherapy administration.

Note

No applications for increased maximum quantities will be authorised. Palonosetron is not PBS-subsidised for administration with oral 5-HT3 antagonists.

5295Q NP	Injection 250 micrograms (as hydrochloride) in 5 mL	1	..	..	47.86	34.20	Aloxi	TS
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PIOGLITAZONE

Note

Pioglitazone hydrochloride is not PBS-subsidised as monotherapy or in combination with a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin) or a glucagon-like peptide-1.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3540

Dual oral combination therapy with metformin or a sulfonylurea

Type 2 diabetes, in combination with either metformin or a sulfonylurea, in a patient whose HbA1c is greater than 7% prior to initiation of a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin), a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1 despite treatment with either metformin or a sulfonylurea and where a combination of metformin and a sulfonylurea is contraindicated or not tolerated.

The date and level of the qualifying HbA1c must be documented in the patient's medical records at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated. The HbA1c must be no more than 4 months old at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated.

Blood glucose monitoring may be used as an alternative assessment to HbA1c levels in the following circumstances:

- (a) clinical conditions with reduced red blood cell survival, including haemolytic anaemias and haemoglobinopathies; and/or
- (b) red cell transfusion within the previous 3 months.

A patient in these circumstances will be eligible for treatment where blood glucose monitoring over a 2 week period shows blood glucose levels greater than 10 mmol per L in more than 20% of tests. The results of this blood glucose monitoring, which must be no more than 4 months old at the time of initiation of treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1, must be documented in the patient's medical records.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3541

Combination therapy with insulin

Type 2 diabetes, in combination with insulin, in a patient whose HbA1c is greater than 7% prior to initiation of a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin), a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1 despite treatment with insulin and oral anti-diabetic agents, or insulin alone where metformin is contraindicated.

The date and level of the qualifying HbA1c must be documented in the patient's medical records at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated. The HbA1c must be no more than 4 months old at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated.

Blood glucose monitoring may be used as an alternative assessment to HbA1c levels in the following circumstances:

- (a) clinical conditions with reduced red blood cell survival, including haemolytic anaemias and haemoglobinopathies; and/or
- (b) red cell transfusion within the previous 3 months.

A patient in these circumstances will be eligible for treatment where blood glucose monitoring over a 2 week period shows blood glucose levels greater than 10 mmol per L in more than 20% of tests. The results of this blood glucose monitoring, which must be no more than 4 months old at the time of initiation of treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1, must be documented in the patient's medical records.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3542

Triple oral combination therapy with metformin and a sulfonylurea

Type 2 diabetes, in combination with metformin and a sulfonylurea, in a patient whose HbA1c is greater than 7% prior to initiation of a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin), a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1 despite treatment with maximally tolerated doses of metformin and a sulfonylurea.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for	Maximum Recordable Value for	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Max. Qty	Safety Net	
					\$	\$	
The date and level of the qualifying HbA1c must be documented in the patient's medical records at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated. The HbA1c must be no more than 4 months old at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated. Blood glucose monitoring may be used as an alternative assessment to HbA1c levels in the following circumstances: (a) clinical conditions with reduced red blood cell survival, including haemolytic anaemias and haemoglobinopathies; and/or (b) red cell transfusion within the previous 3 months. A patient in these circumstances will be eligible for treatment where blood glucose monitoring over a 2 week period shows blood glucose levels greater than 10 mmol per L in more than 20% of tests. The results of this blood glucose monitoring, which must be no more than 4 months old at the time of initiation of treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1, must be documented in the patient's medical records.							
8694N NP	Tablet 15 mg (as hydrochloride)	28	5	..	61.52	34.20	Actos LY
8695P NP	Tablet 30 mg (as hydrochloride)	28	5	..	91.19	34.20	Actos LY
8696Q NP	Tablet 45 mg (as hydrochloride)	28	5	..	116.64	34.20	Actos LY

ROSIGLITAZONE

Note

Rosiglitazone maleate is not PBS-subsidised as monotherapy or in combination with metformin and a sulfonylurea (triple oral therapy) or an insulin or a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin) or a glucagon-like peptide-1.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3540

Dual oral combination therapy with metformin or a sulfonylurea

Type 2 diabetes, in combination with either metformin or a sulfonylurea, in a patient whose HbA1c is greater than 7% prior to initiation of a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin), a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1 despite treatment with either metformin or a sulfonylurea and where a combination of metformin and a sulfonylurea is contraindicated or not tolerated.

The date and level of the qualifying HbA1c must be documented in the patient's medical records at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated. The HbA1c must be no more than 4 months old at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated.

Blood glucose monitoring may be used as an alternative assessment to HbA1c levels in the following circumstances:

- (a) clinical conditions with reduced red blood cell survival, including haemolytic anaemias and haemoglobinopathies; and/or
 (b) red cell transfusion within the previous 3 months.

A patient in these circumstances will be eligible for treatment where blood glucose monitoring over a 2 week period shows blood glucose levels greater than 10 mmol per L in more than 20% of tests. The results of this blood glucose monitoring, which must be no more than 4 months old at the time of initiation of treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1, must be documented in the patient's medical records.

8689H NP	Tablet 4 mg (as maleate)	28	5	..	61.52	34.20	Avandia GK
8690J NP	Tablet 8 mg (as maleate)	28	5	..	91.19	34.20	Avandia GK

ROSIGLITAZONE with METFORMIN

Note

Rosiglitazone with metformin fixed dose combination tablet is not PBS-subsidised when used in combination with a sulfonylurea (triple oral therapy) or an insulin or a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin) or a glucagon-like peptide-1.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3544

Type 2 diabetes in a patient whose HbA1c is greater than 7% prior to initiation of a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin), a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1 despite treatment with metformin and where a sulfonylurea is contraindicated or not tolerated.

The date and level of the qualifying HbA1c must be documented in the patient's medical records at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated. The HbA1c must be no more than 4 months old at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated.

Blood glucose monitoring may be used as an alternative assessment to HbA1c levels in the following circumstances:

- (a) clinical conditions with reduced red blood cell survival, including haemolytic anaemias and haemoglobinopathies; and/or
 (b) red cell transfusion within the previous 3 months.

A patient in these circumstances will be eligible for treatment where blood glucose monitoring over a 2 week period shows blood glucose levels greater than 10 mmol per L in more than 20% of tests. The results of this blood glucose monitoring, which must be no more than 4 months old at the time of initiation of treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1, must be documented in the patient's medical records.

9059T NP	Tablet containing 2 mg rosiglitazone (as maleate) with 500 mg metformin hydrochloride	56	5	..	64.92	34.20	Avandamet GK
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GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	
9060W NP	Tablet containing 2 mg rosiglitazone (as maleate) with 1 g metformin hydrochloride	56	5	..	68.09	34.20	Avandamet	GK
9061X NP	Tablet containing 4 mg rosiglitazone (as maleate) with 500 mg metformin hydrochloride	56	5	..	94.59	34.20	Avandamet	GK
9062Y NP	Tablet containing 4 mg rosiglitazone (as maleate) with 1 g metformin hydrochloride	56	5	..	97.75	34.20	Avandamet	GK

SITAGLIPTIN

Note

Sitagliptin is not PBS-subsidised for use in combination with metformin and a sulfonylurea (triple oral therapy), as monotherapy or in combination with a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3540

Dual oral combination therapy with metformin or a sulfonylurea

Type 2 diabetes, in combination with either metformin or a sulfonylurea, in a patient whose HbA1c is greater than 7% prior to initiation of a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin), a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1 despite treatment with either metformin or a sulfonylurea and where a combination of metformin and a sulfonylurea is contraindicated or not tolerated.

The date and level of the qualifying HbA1c must be documented in the patient's medical records at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated. The HbA1c must be no more than 4 months old at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated.

Blood glucose monitoring may be used as an alternative assessment to HbA1c levels in the following circumstances:

- (a) clinical conditions with reduced red blood cell survival, including haemolytic anaemias and haemoglobinopathies; and/or
- (b) red cell transfusion within the previous 3 months.

A patient in these circumstances will be eligible for treatment where blood glucose monitoring over a 2 week period shows blood glucose levels greater than 10 mmol per L in more than 20% of tests. The results of this blood glucose monitoring, which must be no more than 4 months old at the time of initiation of treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1, must be documented in the patient's medical records.

9180E NP	Tablet 25 mg (as phosphate monohydrate)	28	5	..	91.19	34.20	Januvia	MK
9181F NP	Tablet 50 mg (as phosphate monohydrate)	28	5	..	91.19	34.20	Januvia	MK
9182G NP	Tablet 100 mg (as phosphate monohydrate)	28	5	..	91.19	34.20	Januvia	MK

SITAGLIPTIN with METFORMIN

Note

Sitagliptin with metformin fixed dose combination tablet is not PBS-subsidised for use in combination with a sulfonylurea (triple oral therapy), as initial therapy or in combination with a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3543

Type 2 diabetes in a patient whose HbA1c is greater than 7% prior to initiation of a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin), a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1 despite treatment with metformin and where a combination of metformin and a sulfonylurea is contraindicated or not tolerated.

The date and level of the qualifying HbA1c must be documented in the patient's medical records at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated. The HbA1c must be no more than 4 months old at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated.

Blood glucose monitoring may be used as an alternative assessment to HbA1c levels in the following circumstances:

- (a) clinical conditions with reduced red blood cell survival, including haemolytic anaemias and haemoglobinopathies; and/or
- (b) red cell transfusion within the previous 3 months.

A patient in these circumstances will be eligible for treatment where blood glucose monitoring over a 2 week period shows blood glucose levels greater than 10 mmol per L in more than 20% of tests. The results of this blood glucose monitoring, which must be no more than 4 months old at the time of initiation of treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1, must be documented in the patient's medical records.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3149

Continuation of therapy in type 2 diabetes mellitus in a patient who has previously received and been stabilised on a PBS-subsidised regimen of oral diabetic medicines which includes metformin and sitagliptin.

9449H NP	Tablet containing 50 mg sitagliptin (as phosphate monohydrate) with 500 mg metformin hydrochloride	56	5	..	94.64	34.20	Janumet	MK
9450J NP	Tablet containing 50 mg sitagliptin (as phosphate monohydrate) with 850 mg	56	5	..	96.97	34.20	Janumet	MK

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	
9451K NP	metformin hydrochloride Tablet containing 50 mg sitagliptin (as phosphate monohydrate) with 1000 mg metformin hydrochloride	56	5	..	97.57	34.20	Janumet	MK

SUMATRIPTAN

Caution

Sumatriptan is contraindicated in patients with known or suspected coronary artery disease. The drug should not be used within 24 hours of ergotamine or dihydroergotamine use.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3233

Migraine attack in a patient where attacks in the past have usually failed to respond to analgesics.

Note

No applications for increased maximum quantities and/or repeats will be authorised.

Note

Continuing Therapy Only:

For prescribing by nurse practitioners as continuing therapy only, where the treatment of, and prescribing of medicine for, a patient has been initiated by a medical practitioner. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.

8144P	Tablet 50 mg (as succinate)	4	5	..	*24.38	25.45	^a	APO-Sumatriptan	TX
<i>NP</i>							^a	Chem mart Sumatriptan	CH
							^a	Imigran	GK
							^a	Pharmacor Sumatriptan 50	CR
							^a	Sumagran 50	SI
							^a	Sumatab	AF
							^a	Sumatriptan-GA	GM
							^a	Sumatriptan generichealth	GQ
							^a	Terry White Chemists Sumatriptan	TW

TRAMADOL HYDROCHLORIDE

Restricted benefit

Restricted benefit
For pain where aspirin and/or paracetamol alone are inappropriate or have failed.

Note

Authorities for increased maximum quantities and/or repeats will be granted only for severe disabling pain not responding to non-narcotic analgesics.

8523N NP	Tablet 100 mg (twice daily sustained release)	20	..	..	13.49	14.56	^a	APO-Tramadol SR	TX
							^a	Chem mart Tramadol SR	CH
							^a	GA Tramadol SR 100mg	GM
							^a	Lodam SR 100	ZP
							^a	Terry White Chemists Tramadol SR	TW
							^a	Tramadol Sandoz SR	SZ
							^a	Tramedo SR 100	AF
							^a	Zydol SR 100	SI
				^B 4.28	17.77	14.56	^a	Tramal SR 100	CS
5234L	Tablet 100 mg (twice daily sustained release) (Dental)	20	..	..	13.49	14.56	^a	APO-Tramadol SR	TX
							^a	Chem mart Tramadol SR	CH
							^a	GA Tramadol SR 100mg	GM

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
							^a Lodam SR 100 ZP
							^a Terry White Chemists TW
							Tramadol SR
							^a Tramadol Sandoz SZ
							SR
							^a Tramedo SR 100 AF
							^a Zydol SR 100 SI
				^B 4.28	17.77	14.56	^a Tramal SR 100 CS

USTEKINUMAB

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe ustekinumab may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application Forms) is available on the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Written applications for authority to prescribe ustekinumab should be forwarded to:

Medicare Australia
Prior Written Approval of Specialised Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
GPO Box 9826
HOBART TAS 7001;

Note

TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE CHRONIC PLAQUE PSORIASIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological agents adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab, for adult patients with severe chronic plaque psoriasis. Therefore, where the term 'biological agents' appears in the following NOTES and restrictions, it only refers to adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab.

From 1 March 2010, all patients will be able to commence a 'Biological Treatment Cycle' (Cycle), where they may trial adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab without having to meet the initial treatment criteria, that is they will not need to experience a disease flare when swapping to an alternate agent. Under these interchangeability arrangements, within a single Cycle, patients may receive long-term treatment with a biological agent as long as they sustain a response to therapy.

A patient who received PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis prior to 1 March 2010 is considered to be in their first Cycle as of 1 March 2010.

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 biological agent at any 1 time.

Within the same Treatment Cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised biological agent more than once. Therefore once a patient fails to meet the response criteria for a PBS-subsidised biological agent, they must change to an alternate agent if they wish to continue PBS-subsidised biological treatment. A patient who, prior to 1 March 2010, was authorised to receive PBS-subsidised initial treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis with the same agent twice, is exempt from this condition in respect of applications approved prior to 1 March 2010.

Patients must be assessed for response to each course of continuing treatment according to the criteria included in the relevant continuing treatment restriction.

Once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 3 times, they are deemed to have completed a Treatment Cycle and they must have, at a minimum, a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised biological agent therapy before they are eligible to commence the next Cycle. The 5-year break is measured from the date of the last approval for PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment in the most recent Cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with a biological agent under the new Treatment Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of less than 5 years duration has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, may commence a further course of treatment within that Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of 5 years or more has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, are eligible to commence a new Cycle.

There is no limit to the number of Biological Treatment Cycles a patient may undertake in their lifetime.

How to prescribe biological agents for the treatment of severe chronic plaque psoriasis after 1 March 2010.

There are separate restrictions for both the initial and continuing treatment for psoriasis affecting the whole body, versus psoriasis affecting the face,

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

hands and feet.

(1) Application for approval for initial treatment.

Applications for a course of initial treatment should be made in the following situations:

- (i) patients have received no prior PBS-subsidised biological treatment and wish to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or
- (ii) patients have received prior PBS-subsidised biological therapy and wish to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under '(4) Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iii) patients who wish to re-commence treatment following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

All applications for initial treatment will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment in the case of adalimumab and etanercept, 22 weeks of treatment in the case of infliximab and 28 weeks of treatment in the case of ustekinumab.

(2) Assessment of response to initial treatment.

When prescribing initial treatment with a biological agent, a PASI assessment must be conducted after at least 12 weeks of treatment. This assessment must be submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of the completion of this initial treatment course. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

(3) Application for continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course of a biological agent to which an adequate response has been demonstrated, patients may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that biological agent. Patients are eligible to continue to receive continuous treatment with 24 week courses providing they continue to sustain a response.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, patients will be deemed to have failed to sustain a response to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

(4) Swapping therapy.

Once an authority for initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised biological agent is approved, patients may swap to an alternate agent within the same Treatment Cycle without having to requalify with respect to disease severity (i.e. a PASI score of greater than 15), or prior treatment requirements.

Patients who are not able to complete a minimum of 12 weeks of an initial treatment course will be deemed to have failed treatment with that agent.

Patients may trial an alternate biological agent at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy with a biological agent at the time of the application or not. However, they cannot swap to a particular agent if they have failed to respond to treatment with that particular agent within the same Cycle.

Patients who commenced treatment with adalimumab prior to 1 June 2009 or ustekinumab prior to 1 March 2010 access these interchangeability arrangements in the same way as patients who have not.

To ensure patients receive the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under the interchangeability arrangements, it is important that they are assessed for response to every course of treatment approved, within the timeframes specified in the relevant restriction.

To avoid confusion, applications for patients who wish to swap to an alternate biological agent should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the agent being ceased.

(5) Baseline measurements to determine response.

Medicare Australia will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated, based on the baseline PASI assessment submitted with the first authority application for a biological agent. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority is submitted within a Treatment Cycle and subsequent response will be assessed according to this revised PASI score.

To ensure consistency in determining response, the same body area assessed at the baseline PASI assessment must be assessed for demonstration of response to treatment for the purposes of all continuing treatment applications.

(6) Re-commencement of treatment after a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised therapy.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

Patients who wish to trial a second or subsequent Biological Treatment Cycle, following a break in PBS-subsidised biological therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment according to the criteria of the relevant restriction and index of disease severity. Patients must have had at least 1 prior treatment, as listed in the criteria, for a minimum of 6 weeks, and must have a PASI assessment conducted preferably whilst still on treatment, but no later than 1 month following cessation of treatment. The PASI assessment must be no older than 1 month at the time of application.

Authority required

Initial treatment [Initial 1, Whole body (New patients — No prior biological agent)]

Initial treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have severe chronic plaque psoriasis where lesions have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; and
- (b) have not received any prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have signed a patient and prescriber acknowledgement indicating they understand and acknowledge that PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if they do not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment (whole body); and
- (d) have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 3 of the following 4 treatments:
 - (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks.

If treatment with any of the above-mentioned drugs is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, please provide details at the time of application.

If intolerance to treatment develops during the relevant period of use, which is of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, please provide details of the degree of this toxicity at the time of application. Details of acceptable toxicities including severity, associated with phototherapy, methotrexate, cyclosporin and acitretin, can be found on the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au).

The following initiation criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response and must be demonstrated in all patients at the time of the application:

- (a) A current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score of greater than 15, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment.
- (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment.
- (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]; and
 - (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]; and
 - (iii) the signed patient and prescriber acknowledgements.

A maximum of 28 weeks of treatment with ustekinumab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single injection. Up to a maximum of 2 repeats will be authorised.

Where fewer than 2 repeats are requested at the time of the initial application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 28 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 28 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with ustekinumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised ustekinumab treatment.

Note

No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

Authority required

Initial or re-Treatment [Initial 2, Whole body (Received prior biological agent under PBS)]

Treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis; and
- (b) have received prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have not failed PBS-subsidised therapy with ustekinumab for the treatment of this condition in the current Treatment Cycle.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]; and
 - (ii) details of prior biological treatment, including dosage, date and duration of treatment.

Applications for patients who have demonstrated a response to PBS-subsidised ustekinumab treatment within this Treatment Cycle and who wish to re-commence ustekinumab treatment within the same Cycle following a break in therapy, will only be approved where evidence of the patient's response to their most recent course of PBS-subsidised ustekinumab treatment has been submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of cessation of treatment.

A maximum of 28 weeks of treatment with ustekinumab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single injection. Up to a maximum of 2 repeats will be authorised.

Where fewer than 2 repeats are requested at the time of the initial application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 28 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 28 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with ustekinumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised ustekinumab treatment.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Note

No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

Authority required

Initial treatment [Initial 1, Face, hand, foot (New patients — No prior biological agent)]

Initial treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot where the plaque or plaques have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; and
- (b) have not received any prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have signed a patient and prescriber acknowledgement indicating they understand and acknowledge that PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if they do not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment (face, hand, foot); and
- (d) have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 3 of the following 4 treatments:
 - (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks.

If treatment with any of the above-mentioned drugs is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, please provide details at the time of application.

If intolerance to treatment develops during the relevant period of use, which is of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, please provide details of the degree of this toxicity at the time of application. Details of acceptable toxicities including severity, associated with phototherapy, methotrexate, cyclosporin and acitretin, can be found on the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au).

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

The following initiation criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response and must be demonstrated in all patients at the time of the application:

- (a) Chronic plaque psoriasis classified as severe due to a plaque or plaques on the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot where:
 - (i) at least 2 of the 3 Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for erythema, thickness and scaling are rated as severe or very severe, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment; or
 - (ii) the skin area affected is 30% or more of the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment.
- (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment.
- (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]]; and
 - (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]; and
 - (iii) the signed patient and prescriber acknowledgements.

A maximum of 28 weeks of treatment with ustekinumab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single injection. Up to a maximum of 2 repeats will be authorised.

Where fewer than 2 repeats are requested at the time of the initial application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 28 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 28 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with ustekinumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised ustekinumab treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

Note

No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

Authority required

Initial or re-Treatment [Initial 2, Face, hand, foot (Received prior biological agent under PBS)]

Treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot; and
- (b) have received prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have not failed PBS-subsidised therapy with ustekinumab for the treatment of this condition in the current Treatment Cycle.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]]; and
 - (ii) details of prior biological treatment, including dosage, date and duration of treatment.

Applications for patients who have demonstrated a response to PBS-subsidised ustekinumab treatment within this Treatment Cycle and who wish to re-commence ustekinumab treatment within the same Cycle following a break in therapy, will only be approved where evidence of the patient's response to their most recent course of PBS-subsidised ustekinumab treatment has been submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of cessation of treatment.

A maximum of 28 weeks of treatment with ustekinumab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single injection. Up to a maximum of 2 repeats will be authorised.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

Where fewer than 2 repeats are requested at the time of the initial application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 28 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 28 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with ustekinumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised ustekinumab treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Note

No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

Note

Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

9304Q	Injection 45 mg in 0.5 mL	1	2	..	4601.42	34.20	Stelara	JC
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USTEKINUMAB

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe ustekinumab may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application Forms) is available on the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Written applications for authority to prescribe ustekinumab should be forwarded to:

Medicare Australia
Prior Written Approval of Specialised Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
GPO Box 9826
HOBART TAS 7001;

Note

TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE CHRONIC PLAQUE PSORIASIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological agents adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab, for adult patients with severe chronic plaque psoriasis. Therefore, where the term 'biological agents' appears in the following NOTES and restrictions, it only refers to adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab.

From 1 March 2010, all patients will be able to commence a 'Biological Treatment Cycle' (Cycle), where they may trial adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab without having to meet the initial treatment criteria, that is they will not need to experience a disease flare when swapping to an alternate agent. Under these interchangeability arrangements, within a single Cycle, patients may receive long-term treatment with a biological agent as long as they sustain a response to therapy.

A patient who received PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis prior to 1 March 2010 is considered to be in their first Cycle as of 1 March 2010.

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 biological agent at any 1 time.

Within the same Treatment Cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised biological agent more than once. Therefore once a patient fails to meet the response criteria for a PBS-subsidised biological agent, they must change to an alternate agent if they wish to continue PBS-subsidised biological treatment. A patient who, prior to 1 March 2010, was authorised to receive PBS-subsidised initial treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis with the same agent twice, is exempt from this condition in respect of applications approved prior to 1 March 2010.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

Patients must be assessed for response to each course of continuing treatment according to the criteria included in the relevant continuing treatment restriction.

Once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 3 times, they are deemed to have completed a Treatment Cycle and they must have, at a minimum, a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised biological agent therapy before they are eligible to commence the next Cycle. The 5-year break is measured from the date of the last approval for PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment in the most recent Cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with a biological agent under the new Treatment Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of less than 5 years duration has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, may commence a further course of treatment within that Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of 5 years or more has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, are eligible to commence a new Cycle.

There is no limit to the number of Biological Treatment Cycles a patient may undertake in their lifetime.

How to prescribe biological agents for the treatment of severe chronic plaque psoriasis after 1 March 2010.

There are separate restrictions for both the initial and continuing treatment for psoriasis affecting the whole body, versus psoriasis affecting the face, hands and feet.

(1) Application for approval for initial treatment.

Applications for a course of initial treatment should be made in the following situations:

- (i) patients have received no prior PBS-subsidised biological treatment and wish to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or
- (ii) patients have received prior PBS-subsidised biological therapy and wish to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under '(4) Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iii) patients who wish to re-commence treatment following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

All applications for initial treatment will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment in the case of adalimumab and etanercept, 22 weeks of treatment in the case of infliximab and 28 weeks of treatment in the case of ustekinumab.

(2) Assessment of response to initial treatment.

When prescribing initial treatment with a biological agent, a PASI assessment must be conducted after at least 12 weeks of treatment. This assessment must be submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of the completion of this initial treatment course. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

(3) Application for continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course of a biological agent to which an adequate response has been demonstrated, patients may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that biological agent. Patients are eligible to continue to receive continuous treatment with 24 week courses providing they continue to sustain a response.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, patients will be deemed to have failed to sustain a response to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

(4) Swapping therapy.

Once an authority for initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised biological agent is approved, patients may swap to an alternate agent within the same Treatment Cycle without having to requalify with respect to disease severity (i.e. a PASI score of greater than 15), or prior treatment requirements.

Patients who are not able to complete a minimum of 12 weeks of an initial treatment course will be deemed to have failed treatment with that agent.

Patients may trial an alternate biological agent at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy with a biological agent at the time of the application or not. However, they cannot swap to a particular agent if they have failed to respond to treatment with that particular agent within the same Cycle.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

Patients who commenced treatment with adalimumab prior to 1 June 2009 or ustekinumab prior to 1 March 2010 access these interchangeability arrangements in the same way as patients who have not.

To ensure patients receive the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under the interchangeability arrangements, it is important that they are assessed for response to every course of treatment approved, within the timeframes specified in the relevant restriction.

To avoid confusion, applications for patients who wish to swap to an alternate biological agent should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the agent being ceased.

(5) Baseline measurements to determine response.

Medicare Australia will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated, based on the baseline PASI assessment submitted with the first authority application for a biological agent. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority is submitted within a Treatment Cycle and subsequent response will be assessed according to this revised PASI score.

To ensure consistency in determining response, the same body area assessed at the baseline PASI assessment must be assessed for demonstration of response to treatment for the purposes of all continuing treatment applications.

(6) Re-commencement of treatment after a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised therapy.

Patients who wish to trial a second or subsequent Biological Treatment Cycle, following a break in PBS-subsidised biological therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment according to the criteria of the relevant restriction and index of disease severity. Patients must have had at least 1 prior treatment, as listed in the criteria, for a minimum of 6 weeks, and must have a PASI assessment conducted preferably whilst still on treatment, but no later than 1 month following cessation of treatment. The PASI assessment must be no older than 1 month at the time of application.

Authority required

Continuing treatment (Whole body)

Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over:

- (a) who have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis; and
- (b) whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised biological treatment for this condition in this Treatment Cycle was with ustekinumab; and
- (c) who have demonstrated an adequate response to their most recent course of treatment with ustekinumab.

An adequate response to treatment is defined as:

A Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score which is reduced by 75% or more, or is sustained at this level, when compared with the pre-biological treatment baseline value for this Treatment Cycle.

This assessment must be provided to Medicare Australia no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with ustekinumab, the assessment of response must be after a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with an initial course.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheet along with the date of the assessment of the patient's condition.

The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Approval will be based on the PASI assessment of response to the most recent course of treatment with ustekinumab.

A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with ustekinumab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single injection. Up to a maximum of 1 repeat will be authorised.

Where fewer than 1 repeat is requested at the time of the application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for continuing authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the treatment period beyond 24 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response must be conducted within 4 weeks prior to completion of this course of treatment. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for further continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with ustekinumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised ustekinumab treatment.

GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	\$	

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Note

No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

Authority required

Continuing treatment (Face, hand, foot)

Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over:

- (a) who have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot; and
- (b) whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised biological treatment for this condition in this Treatment Cycle was with ustekinumab; and
- (c) who have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment with ustekinumab.

An adequate response to ustekinumab treatment is defined as the plaque or plaques assessed prior to biological treatment showing:

- (i) a reduction in the Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for all 3 of erythema, thickness and scaling, to slight or better, or sustained at this level, as compared to the pre-biological treatment baseline values; or
- (ii) a reduction by 75% or more in the skin area affected, or sustained at this level, as compared to the pre-biological treatment baseline value.

This assessment must be provided to Medicare Australia no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with ustekinumab, the assessment of response must be after a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with an initial course.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheet and face, hand, foot area diagrams along with the date of the assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)].

The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with ustekinumab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single injection. Up to a maximum of 1 repeat will be authorised.

Where fewer than 1 repeat is requested at the time of the application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for continuing authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the treatment period beyond 24 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response must be conducted within 4 weeks prior to completion of this course of treatment. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for further continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with ustekinumab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised ustekinumab treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area assessed at baseline.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Note

No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

Note

Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

9305R	Injection 45 mg in 0.5 mL	1	1	..	4601.42	34.20	Stelara	JC
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GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty \$	Maximum Recordable Value for Safety Net \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
VILDAGLIPTIN							
<u>Note</u>							
Vildagliptin is not PBS-subsidised for use in combination with metformin and a sulfonylurea (triple oral therapy), as monotherapy or in combination with a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1.							
<u>Authority required (STREAMLINED)</u>							
3540							
Dual oral combination therapy with metformin or a sulfonylurea							
Type 2 diabetes, in combination with either metformin or a sulfonylurea, in a patient whose HbA1c is greater than 7% prior to initiation of a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor (gliptin), a thiazolidinedione (glitazone) or a glucagon-like peptide-1 despite treatment with either metformin or a sulfonylurea and where a combination of metformin and a sulfonylurea is contraindicated or not tolerated.							
The date and level of the qualifying HbA1c must be documented in the patient's medical records at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated. The HbA1c must be no more than 4 months old at the time treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1 is initiated.							
Blood glucose monitoring may be used as an alternative assessment to HbA1c levels in the following circumstances:							
(a) clinical conditions with reduced red blood cell survival, including haemolytic anaemias and haemoglobinopathies; and/or							
(b) red cell transfusion within the previous 3 months.							
A patient in these circumstances will be eligible for treatment where blood glucose monitoring over a 2 week period shows blood glucose levels greater than 10 mmol per L in more than 20% of tests. The results of this blood glucose monitoring, which must be no more than 4 months old at the time of initiation of treatment with a gliptin, a glitazone or a glucagon-like peptide-1, must be documented in the patient's medical records.							
3415R NP	Tablet 50 mg	60	5	..	97.24	34.20	Galvus NV

HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM

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					Price for Max. Qty	\$	

CINACALCET

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3323

Management, including initiation and stabilisation, by a nephrologist, of a patient with chronic kidney disease on dialysis who has sustained secondary hyperparathyroidism with iPTH of at least 50 pmol per L, not responding to conventional therapy.

Note

During the titration phase, intact PTH should be monitored 4 weekly (measured at least 12 hours post dose) and dose titrated until an appropriate iPTH concentration is achieved. During the titration phase, approval will be limited to sufficient supply for 4 weeks treatment at a time, with doses between 30 and 180 mg per day according to the patient's response and tolerability.

During the maintenance phase, approval will be limited to provide sufficient quantity for 4 weeks treatment up to a maximum of 6 months supply for doses between 30 and 180 mg per day according to the patient's response and tolerability. Intact PTH should be monitored quarterly (measured at least 12 hours post dose) and dose adjusted as necessary to maintain an appropriate iPTH concentration.

"Sustained" means the abnormality was detected on at least 2 blood samples collected over a period of 2 to 4 months.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3324

Management, including initiation and stabilisation, by a nephrologist, of a patient with chronic kidney disease on dialysis who has sustained secondary hyperparathyroidism with iPTH of at least 15 pmol per L and less than 50 pmol per L AND an (adjusted) serum calcium concentration at least 2.6 mmol per L, not responding to conventional treatment.

Note

During the titration phase, intact PTH should be monitored 4 weekly (measured at least 12 hours post dose) and dose titrated until an appropriate iPTH concentration is achieved. During the titration phase, approval will be limited to sufficient supply for 4 weeks treatment at a time, with doses between 30 and 180 mg per day according to the patient's response and tolerability.

During the maintenance phase, approval will be limited to provide sufficient quantity for 4 weeks treatment up to a maximum of 6 months supply for doses between 30 and 180 mg per day according to the patient's response and tolerability. Intact PTH should be monitored quarterly (measured at least 12 hours post dose) and dose adjusted as necessary to maintain an appropriate iPTH concentration.

"Sustained" means the abnormality was detected on at least 2 blood samples collected over a period of 2 to 4 months.

Note

Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

5621W	Tablet 30 mg (as hydrochloride) (Public)	56	5	..	*593.72	Sensipar	AN
5622X	Tablet 60 mg (as hydrochloride) (Public)	56	5	..	*1187.44	Sensipar	AN
5623Y	Tablet 90 mg (as hydrochloride) (Public)	56	5	..	*1781.16	Sensipar	AN

CINACALCET

Authority required

Management, including initiation and stabilisation, by a nephrologist, of a patient with chronic kidney disease on dialysis who has sustained secondary hyperparathyroidism with iPTH of at least 50 pmol per L, not responding to conventional therapy.

Note

During the titration phase, intact PTH should be monitored 4 weekly (measured at least 12 hours post dose) and dose titrated until an appropriate iPTH concentration is achieved. During the titration phase, approval will be limited to sufficient supply for 4 weeks treatment at a time, with doses between 30 and 180 mg per day according to the patient's response and tolerability.

During the maintenance phase, approval will be limited to provide sufficient quantity for 4 weeks treatment up to a maximum of 6 months supply for doses between 30 and 180 mg per day according to the patient's response and tolerability. Intact PTH should be monitored quarterly (measured at least 12 hours post dose) and dose adjusted as necessary to maintain an appropriate iPTH concentration.

"Sustained" means the abnormality was detected on at least 2 blood samples collected over a period of 2 to 4 months.

Authority required

Management, including initiation and stabilisation, by a nephrologist, of a patient with chronic kidney disease on dialysis who has sustained secondary hyperparathyroidism with iPTH of at least 15 pmol per L and less than 50 pmol per L AND an (adjusted) serum calcium concentration at least 2.6 mmol per L, not responding to conventional treatment.

Note

During the titration phase, intact PTH should be monitored 4 weekly (measured at least 12 hours post dose) and dose titrated until an appropriate iPTH concentration is achieved. During the titration phase, approval will be limited to sufficient supply for 4 weeks treatment at a time, with doses between 30 and 180 mg per day according to the patient's response and tolerability.

HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					\$	

During the maintenance phase, approval will be limited to provide sufficient quantity for 4 weeks treatment up to a maximum of 6 months supply for doses between 30 and 180 mg per day according to the patient's response and tolerability. Intact PTH should be monitored quarterly (measured at least 12 hours post dose) and dose adjusted as necessary to maintain an appropriate iPTH concentration.

"Sustained" means the abnormality was detected on at least 2 blood samples collected over a period of 2 to 4 months.

Note

Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

9625N	Tablet 30 mg (as hydrochloride) (Private)	56	5	..	*623.88	Sensipar	AN
9626P	Tablet 60 mg (as hydrochloride) (Private)	56	5	..	*1233.86	Sensipar	AN
9627Q	Tablet 90 mg (as hydrochloride) (Private)	56	5	..	*1827.58	Sensipar	AN

FOSAMPRENAVIR

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

3588

Initial treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents in a patient with a CD4 count of less than 500 per cubic millimetre or symptomatic HIV disease;

3589

Continuing treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents where the patient has previously received PBS-subsidised therapy for HIV infection.

5746K	Tablet 700 mg (as calcium) (Public)	120	5	..	*758.32	Telzir	VI
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FOSAMPRENAVIR

Authority required

Initial treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents in a patient with a CD4 count of less than 500 per cubic millimetre or symptomatic HIV disease;

Continuing treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents where the patient has previously received PBS-subsidised therapy for HIV infection.

6453P	Tablet 700 mg (as calcium) (Private)	120	5	..	*795.08	Telzir	VI
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INFLIXIMAB

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe infliximab may be directed to Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application Forms) is available on the Medicare Australia website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.

Written applications for authority to prescribe infliximab should be forwarded to:

Medicare Australia
Prior Written Approval of Specialised Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
GPO Box 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

;

Note

TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE CHRONIC PLAQUE PSORIASIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological agents adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab, for adult patients with severe chronic plaque psoriasis. Therefore, where the term 'biological agents' appears in the following NOTES and restrictions, it only refers to adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and ustekinumab.

From 1 March 2010, all patients will be able to commence a 'Biological Treatment Cycle' (Cycle), where they may trial adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab without having to meet the initial treatment criteria, that is they will not need to experience a disease flare when swapping to an alternate agent. Under these interchangeability arrangements, within a single Cycle, patients may receive long-term treatment with

HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	Dispensed	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Price for Max. Qty \$	

a biological agent as long as they sustain a response to therapy.

A patient who received PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis prior to 1 March 2010 is considered to be in their first Cycle as of 1 March 2010.

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 biological agent at any 1 time.

Within the same Treatment Cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised biological agent more than once. Therefore once a patient fails to meet the response criteria for a PBS-subsidised biological agent, they must change to an alternate agent if they wish to continue PBS-subsidised biological treatment. A patient who, prior to 1 March 2010, was authorised to receive PBS-subsidised initial treatment for chronic plaque psoriasis with the same agent twice, is exempt from this condition in respect of applications approved prior to 1 March 2010.

Patients must be assessed for response to each course of continuing treatment according to the criteria included in the relevant continuing treatment restriction.

Once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 3 times, they are deemed to have completed a Treatment Cycle and they must have, at a minimum, a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised biological agent therapy before they are eligible to commence the next Cycle. The 5-year break is measured from the date of the last approval for PBS-subsidised biological agent treatment in the most recent Cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with a biological agent under the new Treatment Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of less than 5 years duration has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, may commence a further course of treatment within that Cycle.

Patients for whom a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of 5 years or more has occurred, and, who have failed therapy fewer than 3 times within a particular Cycle, as defined in the relevant restriction, are eligible to commence a new Cycle.

There is no limit to the number of Biological Treatment Cycles a patient may undertake in their lifetime.

How to prescribe biological agents for the treatment of severe chronic plaque psoriasis after 1 March 2010.

There are separate restrictions for both the initial and continuing treatment for psoriasis affecting the whole body, versus psoriasis affecting the face, hands and feet.

(1) Application for approval for initial treatment.

Applications for a course of initial treatment should be made in the following situations:

- (i) patients have received no prior PBS-subsidised biological treatment and wish to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or
- (ii) patients have received prior PBS-subsidised biological therapy and wish to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under '(4) Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iii) patients who wish to re-commence treatment following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

All applications for initial treatment will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment in the case of adalimumab and etanercept, 22 weeks of treatment in the case of infliximab and 28 weeks of treatment in the case of ustekinumab.

(2) Assessment of response to initial treatment.

When prescribing initial treatment with a biological agent, a PASI assessment must be conducted after at least 12 weeks of treatment. This assessment must be submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of the completion of this initial treatment course. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

(3) Application for continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course of a biological agent to which an adequate response has been demonstrated, patients may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that biological agent. Patients are eligible to continue to receive continuous treatment with 24 week courses providing they continue to sustain a response.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab or ustekinumab it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, patients will be deemed to have failed to sustain a response to treatment with that biological agent. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	Dispensed	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Price for Max. Qty \$	

(4) Swapping therapy.

Once an authority for initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised biological agent is approved, patients may swap to an alternate agent within the same Treatment Cycle without having to requalify with respect to disease severity (i.e. a PASI score of greater than 15), or prior treatment requirements.

Patients who are not able to complete a minimum of 12 weeks of an initial treatment course will be deemed to have failed treatment with that agent.

Patients may trial an alternate biological agent at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy with a biological agent at the time of the application or not. However, they cannot swap to a particular agent if they have failed to respond to treatment with that particular agent within the same Cycle.

Patients who commenced treatment with adalimumab prior to 1 June 2009 or ustekinumab prior to 1 March 2010 access these interchangeability arrangements in the same way as patients who have not.

To ensure patients receive the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under the interchangeability arrangements, it is important that they are assessed for response to every course of treatment approved, within the timeframes specified in the relevant restriction.

To avoid confusion, applications for patients who wish to swap to an alternate biological agent should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the agent being ceased.

(5) Baseline measurements to determine response.

Medicare Australia will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated, based on the baseline PASI assessment submitted with the first authority application for a biological agent. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority is submitted within a Treatment Cycle and subsequent response will be assessed according to this revised PASI score.

To ensure consistency in determining response, the same body area assessed at the baseline PASI assessment must be assessed for demonstration of response to treatment for the purposes of all continuing treatment applications.

(6) Re-commencement of treatment after a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised therapy.

Patients who wish to trial a second or subsequent Biological Treatment Cycle, following a break in PBS-subsidised biological therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment according to the criteria of the relevant restriction and index of disease severity. Patients must have had at least 1 prior treatment, as listed in the criteria, for a minimum of 6 weeks, and must have a PASI assessment conducted preferably whilst still on treatment, but no later than 1 month following cessation of treatment. The PASI assessment must be no older than 1 month at the time of application.

Authority required

Initial treatment [Initial 1, Whole body (New patients — No prior biological agent)]

Initial treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have severe chronic plaque psoriasis where lesions have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; and
- (b) have not received any prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have signed a patient and prescriber acknowledgement indicating they understand and acknowledge that PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if they do not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment (whole body); and
- (d) have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 3 of the following 4 treatments:
 - (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks.

If treatment with any of the above-mentioned drugs is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, please provide details at the time of application.

If intolerance to treatment develops during the relevant period of use, which is of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, please provide details of the degree of this toxicity at the time of application. Details of acceptable toxicities including severity, associated with phototherapy, methotrexate, cyclosporin and acitretin, can be found on the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au).

The following initiation criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response and must be demonstrated in all patients at the time of the application:

- (a) A current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score of greater than 15, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment.
- (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment.
- (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	Dispensed		Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Price for Max. Qty	Max. Qty	

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]]; and
 - (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]; and
 - (iii) the signed patient and prescriber acknowledgements.

A maximum of 22 weeks of treatment with infliximab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single infusion at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised.

Where fewer than 3 repeats are requested at the time of the initial application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 22 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 22 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with infliximab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised infliximab treatment.

Authority required

Initial or re-Treatment [Initial 2, Whole body (Received prior biological agent under PBS)]

Treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis; and
- (b) have received prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have not failed PBS-subsidised therapy with infliximab for the treatment of this condition in the current Treatment Cycle.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)]]; and
 - (ii) details of prior biological treatment, including dosage, date and duration of treatment.

Applications for patients who have demonstrated a response to PBS-subsidised infliximab treatment within this Treatment Cycle and who wish to re-commence infliximab treatment within the same Cycle following a break in therapy, will only be approved where evidence of the patient's response to their most recent course of PBS-subsidised infliximab treatment has been submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of cessation of treatment.

A maximum of 22 weeks of treatment with infliximab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single infusion at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised.

Where fewer than 3 repeats are requested at the time of the initial application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 22 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 22 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with infliximab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised infliximab treatment.

HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	Dispensed Price for		Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Max. Qty	\$	

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Authority required

Continuing treatment (Whole body)

Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over:

- (a) who have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis; and
- (b) whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised biological treatment for this condition in this Treatment Cycle was with infliximab; and
- (c) who have demonstrated an adequate response to their most recent course of treatment with infliximab.

An adequate response to treatment is defined as:

A Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score which is reduced by 75% or more, or is sustained at this level, when compared with the pre-biological treatment baseline value for this Treatment Cycle.

This assessment must be provided to Medicare Australia no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with infliximab, the assessment of response must be after a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with an initial course.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheet along with the date of the assessment of the patient's condition.

The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Approval will be based on the PASI assessment of response to the most recent course of treatment with infliximab.

A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with infliximab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single infusion at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 2 repeats will be authorised.

Where fewer than 2 repeats are requested at the time of the application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for continuing authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the treatment period beyond 24 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response must be conducted within 4 weeks prior to completion of this course of treatment. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for further continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with infliximab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised infliximab treatment.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Authority required

Initial treatment [Initial 1, Face, hand, foot (New patients — No prior biological agent)]

Initial treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot where the plaque or plaques have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; and
- (b) have not received any prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have signed a patient and prescriber acknowledgement indicating they understand and acknowledge that PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if they do not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment (face, hand, foot); and
- (d) have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 3 of the following 4 treatments:
 - (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; and/or
 - (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks.

HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	Dispensed Price for	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Max. Qty \$	

If treatment with any of the above-mentioned drugs is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, please provide details at the time of application.

If intolerance to treatment develops during the relevant period of use, which is of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, please provide details of the degree of this toxicity at the time of application. Details of acceptable toxicities including severity, associated with phototherapy, methotrexate, cyclosporin and acitretin, can be found on the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au).

The following initiation criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response and must be demonstrated in all patients at the time of the application:

- (a) Chronic plaque psoriasis classified as severe due to a plaque or plaques on the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot where:
 - (i) at least 2 of the 3 Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for erythema, thickness and scaling are rated as severe or very severe, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment; or
 - (ii) the skin area affected is 30% or more of the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment.
- (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment.
- (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] and
 - (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]; and
 - (iii) the signed patient and prescriber acknowledgements.

A maximum of 22 weeks of treatment with infliximab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single infusion at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised.

Where fewer than 3 repeats are requested at the time of the initial application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 22 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 22 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with infliximab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised infliximab treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

Authority required

Initial or re-Treatment [Initial 2, Face, hand, foot (Received prior biological agent under PBS)]

Treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over who:

- (a) have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot; and
- (b) have received prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological agent for this condition in this Treatment Cycle; and
- (c) have not failed PBS-subsidised therapy with infliximab for the treatment of this condition in the current Treatment Cycle.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] and
 - (ii) details of prior biological treatment, including dosage, date and duration of treatment.

Applications for patients who have demonstrated a response to PBS-subsidised infliximab treatment within this Treatment Cycle and who wish to re-commence infliximab treatment within the same Cycle following a break in therapy, will only be approved where evidence of the patient's response to their most recent course of PBS-subsidised infliximab treatment has been submitted to Medicare Australia within 1 month of cessation of treatment.

HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	Dispensed Price for	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Max. Qty \$	

A maximum of 22 weeks of treatment with infliximab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single infusion at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised.

Where fewer than 3 repeats are requested at the time of the initial application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 22 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for initial authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the initial treatment period beyond 22 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response to this course of treatment must be made after at least 12 weeks of treatment so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for continuing treatment, must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this initial course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with infliximab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised infliximab treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Authority required

Continuing treatment (Face, hand, foot)

Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate) by a dermatologist for adults 18 years and over:

- (a) who have a documented history of severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot; and
- (b) whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised biological treatment for this condition in this Treatment Cycle was with infliximab; and
- (c) who have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment with infliximab.

An adequate response to infliximab treatment is defined as the plaque or plaques assessed prior to biological treatment showing:

- (i) a reduction in the Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for all 3 of erythema, thickness and scaling, to slight or better, or sustained at this level, as compared to the pre-biological treatment baseline values; or
- (ii) a reduction by 75% or more in the skin area affected, or sustained at this level, as compared to the pre-biological treatment baseline value.

This assessment must be provided to Medicare Australia no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with infliximab, the assessment of response must be after a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with an initial course.

Applications for authorisation must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)] which includes the following:
 - (i) the completed Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheet and face, hand, foot area diagrams along with the date of the assessment of the patient's condition [may be downloaded from the Medicare Australia website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)].

The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with infliximab will be authorised under this restriction.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single infusion at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 2 repeats will be authorised.

Where fewer than 2 repeats are requested at the time of the application, authority approvals for sufficient repeats to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday). Under no circumstances will telephone approvals be granted for continuing authority applications, or for treatment that would otherwise extend the treatment period beyond 24 weeks.

A PASI assessment of the patient's response must be conducted within 4 weeks prior to completion of this course of treatment. This assessment, which will be used to determine eligibility for further continuing treatment must be submitted to Medicare Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of this course of treatment. Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted to Medicare Australia within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with infliximab. In circumstances where it is not possible to submit a response assessment within these timeframes, please call Medicare Australia on 1800 700 270 to discuss.

HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	Dispensed Price for	Brand Name and Manufacturer
					Max. Qty \$	

It is recommended that an application is posted to Medicare Australia no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course to ensure continuity of treatment for those patients who meet the continuation criterion for PBS-subsidised infliximab treatment.

The PASI assessment for continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area assessed at baseline.

Patients who fail to demonstrate a response to treatment with 3 biological agents are deemed to have completed this Treatment Cycle and must cease PBS-subsidised therapy. These patients may re-commence a new Biological Treatment Cycle after a minimum of 5 years has elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological agent was approved in this Cycle and the date of the first application under the new Cycle.

Note

No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

5758C	Powder for I.V. infusion 100 mg (Public)	1	..	..	751.70	Remicade	SH
9617E	Powder for I.V. infusion 100 mg (Private)	1	..	..	788.19	Remicade	SH

SECTION 100 (OPIATE DEPENDENCE TREATMENT PROGRAM)

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Pack Size	Price ex manufacturer \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
METHADONE HYDROCHLORIDE				
<u>Caution</u>				
The risk of drug dependence is high.				
<u>Criteria for availability</u>				
Treatment of opiate dependence in accordance with the law of the relevant State or Territory.				
<u>Note</u>				
Shared Care Model:				
For prescribing by nurse practitioners where care of a patient is shared between a nurse practitioner and medical practitioner in a formalised arrangement with an agreed management plan. Further information can be found in the Explanatory Notes for Nurse Practitioners.				
6171T NP	Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 200 mL	1	7.91	^a Biodone Forte MW
			^a	Sigma Methadone Syrup SI
6172W NP	Oral liquid 25 mg per 5 mL, 1 L	1	33.20	^a Biodone Forte MW
			^a	Sigma Methadone Syrup SI

REPATRIATION PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS

Code	Name, Restriction, Manner of Administration and Form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Premium	Dispensed Price for	Maximum Recordable Value for	Brand Name and Manufacturer	
					Max. Qty	\$		
PINE TAR with TRIETHANOLAMINE LAURYL SULFATE								
<u>Note</u>								
For patients who have failed to respond to simple moisturising agents.								
4408B	Solution 23 mg-60 mg per mL (2.3%-6%), 500 mL	#1	2	..	20.73	5.60	Hamilton Pine Tar Solution	VT
				..	22.92	5.60	Pinetarsol	EO
SKIN CLEANSER								
4549K	Lotion 500 mL	#1	2	..	20.74	5.60	Hamilton Skin Therapy Wash	VT
SKIN EMOLLIENT								
4122Y	Bath oil 500 mL	#1	2	..	17.35	5.60	Alpha Keri Bath Oil	MT
				..	19.76	5.60	QV Bath Oil	EO
				..	19.85	5.60	Hamilton Skin Therapy Oil	VT
SUNSCREENS								
4544E	Cream 100 g	#1	2	..	16.07	5.60	Hamilton Sunscreen Family Sunscreen Cream SPF 15	VT
4546G	Lotion (non-alcoholic) 125 mL	#1	2	..	15.98	5.60	Aquasun Lotion SPF 18	PF
				..	16.07	5.60	Hamilton Sunscreen Family Sunscreen Milk SPF 15	VT
				..	16.99	5.60	SunSense Ultra SPF 30+	EO
4543D	Solid stick 4.5 g	#1	2	..	12.30	5.60	Hamilton Solastick 30+	VT
UREA								
4042R	Cream 100 mg per g (10%), 100 g	#1	2	..	12.19	5.60	Aquacare H.P.	AG
				..	12.45	5.60	Urederm	VT
				..	12.77	5.60	Calmurid	OL