



Australian Government

Department of Health



Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits

Summary of Changes

Effective 1 June 2017



Fees, Patient Contributions and Safety Net Thresholds

The following fees, patient contributions and safety net thresholds apply as at 1 June 2017 and are included, where applicable, in prices published in the Schedule —

Dispensing Fees:	Ready-prepared	\$7.02
	Dangerous drug fee	\$2.95
	Extemporaneously-prepared	\$9.06
	Allowable additional patient charge*	\$4.38
Additional Fees (for safety net prices):	Ready-prepared	\$1.19
	Extemporaneously-prepared	\$1.55
Patient Co-payments:	General	\$38.80
	Concessional	\$6.30
Safety Net Thresholds:	General	\$1494.90
	Concessional	\$378.00
Safety Net Card Issue Fee:		\$9.73

* 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

These changes to the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits are effective from 1 June 2017. The Schedule is updated on the first day of each month and is available on the internet at www.pbs.gov.au.

Prescriber Bag

Additions

Addition – Item

11125M **SALBUTAMOL**, salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation solution, 20 x 2.5 mL ampoules (*Ventolin Nebules*)

Alterations

Alteration – Manufacturer Code

		From	To
3473T	<i>Buscopan</i> – HYOSCINE BUTYLBROMIDE , hyoscine butylbromide 20 mg/mL injection, 5 x 1 mL ampoules	BY	VZ

Advance Notices

1 September 2017

Deletion – Brand

3497C *Ventolin Nebules, GK* – **SALBUTAMOL**, salbutamol 5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation solution, 30 x 2.5 mL ampoules

1 October 2017

Deletion – Brand

3496B *Ventolin Nebules, GK* – **SALBUTAMOL**, salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation solution, 30 x 2.5 mL ampoules

General Pharmaceutical Benefits

Additions

Addition – Item

11121H **ADALIMUMAB**, adalimumab 20 mg/0.4 mL injection, 2 x 0.4 mL syringes (*Humira*)

11127P **ADALIMUMAB**, adalimumab 20 mg/0.4 mL injection, 2 x 0.4 mL syringes (*Humira*)

11124L **FLUTICASONE FUROATE + VILANTEROL**, fluticasone furoate 100 microgram/actuation + vilanterol 25 microgram/actuation powder for inhalation, 30 actuations (*Breo Ellipta 100/25*)

11129R **FLUTICASONE FUROATE + VILANTEROL**, fluticasone furoate 200 microgram/actuation + vilanterol 25 microgram/actuation powder for inhalation, 30 actuations (*Breo Ellipta 200/25*)

11123K **SACUBITRIL + VALSARTAN**, sacubitril 24.3 mg + valsartan 25.7 mg tablet, 56 (*Entresto*)

11131W **SACUBITRIL + VALSARTAN**, sacubitril 48.6 mg + valsartan 51.4 mg tablet, 56 (*Entresto*)

11122J **SACUBITRIL + VALSARTAN**, sacubitril 97.2 mg + valsartan 102.8 mg tablet, 56 (*Entresto*)

11130T **SALBUTAMOL**, salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation solution, 20 x 2.5 mL ampoules (*Ventolin Nebules*)

Addition – Brand

8361C *Xelocitabine, JU* – **CAPECITABINE**, capecitabine 150 mg tablet, 60

8362D *Xelocitabine, JU* – **CAPECITABINE**, capecitabine 500 mg tablet, 120

8217L *Famciclovir FBM, FO* – **FAMCICLOVIR**, famciclovir 250 mg tablet, 56

8345F *Fluticasone Cipla Inhaler, LR* – **FLUTICASONE**, fluticasone propionate 125 microgram/actuation pressurised inhalation, 120 actuations

8346G *Fluticasone Cipla Inhaler, LR* – **FLUTICASONE**, fluticasone propionate 250 microgram/actuation pressurised inhalation, 120 actuations

- 8518H *Fluticasone + Salmeterol Cipla 125/25, LR* – **FLUTICASONE + SALMETEROL**, fluticasone propionate 125 microgram/actuation + salmeterol 25 microgram/actuation pressurised inhalation, 120 actuations
- 8518H *SalplusF Inhaler 125/25, YC* – **FLUTICASONE + SALMETEROL**, fluticasone propionate 125 microgram/actuation + salmeterol 25 microgram/actuation pressurised inhalation, 120 actuations
- 8519J *Fluticasone + Salmeterol Cipla 250/25, LR* – **FLUTICASONE + SALMETEROL**, fluticasone propionate 250 microgram/actuation + salmeterol 25 microgram/actuation pressurised inhalation, 120 actuations
- 8519J *SalplusF Inhaler 250/25, YC* – **FLUTICASONE + SALMETEROL**, fluticasone propionate 250 microgram/actuation + salmeterol 25 microgram/actuation pressurised inhalation, 120 actuations
- 8656N *Kevtam 1000, AF* – **LEVETIRACETAM**, levetiracetam 1 g tablet, 60
- 9202H *Tevatiapine XR, TB* – **QUETIAPINE**, quetiapine 50 mg modified release tablet, 60
- 5458G *Tevatiapine XR, TB* – **QUETIAPINE**, quetiapine 150 mg modified release tablet, 60
- 9203J *Tevatiapine XR, TB* – **QUETIAPINE**, quetiapine 200 mg modified release tablet, 60
- 9204K *Tevatiapine XR, TB* – **QUETIAPINE**, quetiapine 300 mg modified release tablet, 60
- 9205L *Tevatiapine XR, TB* – **QUETIAPINE**, quetiapine 400 mg modified release tablet, 60
- 10062N *Temozolomide Amneal, ED* – **TEMOZOLOMIDE**, temozolomide 180 mg capsule, 5
- 2438H *Temozolomide Amneal, ED* – **TEMOZOLOMIDE**, temozolomide 180 mg capsule, 5
- 9388D *APO-Zonisamide, TX* – **ZONISAMIDE**, zonisamide 25 mg capsule, 56
- 9389E *APO-Zonisamide, TX* – **ZONISAMIDE**, zonisamide 50 mg capsule, 56
- 9390F *APO-Zonisamide, TX* – **ZONISAMIDE**, zonisamide 100 mg capsule, 56

Addition – Equivalence Indicator

- 8345F *Flixotide, GK* – **FLUTICASONE**, fluticasone propionate 125 microgram/actuation pressurised inhalation, 120 actuations
- 8346G *Flixotide, GK* – **FLUTICASONE**, fluticasone propionate 250 microgram/actuation pressurised inhalation, 120 actuations
- 8518H *Seretide MDI 125/25, GK* – **FLUTICASONE + SALMETEROL**, fluticasone propionate 125 microgram/actuation + salmeterol 25 microgram/actuation pressurised inhalation, 120 actuations
- 8519J *Seretide MDI 250/25, GK* – **FLUTICASONE + SALMETEROL**, fluticasone propionate 250 microgram/actuation + salmeterol 25 microgram/actuation pressurised inhalation, 120 actuations
- 9388D *Zonegran, SA* – **ZONISAMIDE**, zonisamide 25 mg capsule, 56
- 9389E *Zonegran, SA* – **ZONISAMIDE**, zonisamide 50 mg capsule, 56
- 9390F *Zonegran, SA* – **ZONISAMIDE**, zonisamide 100 mg capsule, 56

Deletions

Deletion – Item

- 1224K **COLESTIPOL HYDROCHLORIDE**, colestipol hydrochloride 5 g granules, 120 sachets (*Colestid*)
- 9250W **COLESTIPOL HYDROCHLORIDE**, colestipol hydrochloride 5 g granules, 120 sachets (*Colestid*)
- 1046C **FLUPHENAZINE DECANOATE**, fluphenazine decanoate 12.5 mg/0.5 mL injection, 5 x 0.5 mL ampoules (*Modecate*)
- 3098C **FLUPHENAZINE DECANOATE**, fluphenazine decanoate 25 mg/mL injection, 5 x 1 mL ampoules (*Modecate*)
- 1001Q **FLUPHENAZINE DECANOATE**, fluphenazine decanoate 50 mg/2 mL injection, 5 x 2 mL ampoules (*Modecate*)
- 10199T **FLUTICASONE + VILANTEROL**, fluticasone furoate 100 microgram/actuation + vilanterol 25 microgram/actuation powder for inhalation, 30 actuations (*Breo Ellipta 100/25*)
- 10167D **FLUTICASONE + VILANTEROL**, fluticasone furoate 200 microgram/actuation + vilanterol 25 microgram/actuation powder for inhalation, 30 actuations (*Breo Ellipta 200/25*)
- 8689H **ROSIGLITAZONE**, rosiglitazone 4 mg tablet, 28 (*Avandia*)
- 8690J **ROSIGLITAZONE**, rosiglitazone 8 mg tablet, 28 (*Avandia*)

Deletion – Brand

- 1003T *Acyclo-V 200, AF* – **ACICLOVIR**, aciclovir 200 mg tablet, 25
- 1052J *Acyclo-V 800, AF* – **ACICLOVIR**, aciclovir 800 mg tablet, 35
- 9012H *Alendrobell plus D3, GQ* – **ALENDRONATE + COLECALCIFEROL**, alendronate 70 mg + colecalciferol 70 microgram tablet, 4

9183H	<i>Alendrobell plus D3, GQ</i> – ALENDRONATE + COLECALCIFEROL , alendronate 70 mg + colecalciferol 140 microgram tablet, 4
2132F	<i>GenRx Alprazolam, GX</i> – ALPRAZOLAM , alprazolam 1 mg tablet, 50
9315G	<i>Candesartan HCTZ RBX 32/25, RA</i> – CANDESARTAN + HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE , candesartan cilexetil 32 mg + hydrochlorothiazide 25 mg tablet, 30
9155W	<i>Duloxetine Sandoz, HX</i> – DULOXETINE , duloxetine 30 mg enteric capsule, 28
9156X	<i>Duloxetine Sandoz, HX</i> – DULOXETINE , duloxetine 60 mg enteric capsule, 28
2487X	<i>Pamacid 20, AF</i> – FAMOTIDINE , famotidine 20 mg tablet, 60
2488Y	<i>Pamacid 40, AF</i> – FAMOTIDINE , famotidine 40 mg tablet, 30
8656N	<i>Kevtam, AF</i> – LEVETIRACETAM , levetiracetam 1 g tablet, 60
1973W	<i>Selgene, AF</i> – SELEGILINE , selegiline hydrochloride 5 mg tablet, 100

Deletion – Equivalence Indicator

1973W	<i>Eldepryl, AS</i> – SELEGILINE , selegiline hydrochloride 5 mg tablet, 100
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Alterations

Alteration – Authorised Prescriber

		From	To
10642D	DACLATASVIR , daclatasvir 60 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Daklinza</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10645G	DACLATASVIR , daclatasvir 30 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Daklinza</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10659B	DACLATASVIR , daclatasvir 60 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Daklinza</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10671P	DACLATASVIR , daclatasvir 30 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Daklinza</i>)	MP	MP, NP
11011M	GRAZOPREVR + ELBASVIR , grazoprevir 100 mg + elbasvir 50 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Zepatier</i>)	MP	MP, NP
11021C	GRAZOPREVR + ELBASVIR , grazoprevir 100 mg + elbasvir 50 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Zepatier</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10628J	LEDIPASVIR + SOFOSBUVIR , ledipasvir 90 mg + sofosbuvir 400 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Harvoni</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10668L	LEDIPASVIR + SOFOSBUVIR , ledipasvir 90 mg + sofosbuvir 400 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Harvoni</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10670N	LEDIPASVIR + SOFOSBUVIR , ledipasvir 90 mg + sofosbuvir 400 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Harvoni</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10766P	PARITAPREVR + RITONAVIR + OMBITASVIR & DASABUVIR , paritaprevir 75 mg + ritonavir 50 mg + ombitasvir 12.5 mg tablet [56] (&) dasabuvir 250 mg tablet [56], 4 x 28 (<i>Viekira Pak</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10747P	PARITAPREVR + RITONAVIR + OMBITASVIR & DASABUVIR & RIBAVIRIN , paritaprevir 75 mg + ritonavir 50 mg + ombitasvir 12.5 mg tablet [56] (&) dasabuvir 250 mg tablet [56] (&) ribavirin 600 mg tablet [56], 1 pack (<i>Viekira Pak-RBV</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10769T	PARITAPREVR + RITONAVIR + OMBITASVIR & DASABUVIR & RIBAVIRIN , paritaprevir 75 mg + ritonavir 50 mg + ombitasvir 12.5 mg tablet [56] (&) dasabuvir 250 mg tablet [56] (&) ribavirin 600 mg tablet [56], 1 pack (<i>Viekira Pak-RBV</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10771X	PARITAPREVR + RITONAVIR + OMBITASVIR & DASABUVIR & RIBAVIRIN , paritaprevir 75 mg + ritonavir 50 mg + ombitasvir 12.5 mg tablet [56] (&) dasabuvir 250 mg tablet [56] (&) ribavirin 200 mg tablet [168], 1 pack (<i>Viekira Pak-RBV</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10772Y	PARITAPREVR + RITONAVIR + OMBITASVIR & DASABUVIR & RIBAVIRIN , paritaprevir 75 mg + ritonavir 50 mg + ombitasvir 12.5 mg tablet [56] (&) dasabuvir 250 mg tablet [56] (&) ribavirin 200 mg tablet [168], 1 pack (<i>Viekira Pak-RBV</i>)	MP	MP, NP
11037X	PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2A , peginterferon alfa-2a 180 microgram/0.5 mL injection, 4 x 0.5 mL syringes (<i>Pegasys</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10647J	RIBAVIRIN , ribavirin 400 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Ibavyr</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10665H	RIBAVIRIN , ribavirin 600 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Ibavyr</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10666J	RIBAVIRIN , ribavirin 600 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Ibavyr</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10673R	RIBAVIRIN , ribavirin 400 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Ibavyr</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10928E	RIBAVIRIN , ribavirin 200 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Ibavyr</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10937P	RIBAVIRIN , ribavirin 200 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Ibavyr</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10624E	SOFOSBUVIR , sofosbuvir 400 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Sovaldi</i>)	MP	MP, NP
10657X	SOFOSBUVIR , sofosbuvir 400 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Sovaldi</i>)	MP	MP, NP

Alteration – Restriction

The following items have additions, deletions or alterations to restrictions, notes and/or cautions.

10944B	ADALIMUMAB , adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL syringes (<i>Humira</i>)
10945C	ADALIMUMAB , adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 6 x 0.8 mL cartridges (<i>Humira</i>)
10955N	ADALIMUMAB , adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL cartridges (<i>Humira</i>)
10960W	ADALIMUMAB , adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL syringes (<i>Humira</i>)
10961X	ADALIMUMAB , adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL cartridges (<i>Humira</i>)
10972L	ADALIMUMAB , adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 6 x 0.8 mL syringes (<i>Humira</i>)
8737W	ADALIMUMAB , adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL syringes (<i>Humira</i>)
8741C	ADALIMUMAB , adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL syringes (<i>Humira</i>)
9099X	ADALIMUMAB , adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL cartridges (<i>Humira</i>)
9100Y	ADALIMUMAB , adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL cartridges (<i>Humira</i>)
9125G	DASATINIB , dasatinib 20 mg tablet, 60 (<i>Sprycel</i>)
9126H	DASATINIB , dasatinib 50 mg tablet, 60 (<i>Sprycel</i>)
9127J	DASATINIB , dasatinib 70 mg tablet, 60 (<i>Sprycel</i>)
9343R	DASATINIB , dasatinib 100 mg tablet, 30 (<i>Sprycel</i>)
2943X	DIMETHYL FUMARATE , dimethyl fumarate 120 mg enteric capsule, 14 (<i>Tecfidera</i>)
2966D	DIMETHYL FUMARATE , dimethyl fumarate 240 mg enteric capsule, 56 (<i>Tecfidera</i>)
8840G	EVEROLIMUS , everolimus 250 microgram tablet, 60 (<i>Certican</i>)
8841H	EVEROLIMUS , everolimus 500 microgram tablet, 60 (<i>Certican</i>)
8842J	EVEROLIMUS , everolimus 750 microgram tablet, 60 (<i>Certican</i>)
9352F	EVEROLIMUS , everolimus 1 mg tablet, 60 (<i>Certican</i>)
10917N	IMATINIB , imatinib 400 mg capsule, 30 (<i>CIPLA IMATINIB ADULT, IMATINIB AN, IMATINIB-DRLA, Imatinib GH, Imatinib-APOTEX</i>)
10924Y	IMATINIB , imatinib 100 mg capsule, 60 (<i>CIPLA IMATINIB ADULT, IMATINIB AN, IMATINIB-DRLA, Imatinib GH, Imatinib-APOTEX</i>)
9123E	IMATINIB , imatinib 100 mg tablet, 60 (<i>Glivec, IMATINIB RBX, Imatinib-Teva</i>)
9124F	IMATINIB , imatinib 400 mg tablet, 30 (<i>Glivec, IMATINIB RBX, Imatinib-Teva</i>)
10731T	NETUPITANT + PALONOSETRON , netupitant 300 mg + palonosetron 500 microgram capsule, 1 (<i>Akynzeo</i>)
1842Y	RISPERIDONE , risperidone 500 microgram tablet, 20 (<i>APO-Risperidone, Risperdal</i>)
8787L	RISPERIDONE , risperidone 500 microgram tablet, 60 (<i>Ozidal, Rispa, Rispericor 0.5, Risperidone AMNEAL, Risperidone AN, Risperidone Sandoz, Rispernia, Rixadone</i>)
8789N	RISPERIDONE , risperidone 1 mg tablet, 60 (<i>APO-Risperidone, Ozidal, Rispa, Risperdal, Rispericor 1, Risperidone AMNEAL, Risperidone AN, Risperidone Sandoz, Risperidone generichealth, Rispernia, Rixadone</i>)
9079W	RISPERIDONE , risperidone 2 mg tablet, 60 (<i>APO-Risperidone, Ozidal, Rispa, Risperdal, Rispericor 2, Risperidone AMNEAL, Risperidone AN, Risperidone Sandoz, Risperidone generichealth, Rispernia, Rixadone</i>)
9293D	RISPERIDONE , risperidone 1 mg/mL oral liquid, 100 mL (<i>Risperdal</i>)
2000G	SALBUTAMOL , salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation solution, 30 x 2.5 mL ampoules (<i>APO-Salbutamol, Asmol 2.5 uni-dose, Butamol 2.5, Salbutamol Actavis, Salbutamol Sandoz, Ventolin Nebules</i>)
2898M	TERIFLUNOMIDE , teriflunomide 14 mg tablet, 28 (<i>Aubagio</i>)
10378F	TESTOSTERONE , testosterone 5% (50 mg/mL) cream, 50 mL (<i>AndroForte 5</i>)
10380H	TESTOSTERONE , testosterone 1% (12.5 mg/actuation) gel, 2 x 60 actuations (<i>Testogel</i>)
2341F	TESTOSTERONE , testosterone 2% (30 mg/actuation) solution, 60 actuations (<i>Axiron</i>)
8460G	TESTOSTERONE , testosterone 2.5 mg/24 hours patch, 60 (<i>Androderm</i>)
8619P	TESTOSTERONE , testosterone 5 mg/24 hours patch, 30 (<i>Androderm</i>)
8830R	TESTOSTERONE , testosterone 1% (50 mg/5 g) gel, 30 x 5 g sachets (<i>Testogel</i>)
2114G	TESTOSTERONE ENANTHATE , testosterone enanthate 250 mg/mL injection, 3 x 1 mL syringes (<i>Primoteston Depot</i>)
10205D	TESTOSTERONE UNDECANOATE , testosterone undecanoate 1 g/4 mL injection, 4 mL vial (<i>Reandron 1000</i>)
2115H	TESTOSTERONE UNDECANOATE , testosterone undecanoate 40 mg capsule, 60 (<i>Andriol Testocaps</i>)

11081F **VERURAFENIB**, vemurafenib 240 mg tablet, 56 (*Zelboraf*)

Alteration – Restriction Level

		From	To
8840G	EVEROLIMUS , everolimus 250 microgram tablet, 60 (<i>Certican</i>)	authority-required	unrestricted
8841H	EVEROLIMUS , everolimus 500 microgram tablet, 60 (<i>Certican</i>)	authority-required	unrestricted
8842J	EVEROLIMUS , everolimus 750 microgram tablet, 60 (<i>Certican</i>)	authority-required	unrestricted
9352F	EVEROLIMUS , everolimus 1 mg tablet, 60 (<i>Certican</i>)	authority-required	unrestricted

Alteration – Manufacturer Code

		From	To
8083K	<i>Iopidine 0.5%</i> – APRACLONIDINE , apraclonidine 0.5% eye drops, 10 mL	AQ	NV
2811Y	<i>Betoptic S</i> – BETAXOLOL , betaxolol 0.25% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
5543R	<i>Betoptic S</i> – BETAXOLOL , betaxolol 0.25% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
2825Q	<i>BetoQuin</i> – BETAXOLOL , betaxolol 0.5% eye drops, 5 mL	IQ	NM
2825Q	<i>Betoptic</i> – BETAXOLOL , betaxolol 0.5% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
5544T	<i>BetoQuin</i> – BETAXOLOL , betaxolol 0.5% eye drops, 5 mL	IQ	NM
5544T	<i>Betoptic</i> – BETAXOLOL , betaxolol 0.5% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
1260H	<i>Dulcolax</i> – BISACODYL , bisacodyl 10 mg suppository, 10	BY	VZ
5540N	<i>Azopt</i> – BRINZOLAMIDE , brinzolamide 1% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
5540N	<i>BrinzoQuin</i> – BRINZOLAMIDE , brinzolamide 1% eye drops, 5 mL	IQ	NM
8483L	<i>Azopt</i> – BRINZOLAMIDE , brinzolamide 1% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
8483L	<i>BrinzoQuin</i> – BRINZOLAMIDE , brinzolamide 1% eye drops, 5 mL	IQ	NM
10536M	<i>Simbrinza 1%/0.2%</i> – BRINZOLAMIDE + BRIMONIDINE , brinzolamide 1% + brimonidine tartrate 0.2% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
10547D	<i>Simbrinza 1%/0.2%</i> – BRINZOLAMIDE + BRIMONIDINE , brinzolamide 1% + brimonidine tartrate 0.2% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
3438Y	<i>Azarga</i> – BRINZOLAMIDE + TIMOLOL , brinzolamide 1% + timolol 0.5% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
5562R	<i>Azarga</i> – BRINZOLAMIDE + TIMOLOL , brinzolamide 1% + timolol 0.5% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
5502N	<i>Poly Gel</i> – CARBOMER-974 , carbomer-974 0.3% eye gel, 30 x 500 mg unit doses	AQ	NV
8514D	<i>Poly Gel</i> – CARBOMER-974 , carbomer-974 0.3% eye gel, 30 x 500 mg unit doses	AQ	NV
2480M	<i>Ciloxan</i> – CIPROFLOXACIN , ciprofloxacin 0.3% ear drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
1217C	<i>CiloQuin</i> – CIPROFLOXACIN , ciprofloxacin 0.3% eye drops, 5 mL	IQ	NM
1217C	<i>Ciloxan</i> – CIPROFLOXACIN , ciprofloxacin 0.3% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
5564W	<i>CiloQuin</i> – CIPROFLOXACIN , ciprofloxacin 0.3% eye drops, 5 mL	IQ	NM
5564W	<i>Ciloxan</i> – CIPROFLOXACIN , ciprofloxacin 0.3% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
1288T	<i>Maxidex</i> – DEXAMETHASONE , DEXAMETHASONE Eye drops 1 mg per mL (0.1%), 5 mL, 1	AQ	NV
5565X	<i>Maxidex</i> – DEXAMETHASONE , DEXAMETHASONE Eye drops 1 mg per mL (0.1%), 5 mL, 1	AQ	NV
5521N	<i>Bion Tears</i> – DEXTRAN-70 + HYPROMELLOSE , dextran-70 0.1% + hypromellose 0.3% eye drops, 28 x 0.4 mL unit doses	AQ	NV
8299T	<i>Bion Tears</i> – DEXTRAN-70 + HYPROMELLOSE , dextran-70 0.1% + hypromellose 0.3% eye drops, 28 x 0.4 mL unit doses	AQ	NV
1509K	<i>Poly-Tears</i> – DEXTRAN-70 + HYPROMELLOSE , dextran-70 0.1% + hypromellose 0.3% eye drops, 15 mL	IQ	NM
1509K	<i>Tears Naturale</i> – DEXTRAN-70 + HYPROMELLOSE , dextran-70 0.1% + hypromellose 0.3% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV
5520M	<i>Poly-Tears</i> – DEXTRAN-70 + HYPROMELLOSE , dextran-70 0.1% + hypromellose 0.3% eye drops, 15 mL	IQ	NM

5520M	<i>Tears Naturale</i> – DEXTRAN-70 + HYPROMELLOSE , dextran-70 0.1% + hypromellose 0.3% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV
9216C	<i>Poly-Tears</i> – DEXTRAN-70 + HYPROMELLOSE , dextran-70 0.1% + hypromellose 0.3% eye drops, 15 mL	IQ	NM
9216C	<i>Tears Naturale</i> – DEXTRAN-70 + HYPROMELLOSE , dextran-70 0.1% + hypromellose 0.3% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV
1204J	<i>Flucon</i> – FLUOROMETHOLONE , fluorometholone 0.1% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
5513E	<i>Flucon</i> – FLUOROMETHOLONE , fluorometholone 0.1% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
1438Q	<i>Flarex</i> – FLUOROMETHOLONE ACETATE , fluorometholone acetate 0.1% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
5533F	<i>Flarex</i> – FLUOROMETHOLONE ACETATE , fluorometholone acetate 0.1% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
5518K	<i>Genteal</i> – HYPROMELLOSE , HYPROMELLOSE Eye drops 3 mg per mL (0.3%), 15 mL (contains sodium perborate as preservative), 1	AQ	NV
5518K	<i>In a Wink Moisturising</i> – HYPROMELLOSE , HYPROMELLOSE Eye drops 3 mg per mL (0.3%), 15 mL (contains sodium perborate as preservative), 1	IQ	NM
8287E	<i>Genteal</i> – HYPROMELLOSE , HYPROMELLOSE Eye drops 3 mg per mL (0.3%), 15 mL (contains sodium perborate as preservative), 1	AQ	NV
8287E	<i>In a Wink Moisturising</i> – HYPROMELLOSE , HYPROMELLOSE Eye drops 3 mg per mL (0.3%), 15 mL (contains sodium perborate as preservative), 1	IQ	NM
9213X	<i>Genteal</i> – HYPROMELLOSE , HYPROMELLOSE Eye drops 3 mg per mL (0.3%), 15 mL (contains sodium perborate as preservative), 1	AQ	NV
9213X	<i>In a Wink Moisturising</i> – HYPROMELLOSE , HYPROMELLOSE Eye drops 3 mg per mL (0.3%), 15 mL (contains sodium perborate as preservative), 1	IQ	NM
5519L	<i>Genteal gel</i> – HYPROMELLOSE + CARBOMER-980 , hypromellose 0.3% + carbomer-980 0.2% eye gel, 10 g	AQ	NV
5519L	<i>HPMC PAA</i> – HYPROMELLOSE + CARBOMER-980 , hypromellose 0.3% + carbomer-980 0.2% eye gel, 10 g	IQ	NM
8564R	<i>Genteal gel</i> – HYPROMELLOSE + CARBOMER-980 , hypromellose 0.3% + carbomer-980 0.2% eye gel, 10 g	AQ	NV
8564R	<i>HPMC PAA</i> – HYPROMELLOSE + CARBOMER-980 , hypromellose 0.3% + carbomer-980 0.2% eye gel, 10 g	IQ	NM
9215B	<i>Genteal gel</i> – HYPROMELLOSE + CARBOMER-980 , hypromellose 0.3% + carbomer-980 0.2% eye gel, 10 g	AQ	NV
9215B	<i>HPMC PAA</i> – HYPROMELLOSE + CARBOMER-980 , hypromellose 0.3% + carbomer-980 0.2% eye gel, 10 g	IQ	NM
1754H	<i>Poly Visc</i> – PARAFFIN , paraffin 1 g/g eye ointment, 3.5 g	IQ	NV
5523Q	<i>Poly Visc</i> – PARAFFIN , paraffin 1 g/g eye ointment, 3.5 g	IQ	NV
9217D	<i>Poly Visc</i> – PARAFFIN , paraffin 1 g/g eye ointment, 3.5 g	IQ	NV
1750D	<i>Poly Visc</i> – PARAFFIN , paraffin 1 g/g eye ointment, 2 x 3.5 g	IQ	NV
5522P	<i>Poly Visc</i> – PARAFFIN , paraffin 1 g/g eye ointment, 2 x 3.5 g	IQ	NV
9218E	<i>Poly Visc</i> – PARAFFIN , paraffin 1 g/g eye ointment, 2 x 3.5 g	IQ	NV
2595N	<i>Isopto Carpine</i> – PILOCARPINE , pilocarpine hydrochloride 1% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV
5536J	<i>Isopto Carpine</i> – PILOCARPINE , pilocarpine hydrochloride 1% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV
2596P	<i>Isopto Carpine</i> – PILOCARPINE , pilocarpine hydrochloride 2% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV
5537K	<i>Isopto Carpine</i> – PILOCARPINE , pilocarpine hydrochloride 2% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV
2598R	<i>Isopto Carpine</i> – PILOCARPINE , pilocarpine hydrochloride 4% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV
5538L	<i>Isopto Carpine</i> – PILOCARPINE , pilocarpine hydrochloride 4% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV
5524R	<i>Systane</i> – POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL-400 + PROPYLENE GLYCOL , polyethylene glycol-400 0.4% + propylene glycol 0.3% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV

5532E	<i>Systane</i> – POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL-400 + PROPYLENE GLYCOL , polyethylene glycol-400 0.4% + propylene glycol 0.3% eye drops, 28 x 0.8 mL unit doses	AQ	NV
8676P	<i>Systane</i> – POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL-400 + PROPYLENE GLYCOL , polyethylene glycol-400 0.4% + propylene glycol 0.3% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV
9170P	<i>Systane</i> – POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL-400 + PROPYLENE GLYCOL , polyethylene glycol-400 0.4% + propylene glycol 0.3% eye drops, 28 x 0.8 mL unit doses	AQ	NV
9219F	<i>Systane</i> – POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL-400 + PROPYLENE GLYCOL , polyethylene glycol-400 0.4% + propylene glycol 0.3% eye drops, 15 mL	AQ	NV
9313E	<i>Maxalt</i> – RIZATRIPTAN , rizatriptan 10 mg wafer, 2	MK	AL
2328M	<i>Tobrex</i> – TOBRAMYCIN , tobramycin 0.3% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
5569D	<i>Tobrex</i> – TOBRAMYCIN , tobramycin 0.3% eye drops, 5 mL	AQ	NV
2329N	<i>Tobrex</i> – TOBRAMYCIN , tobramycin 0.3% eye ointment, 3.5 g	AQ	NV
5570E	<i>Tobrex</i> – TOBRAMYCIN , tobramycin 0.3% eye ointment, 3.5 g	AQ	NV
5554H	<i>Travatan</i> – TRAVOPROST , travoprost 0.004% eye drops, 2.5 mL	AQ	NV
8597L	<i>Travatan</i> – TRAVOPROST , travoprost 0.004% eye drops, 2.5 mL	AQ	NV
5555J	<i>Duotrav</i> – TRAVOPROST + TIMOLOL , travoprost 0.004% + timolol 0.5% eye drops, 2.5 mL	AQ	NV
9057Q	<i>Duotrav</i> – TRAVOPROST + TIMOLOL , travoprost 0.004% + timolol 0.5% eye drops, 2.5 mL	AQ	NV

Alteration – Maximum Quantity

		From	To
2896K	DIMETHYL FUMARATE , dimethyl fumarate 120 mg enteric capsule, 14 (<i>Tecfidera</i>)	1	2
2943X	DIMETHYL FUMARATE , dimethyl fumarate 120 mg enteric capsule, 14 (<i>Tecfidera</i>)	1	2

Alteration – Number of Repeats

		From	To
11070P	VISMODEGIB , vismodegib 150 mg capsule, 28 (<i>Erivedge</i>)	2	3

Advance Notices

1 July 2017

Deletion – Brand

2343H	<i>Chem mart Amiodarone, CH</i> – AMIODARONE , amiodarone hydrochloride 200 mg tablet, 30
2343H	<i>Terry White Chemists Amiodarone, TW</i> – AMIODARONE , amiodarone hydrochloride 200 mg tablet, 30
8179L	<i>Chem mart Anastrozole, CH</i> – ANASTROZOLE , anastrozole 1 mg tablet, 30
8179L	<i>Terry White Chemists Anastrozole, TW</i> – ANASTROZOLE , anastrozole 1 mg tablet, 30
8296P	<i>Candesartan GH, GQ</i> – CANDESARTAN , candesartan cilexetil 8 mg tablet, 30
8257N	<i>Carvedilol generichealth, GQ</i> – CARVEDILOL , carvedilol 12.5 mg tablet, 60
8258P	<i>Carvedilol generichealth, GQ</i> – CARVEDILOL , carvedilol 25 mg tablet, 60
1169M	<i>Chem mart Cefaclor CD, CH</i> – CEFACTOR , cefaclor 375 mg modified release tablet, 10
1169M	<i>Terry White Chemists Cefaclor CD, TW</i> – CEFACTOR , cefaclor 375 mg modified release tablet, 10
5045M	<i>Chem mart Cefaclor CD, CH</i> – CEFACTOR , cefaclor 375 mg modified release tablet, 10
5045M	<i>Terry White Chemists Cefaclor CD, TW</i> – CEFACTOR , cefaclor 375 mg modified release tablet, 10
8382E	<i>APO-Dipyridamole/Aspirin 200/25, TX</i> – DIPYRIDAMOLE + ASPIRIN , dipyridamole 200 mg + aspirin 25 mg modified release capsule, 60
2436F	<i>Terry White Chemists Indapamide, TW</i> – INDAPAMIDE , indapamide hemihydrate 2.5 mg tablet, 90
2436F	<i>Chem mart Indapamide, CH</i> – INDAPAMIDE , indapamide hemihydrate 2.5 mg tablet, 90
2591J	<i>Roaccutane, RO</i> – ISOTRETINOIN , isotretinoin 10 mg capsule, 60
8654L	<i>Chem mart Levetiracetam, CH</i> – LEVETIRACETAM , levetiracetam 250 mg tablet, 60
8654L	<i>Terry White Chemists Levetiracetam, TW</i> – LEVETIRACETAM , levetiracetam 250 mg tablet, 60
8655M	<i>Chem mart Levetiracetam, CH</i> – LEVETIRACETAM , levetiracetam 500 mg tablet, 60

- 8655M Terry White Chemists Levetiracetam, TW – **LEVETIRACETAM**, levetiracetam 500 mg tablet, 60
- 8656N Terry White Chemists Levetiracetam, TW – **LEVETIRACETAM**, levetiracetam 1 g tablet, 60
- 8656N Chem mart Levetiracetam, CH – **LEVETIRACETAM**, levetiracetam 1 g tablet, 60
- 1818Q Methotrexate MYX, OC – **METHOTREXATE**, METHOTREXATE Injection 50 mg in 2 mL, 1
- 8363E Terry White Chemists Raloxifene, TW – **RALOXIFENE**, raloxifene hydrochloride 60 mg tablet, 28
- 8363E Chem mart Raloxifene, CH – **RALOXIFENE**, raloxifene hydrochloride 60 mg tablet, 28

1 August 2017

Deletion – Brand

- 8256M Carvedilol generichealth, GQ – **CARVEDILOL**, carvedilol 6.25 mg tablet, 60
- 8422G Dilaudid-HP, MF – **HYDROMORPHONE**, hydromorphone hydrochloride 50 mg/5 mL injection, 5 x 5 mL ampoules

1 September 2017

Deletion – Brand

- 2001H Ventolin Nebules, GK – **SALBUTAMOL**, salbutamol 5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation solution, 30 x 2.5 mL ampoules

1 October 2017

Deletion – Brand

- 2000G Ventolin Nebules, GK – **SALBUTAMOL**, salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation solution, 30 x 2.5 mL ampoules

1 November 2017

Deletion – Brand

- 1210Q Ciprofloxacin-BW, GQ – **CIPROFLOXACIN**, ciprofloxacin 750 mg tablet, 14

Palliative Care

Alterations

Alteration – Manufacturer Code

- | | | From | To |
|-------|---|------|----|
| 5303D | Dulcolax – BISACODYL , bisacodyl 10 mg suppository, 10 | BY | VZ |
| 5317W | Buscopan – HYOSCINE BUTYLBROMIDE , hyoscine butylbromide 20 mg/mL injection, 5 x 1 mL ampoules | BY | VZ |

Highly Specialised Drugs Program (Private Hospital)

Additions

Addition – Item

- 11128Q **BACLOFEN**, baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 10 x 5 mL ampoules (*Sintetica Baclofen Intrathecal*)

Deletions

Deletion – Item

- 6401X **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 80 microgram injection [4 x 80 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [84 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 6400W **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 50 microgram injection [4 x 50 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [112 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 6405D **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 100 microgram injection [4 x 100 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [112 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 6402Y **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 80 microgram injection [4 x 80 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [140 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 6407F **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 120 microgram injection [4 x 120 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [140 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 6409H **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 150 microgram injection [4 x 150 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [140 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)

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- 6410J **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 150 microgram injection [4 x 150 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [168 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 9634C **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 150 microgram injection [4 x 150 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [196 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)

Alterations

Alteration – Restriction

The following items have additions, deletions or alterations to restrictions, notes and/or cautions.

- 9621J **ABATACEPT**, abatacept 250 mg injection, 1 vial (*Orencia*)
- 6284R **BACLOFEN**, baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 5 mL ampoule (*Bacthecal, Lioresal Intrathecal*)
- 10184B **INFLIXIMAB**, infliximab 100 mg injection, 1 vial (*Inflixtra, Remicade*)

Advance Notices

1 July 2017

Deletion – Brand

- 5036C *Flolan Kit, GK* – **EPOPROSTENOL**, EPOPROSTENOL SODIUM Powder for I.V. infusion 500 micrograms (base) infusion administration set, 1
- 5042J *Flolan Kit, GK* – **EPOPROSTENOL**, EPOPROSTENOL SODIUM Powder for I.V. infusion 1.5 mg (base) infusion administration set, 1

Highly Specialised Drugs Program (Public Hospital)

Additions

Addition – Item

- 11126N **BACLOFEN**, baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 10 x 5 mL ampoules (*Sintetica Baclofen Intrathecal*)

Deletions

Deletion – Item

- 9530N **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 80 microgram injection [4 x 80 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [84 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 9529M **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 50 microgram injection [4 x 50 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [112 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 9534T **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 100 microgram injection [4 x 100 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [112 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 9531P **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 80 microgram injection [4 x 80 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [140 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 9536X **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 120 microgram injection [4 x 120 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [140 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 9538B **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 150 microgram injection [4 x 150 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [140 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 9539C **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 150 microgram injection [4 x 150 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [168 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)
- 9540D **PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (&) RIBAVIRIN**, peginterferon alfa-2b 150 microgram injection [4 x 150 microgram cartridges] (&) ribavirin 200 mg capsule [196 capsules] (&) inert substance diluent [4 x 0.5 mL cartridges], 1 pack (*Pegatron*)

Alterations

Alteration – Restriction

The following items have additions, deletions or alterations to restrictions, notes and/or cautions.

- 5605B **ABATACEPT**, abatacept 250 mg injection, 1 vial (*Orencia*)
- 5617P **BACLOFEN**, baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 5 mL ampoule (*Bacethecal, Lioresal Intrathecal*)
- 10196P **INFLIXIMAB**, infliximab 100 mg injection, 1 vial (*Inflixtra, Remicade*)

Advance Notices

1 July 2017

Deletion – Brand

- 5030R *Folan Kit, GK* – **EPOPROSTENOL**, EPOPROSTENOL SODIUM Powder for I.V. infusion 500 micrograms (base) infusion administration set, 1
- 5035B *Folan Kit, GK* – **EPOPROSTENOL**, EPOPROSTENOL SODIUM Powder for I.V. infusion 1.5 mg (base) infusion administration set, 1

Highly Specialised Drugs Program (Community Access)

Deletions

Deletion – Brand

- 10303G *Nevirapine XR APOTEX, TX* – **NEVIRAPINE**, nevirapine 400 mg modified release tablet, 30

Deletion – Equivalence Indicator

- 10303G *Viramune XR, BY* – **NEVIRAPINE**, nevirapine 400 mg modified release tablet, 30

Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits

Deletions

Deletion – Brand

- 2194L *Alendrobell plus D3, GQ* – **ALENDRONATE + COLECALCIFEROL**, alendronate 70 mg + colecalciferol 70 microgram tablet, 4
- 2224C *Alendrobell plus D3, GQ* – **ALENDRONATE + COLECALCIFEROL**, alendronate 70 mg + colecalciferol 140 microgram tablet, 4

Alterations


Alteration – Manufacturer Code

- | | | <i>From</i> | <i>To</i> |
|--------|--|-------------|-----------|
| 10578R | <i>Dulcolax</i> – BISACODYL , bisacodyl 10 mg suppository, 10 | BY | VZ |
| 4279F | <i>Buscopan</i> – HYOSCINE BUTYLBROMIDE , hyoscine butylbromide 20 mg/mL injection, 5 x 1 mL ampoules | BY | VZ |

Prescriber Bag

▪ SALBUTAMOL

salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation solution, 20 x 2.5 mL ampoules

11125M	Max.Qty Packs	DPMQ \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	‡1	13.57	Ventolin Nebules [GK]

General Pharmaceutical Benefits

▪ ADALIMUMAB

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have a documented history of severe active rheumatoid arthritis, **AND**
- Patient must have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment with this drug, **AND**
- Patient must have received this drug as their most recent course of PBS-subsidised biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARD) treatment, **AND**
- Patient must not receive more than 24 weeks of treatment per continuing treatment course authorised under this restriction.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

For the purposes of this restriction bDMARD means abatacept, adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, rituximab, tocilizumab or tofacitinib.

An adequate response to treatment is defined as:

an ESR no greater than 25 mm per hour or a CRP level no greater than 15 mg per L or either marker reduced by at least 20% from baseline;

AND either of the following:

(a) a reduction in the total active (swollen and tender) joint count by at least 50% from baseline, where baseline is at least 20 active joints; or

(b) a reduction in the number of the following active joints, from at least 4, by at least 50%:

(i) elbow, wrist, knee and/or ankle (assessed as swollen and tender); and/or

(ii) shoulder and/or hip (assessed as pain in passive movement and restriction of passive movement, where pain and limitation of movement are due to active disease and not irreversible damage such as joint destruction or bony overgrowth).

Where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints. If only an ESR or CRP level is provided with the initial application, the same marker will be used to determine response.

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

(1) a completed authority prescription form; and

(2) a completed Rheumatoid Arthritis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form.

All applications for continuing treatment with this drug must include a measurement of response to the prior course of therapy. This assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with this drug, it must be accompanied by an assessment of response to a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with an initial treatment course.

Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug.

If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis. Where the term bDMARD appears in the following notes and restrictions it refers to the tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonists (adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab), the chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (rituximab), the interleukin-6 inhibitor (tocilizumab), the T-cell co-stimulation modulator (abatacept) and the Janus-associated kinase (JAK) inhibitor (tofacitinib).

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the above biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs at any 1 time.

In order to be eligible to receive PBS-subsidised treatment with rituximab, a patient must have already failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 course of treatment with a PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist.

A patient receiving PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to experience a disease flare. Under these interchangeability arrangements:

- a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a PBS-subsidised bDMARD while they continue to show a response to therapy,

- a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised bDMARD more than once, and

- once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 5 times, they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised bDMARDs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

For patients who have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with 2 or 3 TNF-alfa antagonists prior to 1 August 2010 please contact the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270.

A patient whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised therapy was with rituximab and whose response to this treatment is sustained for more than 12 months, may apply for a further course of rituximab under the Continuing treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has a break in therapy of less than 24 months may commence a further course of treatment with a bDMARD without having to requalify under the Initial 1 treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has had a break in therapy of longer than 24 months must requalify for treatment under the Initial 1 treatment restriction.

The length of a treatment break is measured from the date the most recent treatment with PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment is stopped to the date of the new application for treatment with a bDMARD.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy after 1 August 2010.

(a) Initial treatment.

Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

(i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment and wishes to commence such therapy, excluding rituximab (Initial 1); or

(ii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a bDMARD following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of more than 24 months (Initial 1); or

(iii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) bDMARD therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or

(iv) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific bDMARD following a break of less than 24 months in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

Initial applications for new or re-commencing patients (Initial 1) must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6-month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Initial treatment authorisations will be limited to provide a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept, golimumab, tocilizumab and tofacitinib, 18 to 20 weeks of therapy with certolizumab pegol (depending upon the dosing regimen), 22 weeks of therapy for infliximab and 2 infusions of rituximab.

A patient must be assessed for response to any course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment (excluding rituximab) following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients must be assessed following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services within 4 weeks.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised bDMARD (excluding rituximab) treatment it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Abatacept patients:

Patients are eligible to receive one I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation. For these patients two prescriptions are required, the first prescription for the I.V. loading dose for sufficient vials for one dose based on the patient's weight with no repeats. The second prescription for the pre-filled syringes, with a maximum quantity of 4 and up to 3 repeats, must be submitted with the initial application.

Rituximab patients:

A further application may be submitted to the Department of Human Services 24 weeks after the first infusion. New baselines may be submitted with this application if appropriate.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific bDMARD (excluding rituximab), a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing bDMARD treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted bDMARD supply.

Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients:

A patient may qualify to receive a further course of treatment (every 24 weeks) with this agent providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion of their most

recent treatment with rituximab. The patient remains eligible to receive a course of rituximab every 24 weeks providing they continue to demonstrate a response as specified in the restriction.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised bDMARD is approved, a patient may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), the C-reactive protein (CRP) levels and the joint count) or the prior non-bDMARD therapy requirements, except if the patient has had a break in therapy of more than 24 months. However the requirement for concomitant treatment with methotrexate, where it applies, must be met for each bDMARD trialled.

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.

A patient may trial an alternate bDMARD at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with a bDMARD at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular bDMARD if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug.

Abatacept patients:

Patients swapping from I.V. abatacept to subcutaneous abatacept will not be eligible for an I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation.

In order to trial rituximab, a patient must have trialled and failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment.

To ensure a patient receives 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.

PBS subsidy does not allow for patients to receive treatment with another PBS-subsidised biological agent during the required treatment-free period applying to patients who have demonstrated a response to their most recent course of rituximab. This means that patients who have demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD. Patients who fail to respond to rituximab and who qualify and wish to trial a course of an alternate bDMARD may do so without having to have any treatment-free period.

To avoid confusion, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to an alternate bDMARD should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the bDMARD the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

the Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the joint count, ESR and/or CRP submitted with the first authority application for a bDMARD. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority application is submitted and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements.

To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. Therefore, where only an ESR or CRP level is provided at baseline, an ESR or CRP level respectively must be provided to determine response. Similarly, where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints.

Except as specified under the Initial 1 treatment restriction, a baseline joint count and ESR and/or CRP should be performed whilst the patient is still on treatment or within 1 month of ceasing prior treatment. Applications under the Initial 1 treatment restriction for new or re-commencing patients must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Note No increase in the maximum quantity or number of units may be authorised.

Note No increase in the maximum number of repeats may be authorised.

Note Applications for treatment with this drug where the dosing frequency exceeds 40 mg per fortnight will not be approved.

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Continuing Treatment – balance of supply.

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Continuing treatment restriction to complete 24 weeks treatment, **AND**
- The treatment must provide no more than the balance of up to 24 weeks treatment available under the above restriction.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

Note Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Written application for authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Prior Written Approval of Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL cartridges

9100Y	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	5	..	1401.30	38.80	Humira [VE]

adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL syringes

8741C	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	5	..	1401.30	38.80	Humira [VE]

ADALIMUMAB**Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS**

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of infliximab, vedolizumab and adalimumab for adult patients with ulcerative colitis. Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with either infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab at any one time. From 1 December 2016, under the PBS, all adult patients will be able to commence a treatment cycle where they may trial each of PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab without having to experience a disease flare when swapping to one of the alternate agents. Under these arrangements, within a single treatment cycle, a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab while they continue to show a response to therapy. A patient who received PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment prior to 1 December 2016 is considered to be in their first cycle as of 1 December 2016. Within the same treatment cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab more than once. 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 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 infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment in the most recent cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab under the new treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of either infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of more than 5 years, may commence a new treatment cycle.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab and adalimumab after therapy after 1 December 2016 .

(a) Initial treatment. Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

- (i) an adult patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab in this treatment cycle and wishes to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or
- (ii) an adult patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iii) an adult patient wishes to re-commence treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with the same agent (Initial 2).

Treatment authorisations under Initial 1 and Initial 2 will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for adalimumab , 14 weeks of therapy for infliximab and vedolizumab.

A patient must be assessed for response to a course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and up to 12 weeks after the first dose (6 weeks following the third dose) for infliximab and vedolizumab, and this assessment must be provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not provided to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist. For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment, it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab, a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response. It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted supply of treatment. Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not provided to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that drug.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised treatment is approved, a patient may swap if eligible to the alternate infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment within the same treatment cycle without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. Mayo clinic score or partial Mayo clinic score), or the prior corticosteroid therapy and immunosuppressive therapy. A patient may trial an alternate treatment at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular therapy if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug once within the same treatment cycle. To ensure a patient receives the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under these 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, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to the alternate infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the therapy the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

The Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the Mayo clinic score or partial Mayo clinic score submitted with the first authority application for infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time other than when an initial treatment authority application is provided within a treatment cycle and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response,

the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications.

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

A patient who wishes to trial a second or subsequent course of treatment following a break in PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment with respect to the scores of disease severity. A patient must have received treatment with a 5-aminosalicylate oral preparation in a standard dose for induction of remission for a minimum of 3 consecutive months, and, either azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine for a minimum of 3 consecutive months or a tapered course of oral steroids over a 6 week period followed by an appropriately dosed thiopurine agent for a minimum of 3 consecutive months (unless intolerance develops necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal to these agents) immediately prior to the time the Mayo score is measured.

(5) Patients 'grandfathered' onto PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab.

A patient who commenced treatment with adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis prior to 1 December 2016 and who continues to receive treatment at the time of application, may qualify for treatment under the initial 3 'grandfather' treatment restriction.

A patient may only qualify for PBS-subsidised treatment under this criterion once. A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment will be authorised under this criterion. Following completion of the initial PBS-subsidised course, further applications for treatment will be assessed under the continuing treatment restriction of the relevant drug. 'Grandfather' arrangements will only apply for the first treatment cycle.

For the second and subsequent cycles, a 'grandfather' patient must requalify for continuing treatment under the criteria that apply to a continuing patient.

Note TREATMENT OF PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for paediatric patients with infliximab or adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis; and infliximab for acute severe ulcerative colitis.

Where the term 'tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonist' appears in the following NOTES and restrictions, it refers to infliximab and adalimumab only. A patient is eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the 2 TNF-alfa antagonists at any one time. Infliximab and adalimumab are PBS-subsidised for moderate to severe disease while only infliximab is PBS-subsidised for acute severe disease. From 1 June 2017, under the PBS, all will be able to commence a treatment cycle where they may trial each PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist without having to experience a disease flare when swapping to the alternate agent. Under these arrangements, within a single treatment cycle and depending on the disease severity, a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a TNF-alfa antagonist while they continue to show a response to therapy. A patient who received PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment prior to 1 June 2017 is considered to be in their first cycle as of 1 June 2017. Within the same treatment cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist more than twice. 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 TNF-alfa antagonist 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 TNF-alfa antagonist treatment in the most recent cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with a TNF-alfa antagonist under the new treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of TNF-alfa antagonists in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of less than 5 years, may commence a further course of treatment within the same treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of TNF-alfa antagonists in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of more than 5 years, may commence a new treatment cycle. There is no limit to the number of treatment cycles a patient may undertake in their lifetime. (1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist therapy after 1 June 2017. (a) Initial treatment. Applications for initial treatment should be made where: (i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment in this treatment cycle and wishes to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or (ii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) treatment with a TNF-alfa antagonist and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping treatment' below]; or (iii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific TNF-alfa antagonist following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2). Treatment authorisations under Initial 1 and Initial 2 will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and 14 weeks of treatment for infliximab. From 1 June 2017, a patient must be assessed for response to a course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and up to 12 weeks after the first dose (6 weeks following the third dose) for infliximab, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist. For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment, 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 the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course. Adalimumab only: Two completed authority prescriptions should be submitted with every initial application for this drug. For patients weighing 40 kg or greater, one prescription should be for the induction pack containing a quantity of 6 doses of 40 mg and no repeats and the second prescription should be written for 2 doses of 40 mg and 2 repeats. For patients weighing less than 40 kg, one prescription should be written for 2 doses of 40 mg with no repeats and the second prescription should be written for 2 doses of 20 mg with 3 repeats. (b) Continuing treatment. Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific TNF-alfa antagonist, a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing TNF-alfa antagonist treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response. It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted TNF-alfa antagonist supply. Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised treatment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist. (2) Swapping treatment. Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist is approved, a patient may swap if eligible to the alternate TNF-alfa antagonist within the same treatment cycle without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) Score, confirmation of ulcerative colitis disease), or the prior conventional therapies of corticosteroids or immunosuppressives. A patient may trial an alternate agent at any time,

regardless of whether they are receiving treatment (initial or continuing) with infliximab or adalimumab at the time of the application. However, a patient cannot swap to a particular TNF-alfa antagonist if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug two times within the same treatment cycle. To ensure a patient receives the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under these swapping 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, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to the alternate TNF-alfa antagonist (where eligible in terms of disease severity) should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the TNF-alfa antagonist the patient is ceasing. (3) Baseline measurements to determine response. The Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the PUCAI submitted with the first authority application for a TNF-alfa antagonist. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time other than when an initial treatment authority application is submitted within a treatment cycle and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. (4) Re-commencement of treatment after a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised therapy. A patient who wishes to trial a second or subsequent treatment cycle following a break in PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment with respect to the indices of disease severity. A patient must have received treatment with a 5-aminosalicylate oral preparation in a standard dose for induction of remission for a minimum of 3 consecutive months, and, either azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine for a minimum of 3 consecutive months or a tapered course of oral steroids over a 6 week period followed by an appropriately dosed thiopurine agent for a minimum of 3 consecutive months (unless intolerance develops necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal to these agents) immediately prior to the time the PUCAI score is measured. (5) Patients 'grandfathered' onto PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab. A patient who commenced treatment with adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis prior to 1 June 2017 and who continues to receive treatment at the time of application, may qualify for treatment under the initial 3 'grandfather' treatment restriction. A patient may only qualify for PBS-subsidised treatment under this criterion once. A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with adalimumab will be authorised under this criterion. Following completion of the initial PBS-subsidised course, further applications for treatment with adalimumab will be assessed under the continuing treatment restriction. 'Grandfather' arrangements will only apply for the first treatment cycle. For the second and subsequent cycles, a 'grandfather' patient must requalify for continuing treatment under the criteria that apply to a continuing patient.

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition, **AND**
- Patient must have demonstrated or sustained an adequate response to treatment by having a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1 while receiving treatment with this drug; OR
- Patient must have demonstrated or sustained an adequate response to treatment by having a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score less than 10 while receiving treatment with this drug if aged 6 to 17 years.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

Patients who have failed to maintain a partial Mayo clinic score of less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or, patients who have failed to maintain a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score of less than 10 (if aged 6 to 17 years) with continuing treatment with this drug, will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug.

Patients are eligible to receive continuing treatment with this drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

All applications for continuing treatment with this drug must include a measurement of response to the most recent course of PBS-subsidised therapy. This assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with this drug, it must be accompanied by an assessment of response to a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with the initial treatment course.

Where a response assessment is not submitted within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request sufficient quantity for up to 24 weeks of treatment under this restriction.

Note Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Written application for authority approval should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Note No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Initial 3 (Grandfathered patient)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have a documented history of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis, **AND**
- Patient must have previously received non-PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition prior to 1 December 2016, **AND**
- Patient must be receiving treatment with this drug at the time of application, **AND**
- Patient must have a Mayo score greater than or equal to 6 prior to commencing treatment with this drug; OR
- Patient must have a partial Mayo score is greater than or equal to 6, provided the rectal bleeding and stool frequency subscores are both greater than or equal to 2 (endoscopy subscore is not required for a partial Mayo score) prior to commencing treatment with this drug; OR
- Patient must have a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) Score greater than or equal to 30 prior to commencing treatment with this drug, if aged 6 to 17 years; OR
- Patient must have a documented history of moderate to severe refractory ulcerative colitis prior to having commenced treatment with this drug where a Mayo clinic, partial Mayo clinic or PUCAI baseline assessment is not available, if aged 6 to 17 years, **AND**
- Patient must have demonstrated or sustained an adequate response to treatment by having a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1 while receiving treatment with this drug; OR
- Patient must have demonstrated or sustained an adequate response to treatment by having a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score less than 10 while receiving treatment with this drug if aged 6 to 17 years.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

Applications for authorisation of initial treatment must be in writing and must include: (a) a completed authority prescription form; and (b) a completed Ulcerative Colitis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following: (i) the completed current and baseline Mayo clinic or partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition; and (ii) the date of commencement of this drug; and (iii) the signed patient or guardian acknowledgement

The current Mayo clinic or partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application. The baseline assessment must be from immediately prior to commencing treatment with this drug. Where a baseline assessment is not available the prescriber must contact the Department of Human Services to discuss.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request sufficient quantity for up to 24 weeks of treatment under this restriction.

A patient may qualify for PBS-subsidised treatment under this restriction once only.

For continuing PBS-subsidised treatment, a Grandfathered patient must qualify under the Continuing treatment criteria.

Note The patient or guardian (required if patient is aged 6 to 17 years) must have signed a patient acknowledgement indicating that he or she understands and acknowledges that the PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if he or she does not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment.

Note No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Balance of supply for Continuing treatment and Initial 3 (Grandfathered patients)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Continuing treatment restriction to complete 24 weeks of treatment; OR
- Patient must have received insufficient treatment with this drug to complete 24 weeks of treatment under the Initial 3 (Grandfathered patients).

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR

- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.
Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services.

adalimumab 20 mg/0.4 mL injection, 2 x 0.4 mL syringes

11121H	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	5	..	1401.30	38.80	Humira [VE]

adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL cartridges

10961X	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	5	..	1401.30	38.80	Humira [VE]

adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL syringes

10960W	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	5	..	1401.30	38.80	Humira [VE]

■ ADALIMUMAB

Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of infliximab, vedolizumab and adalimumab for adult patients with ulcerative colitis. Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with either infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab at any one time. From 1 December 2016, under the PBS, all adult patients will be able to commence a treatment cycle where they may trial each of PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab without having to experience a disease flare when swapping to one of the alternate agents. Under these arrangements, within a single treatment cycle, a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab while they continue to show a response to therapy. A patient who received PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment prior to 1 December 2016 is considered to be in their first cycle as of 1 December 2016. Within the same treatment cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab more than once. 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 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 infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment in the most recent cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab under the new treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of either infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of more than 5 years, may commence a new treatment cycle.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab and adalimumab after therapy after 1 December 2016 .

(a) Initial treatment. Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

- an adult patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab in this treatment cycle and wishes to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or
- an adult patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or
- an adult patient wishes to re-commence treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with the same agent (Initial 2).

Treatment authorisations under Initial 1 and Initial 2 will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for adalimumab , 14 weeks of therapy for infliximab and vedolizumab.

A patient must be assessed for response to a course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and up to 12 weeks after the first dose (6 weeks following the third dose) for infliximab and vedolizumab, and this assessment must be provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not provided to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist. For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment, it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab, a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response. It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted supply of treatment. Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not provided to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that drug.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised treatment is approved, a patient may swap if eligible to the alternate infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment within the same treatment cycle without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. Mayo clinic score or partial Mayo clinic score), or the prior corticosteroid therapy and immunosuppressive therapy. A patient may trial an alternate treatment at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular therapy if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug once within the same treatment cycle. To ensure a patient receives the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under these 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, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to the alternate infliximab,

vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the therapy the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

The Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the Mayo clinic score or partial Mayo clinic score submitted with the first authority application for infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time other than when an initial treatment authority application is provided within a treatment cycle and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications.

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

A patient who wishes to trial a second or subsequent course of treatment following a break in PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment with respect to the scores of disease severity. A patient must have received treatment with a 5-aminosalicylate oral preparation in a standard dose for induction of remission for a minimum of 3 consecutive months, and, either azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine for a minimum of 3 consecutive months or a tapered course of oral steroids over a 6 week period followed by an appropriately dosed thiopurine agent for a minimum of 3 consecutive months (unless intolerance develops necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal to these agents) immediately prior to the time the Mayo score is measured.

(5) Patients 'grandfathered' onto PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab.

A patient who commenced treatment with adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis prior to 1 December 2016 and who continues to receive treatment at the time of application, may qualify for treatment under the initial 3 'grandfather' treatment restriction.

A patient may only qualify for PBS-subsidised treatment under this criterion once. A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment will be authorised under this criterion. Following completion of the initial PBS-subsidised course, further applications for treatment will be assessed under the continuing treatment restriction of the relevant drug. 'Grandfather' arrangements will only apply for the first treatment cycle.

For the second and subsequent cycles, a 'grandfather' patient must requalify for continuing treatment under the criteria that apply to a continuing patient.

Note TREATMENT OF PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for paediatric patients with infliximab or adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis; and infliximab for acute severe ulcerative colitis.

Where the term 'tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonist' appears in the following NOTES and restrictions, it refers to infliximab and adalimumab only. A patient is eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the 2 TNF-alfa antagonists at any one time. Infliximab and adalimumab are PBS-subsidised for moderate to severe disease while only infliximab is PBS-subsidised for acute severe disease. From 1 June 2017, under the PBS, all will be able to commence a treatment cycle where they may trial each PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist without having to experience a disease flare when swapping to the alternate agent. Under these arrangements, within a single treatment cycle and depending on the disease severity, a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a TNF-alfa antagonist while they continue to show a response to therapy. A patient who received PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment prior to 1 June 2017 is considered to be in their first cycle as of 1 June 2017. Within the same treatment cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist more than twice. 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 TNF-alfa antagonist 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 TNF-alfa antagonist treatment in the most recent cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with a TNF-alfa antagonist under the new treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of TNF-alfa antagonists in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of less than 5 years, may commence a further course of treatment within the same treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of TNF-alfa antagonists in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of more than 5 years, may commence a new treatment cycle. There is no limit to the number of treatment cycles a patient may undertake in their lifetime. (1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist therapy after 1 June 2017. (a) Initial treatment. Applications for initial treatment should be made where: (i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment in this treatment cycle and wishes to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or (ii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) treatment with a TNF-alfa antagonist and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping treatment' below]; or (iii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific TNF-alfa antagonist following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2). Treatment authorisations under Initial 1 and Initial 2 will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and 14 weeks of treatment for infliximab. From 1 June 2017, a patient must be assessed for response to a course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and up to 12 weeks after the first dose (6 weeks following the third dose) for infliximab, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist. For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment, 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 the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course. Adalimumab only: Two completed authority prescriptions should be submitted with every initial application for this drug. For patients weighing 40 kg or greater, one prescription should be for the induction pack containing a quantity of 6 doses of 40 mg and no repeats and the second prescription should be written for 2 doses of 40 mg and 2 repeats. For patients weighing less than 40 kg, one prescription should be written for 2 doses of 40 mg with no repeats and the second prescription should be written for 2 doses of 20 mg with 3 repeats. (b) Continuing treatment. Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific TNF-alfa antagonist, a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing TNF-alfa antagonist treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response. It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of

treatment to ensure uninterrupted TNF-alfa antagonist supply. Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised treatment must be submitted the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist.(2) Swapping treatment. Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist is approved, a patient may swap if eligible to the alternate TNF-alfa antagonist within the same treatment cycle without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) Score, confirmation of ulcerative colitis disease), or the prior conventional therapies of corticosteroids or immunosuppressives. A patient may trial an alternate agent at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving treatment (initial or continuing) with infliximab or adalimumab at the time of the application. However, a patient cannot swap to a particular TNF-alfa antagonist if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug two times within the same treatment cycle. To ensure a patient receives the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under these swapping 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, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to the alternate TNF-alfa antagonist (where eligible in terms of disease severity) should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the TNF-alfa antagonist the patient is ceasing.(3) Baseline measurements to determine response. The Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the PUCAI submitted with the first authority application for a TNF-alfa antagonist. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time other than when an initial treatment authority application is submitted within a treatment cycle and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications.(4) Re-commencement of treatment after a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised therapy. A patient who wishes to trial a second or subsequent treatment cycle following a break in PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment with respect to the indices of disease severity. A patient must have received treatment with a 5-aminosalicylate oral preparation in a standard dose for induction of remission for a minimum of 3 consecutive months, and, either azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine for a minimum of 3 consecutive months or a tapered course of oral steroids over a 6 week period followed by an appropriately dosed thiopurine agent for a minimum of 3 consecutive months (unless intolerance develops necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal to these agents) immediately prior to the time the PUCAI score is measured.(5) Patients 'grandfathered' onto PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab. A patient who commenced treatment with adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis prior to 1 June 2017 and who continues to receive treatment at the time of application, may qualify for treatment under the initial 3 'grandfather' treatment restriction. A patient may only qualify for PBS-subsidised treatment under this criterion once. A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with adalimumab will be authorised under this criterion. Following completion of the initial PBS-subsidised course, further applications for treatment with adalimumab will be assessed under the continuing treatment restriction. 'Grandfather' arrangements will only apply for the first treatment cycle. For the second and subsequent cycles, a 'grandfather' patient must requalify for continuing treatment under the criteria that apply to a continuing patient.

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment (new patient or Re commencement of treatment after more than 5 years break in therapy - Initial 1)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to a 5-aminosalicylate oral preparation in a standard dose for induction of remission for 3 or more months or have intolerance necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal, **AND**
- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to azathioprine at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg daily for 3 or more months or have intolerance necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal; OR
- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to 6-mercaptopurine at a dose of at least 1 mg per kg daily for 3 or more months or have intolerance necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal; OR
- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to a tapered course of oral steroids, starting at a dose of at least 40 mg (for a child, 1 to 2 mg/kg up to 40 mg) prednisolone (or equivalent), over a 6 week period or have intolerance necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal, and followed by a failure to achieve an adequate response to 3 or more months of treatment of an appropriately dosed thiopurine agent, **AND**
- Patient must have a Mayo clinic score greater than or equal to 6 if an adult patient; OR
- Patient must have a partial Mayo clinic score greater than or equal to 6, provided the rectal bleeding and stool frequency subscores are both greater than or equal to 2 (endoscopy subscore is not required for a partial Mayo clinic score); OR
- Patient must have a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) Score greater than or equal to 30 if aged 6 to 17 years.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

Applications for authorisation of initial treatment must be in writing and must include:(a) two completed authority prescription forms; and(b) a completed Ulcerative Colitis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following:(i) the completed current Mayo clinic or partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) calculation sheet including the date of assessment of the patient's condition; and(ii) details of prior systemic drug therapy [dosage, date of commencement and duration of therapy]; and(iii) the signed patient acknowledgement or guardian acknowledgement.

For patients weighing 40 kg or greater, a maximum quantity and number of repeats to provide for an initial 16 weeks course of this drug consisting of a 160 mg dose at week 0, 80 mg dose at week 2 and 40 mg dose at weeks 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 will be authorised.

For patients weighing less than 40 kg, a maximum quantity and number of repeats to provide for an initial 16 weeks of this drug consisting of a 80 mg dose at week 0, 40 mg dose at week 2 and a 20 mg dose at weeks 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 will be authorised.

Two completed authority prescriptions must be submitted with every initial application for this drug. For patients weighing 40 kg or greater, one prescription should be for the induction pack containing a quantity of 6 doses of 40 mg and no repeats and the second prescription must be written for 2 doses of 40 mg and 2 repeats.

For patients weighing less than 40 kg, one prescription should be written for 2 doses of 40 mg with no repeats and the second prescription should be written for 2 doses of 20 mg with 3 repeats.

All tests and assessments should be performed preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior conventional treatment.

The most recent Mayo clinic, partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Patients who fail to achieve a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score less than 10 within the first 12 weeks of receiving this drug for ulcerative colitis, or have failed to maintain a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or have failed to maintain a PUCAI score less than 10 (if aged 6 to 17 years) with continuing treatment with this drug, will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug.

A partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made up to 12 weeks after the first dose so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated.

The patient or guardian (required if patient is aged 6 to 17 years) must have signed a patient acknowledgement indicating that he or she understands and acknowledges that the PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if he or she does not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment.

If treatment with any of the above-mentioned drugs is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, details must be provided at the time of application.

If intolerance to treatment develops during the relevant period of use, which is of a severity necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal, details of this toxicity must be provided at the time of application.

Details of the accepted toxicities including severity can be found on the Department of Human Services website.

Note At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request sufficient quantity for up to 16 weeks of treatment under this restriction.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs Programs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Change or Re-commencement of treatment after a break of less than 5 years in therapy (Initial 2)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab, infliximab or vedolizumab for this condition in this treatment cycle; OR
- Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab or infliximab for this condition in this treatment cycle if aged 6 to 17 years, **AND**
- Patient must not have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab for this condition in the current treatment cycle; OR
- Patient must not have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab for this condition in the current treatment cycle more than once if aged 6 to 17 years.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied by the results of the most recent course of this drug within the timelines specified in the relevant restriction. If the response assessment to the previous course of this drug is not submitted as detailed in the relevant restriction, the patient will be deemed to have failed therapy with this drug.

Applications for authorisation of initial treatment must be in writing and must include:

(a) two completed authority prescription forms; and (b) a completed Ulcerative Colitis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following: (i) the completed current Mayo clinic or partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric

Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) calculation sheet including the date of assessment of the patient's condition; and(ii) details of prior systemic drug therapy [dosage, date of commencement and duration of therapy].

Two completed authority prescriptions must be submitted with every initial application for this drug. For patients weighing 40 kg or greater, one prescription should be for the induction pack containing a quantity of 6 doses of 40 mg and no repeats and the second prescription must be written for 2 doses of 40 mg and 2 repeats.

For patients weighing less than 40 kg, one prescription should be written for 2 doses of 40 mg with no repeats and the second prescription should be written for 2 doses of 20 mg with 3 repeats.

Note At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request sufficient quantity for up to 16 weeks of treatment under this restriction.

Note No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Balance of supply for Initial 1 and Initial 2

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have received insufficient treatment with this drug under the Initial 1 (new patient or recommencement of treatment after more than 5 years break in therapy) restriction to complete 16 weeks of treatment; OR
- Patient must have received insufficient treatment with this drug under the Initial 2 (Change or Re-commencing of treatment after less than 5 years break in therapy) to complete 16 weeks of treatment.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services.

adalimumab 20 mg/0.4 mL injection, 2 x 0.4 mL syringes

11127P	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	3	..	1401.30	38.80	Humira [VE]

adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL cartridges

10955N	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	2	..	1401.30	38.80	Humira [VE]

adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL syringes

10944B	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	2	..	1401.30	38.80	Humira [VE]

adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 6 x 0.8 mL cartridges

10945C	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	..	..	3987.46	38.80	Humira [VE]

adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 6 x 0.8 mL syringes

10972L	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	..	..	3987.46	38.80	Humira [VE]

▪ ADALIMUMAB

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment - Initial 1 (new patient or patient recommencing treatment after a break of more than 24 months)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have severe active rheumatoid arthritis, **AND**
- Patient must have received no PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARD) for this condition in the previous 24 months, **AND**

- Patient must not have failed previous PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition, and have not already failed, or ceased to respond to, PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment for this condition 5 times, **AND**
- Patient must have failed, in the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the application, to achieve an adequate response to a trial of at least 6 months of intensive treatment with disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) which must include at least 3 months continuous treatment with each of at least 2 DMARDs, one of which must be methotrexate at a dose of at least 20 mg weekly and one of which must be: (i) hydroxychloroquine at a dose of at least 200 mg daily; or (ii) leflunomide at a dose of at least 10 mg daily; or (iii) sulfasalazine at a dose of at least 2 g daily; OR
- Patient must have failed, in the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the application, to achieve an adequate response according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)-approved Product Information or cannot be tolerated at a 20 mg weekly dose, must include at least 3 months continuous treatment with each of at least 2 of the following DMARDs: (i) hydroxychloroquine at a dose of at least 200 mg daily; and/or (ii) leflunomide at a dose of at least 10 mg daily; and/or (iii) sulfasalazine at a dose of at least 2 g daily; OR
- Patient must have failed, in the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the application, to achieve an adequate response to a trial of at least 6 months of intensive treatment with DMARDs which, if 3 or more of methotrexate, hydroxychloroquine, leflunomide and sulfasalazine are contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information or cannot be tolerated at the doses specified above, must include at least 3 months continuous treatment with each of at least 2 DMARDs, with one or more of the following DMARDs being used in place of the DMARDs which are contraindicated or not tolerated: (i) azathioprine at a dose of at least 1 mg/kg per day; and/or (ii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg/kg/day; and/or (iii) sodium aurothiomalate at a dose of 50 mg weekly, **AND**
- Patient must not receive more than 16 weeks of treatment under this restriction.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

For the purposes of this restriction bDMARD means abatacept, adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, rituximab, tocilizumab or tofacitinib.

If methotrexate is contraindicated according to the TGA-approved Product Information or cannot be tolerated at a 20 mg weekly dose, the application must include details of the contraindication or intolerance to methotrexate. The maximum tolerated dose of methotrexate must be documented in the application, if applicable.

The application must include details of the DMARDs trialled, their doses and duration of treatment, and all relevant contraindications and/or intolerances.

The requirement to trial at least 2 DMARDs for periods of at least 3 months each can be met using single agents sequentially or by using one or more combinations of DMARDs.

If the requirement to trial 6 months of intensive DMARD therapy with at least 2 DMARDs cannot be met because of contraindications and/or intolerances of a severity necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal to all of the DMARDs specified above, details of the contraindication or intolerance and dose for each DMARD must be provided in the authority application.

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

- (1) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (2) a completed Rheumatoid Arthritis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form; and
- (3) a signed patient acknowledgement.

Applications for a patient who has received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug and who wishes to re-commence therapy with this drug, must be accompanied by evidence of a response to the patient's most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug, within the timeframes specified below.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under either of the initial 1 or 2 treatment restrictions, the patient must have been assessed for response following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy. This assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under the continuing treatment criteria, the patient must have been assessed for response, and the assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition.

The following criteria indicate failure to achieve an adequate response and must be demonstrated in all patients at the time of the initial application:

an elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) greater than 25 mm per hour or a C-reactive protein (CRP) level greater than 15 mg per L; **AND** either

- (a) a total active joint count of at least 20 active (swollen and tender) joints; or
- (b) at least 4 active joints from the following list of major joints:
 - (i) elbow, wrist, knee and/or ankle (assessed as swollen and tender); and/or
 - (ii) shoulder and/or hip (assessed as pain in passive movement and restriction of passive movement, where pain and limitation of movement are due to active disease and not irreversible damage such as joint destruction or bony overgrowth).

The joint count and ESR and/or CRP must be determined at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy. All measures must be no more than one month old at the time of initial application.

If the above requirement to demonstrate an elevated ESR or CRP cannot be met, the application must state the reasons why this criterion cannot be satisfied.

Where the baseline joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major

joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints. If only an ESR or CRP is provided with the initial application, the same marker will be used to determine response.

Note The Department of Human Services website (www.humanservices.gov.au) has details of the toxicities, including severity, which will be accepted for the following purposes:

- (a) exempting a patient from the requirement to undertake a minimum 3 month trial of methotrexate at a 20 mg weekly dose;
- (b) substituting azathioprine, cyclosporin or sodium aurothiomalate for another DMARD as part of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial;
- (c) exempting a patient from the requirement for a 6 month trial of intensive DMARD therapy.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis. Where the term bDMARD appears in the following notes and restrictions it refers to the tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonists (adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab), the chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (rituximab), the interleukin-6 inhibitor (tocilizumab), the T-cell co-stimulation modulator (abatacept) and the Janus-associated kinase (JAK) inhibitor (tofacitinib).

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the above biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs at any 1 time.

In order to be eligible to receive PBS-subsidised treatment with rituximab, a patient must have already failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 course of treatment with a PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist.

A patient receiving PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to experience a disease flare. Under these interchangeability arrangements:

- a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a PBS-subsidised bDMARD while they continue to show a response to therapy,
- a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised bDMARD more than once, and
- once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 5 times, they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised bDMARDs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

For patients who have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with 2 or 3 TNF-alfa antagonists prior to 1 August 2010 please contact the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270.

A patient whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised therapy was with rituximab and whose response to this treatment is sustained for more than 12 months, may apply for a further course of rituximab under the Continuing treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has a break in therapy of less than 24 months may commence a further course of treatment with a bDMARD without having to requalify under the Initial 1 treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has had a break in therapy of longer than 24 months must requalify for treatment under the Initial 1 treatment restriction.

The length of a treatment break is measured from the date the most recent treatment with PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment is stopped to the date of the new application for treatment with a bDMARD.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy after 1 August 2010.

(a) Initial treatment.

Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

- (i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment and wishes to commence such therapy, excluding rituximab (Initial 1); or
- (ii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a bDMARD following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of more than 24 months (Initial 1); or
- (iii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) bDMARD therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iv) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific bDMARD following a break of less than 24 months in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

Initial applications for new or re-commencing patients (Initial 1) must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6-month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Initial treatment authorisations will be limited to provide a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept, golimumab, tocilizumab and tofacitinib, 18 to 20 weeks of therapy with certolizumab pegol (depending upon the dosing regimen), 22 weeks of therapy for infliximab and 2 infusions of rituximab.

A patient must be assessed for response to any course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment (excluding rituximab) following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients must be assessed following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services within 4 weeks.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to treatment with that bDMARD.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised bDMARD (excluding rituximab) treatment it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Abatacept patients:

Patients are eligible to receive one I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation. For these patients two prescriptions are required, the first prescription for the I.V. loading dose for sufficient vials for one dose

based on the patient's weight with no repeats. The second prescription for the pre-filled syringes, with a maximum quantity of 4 and up to 3 repeats, must be submitted with the initial application.

Rituximab patients:

A further application may be submitted to the Department of Human Services 24 weeks after the first infusion. New baselines may be submitted with this application if appropriate.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific bDMARD (excluding rituximab), a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing bDMARD treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted bDMARD supply.

Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients:

A patient may qualify to receive a further course of treatment (every 24 weeks) with this agent providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion of their most recent treatment with rituximab. The patient remains eligible to receive a course of rituximab every 24 weeks providing they continue to demonstrate a response as specified in the restriction.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised bDMARD is approved, a patient may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), the C-reactive protein (CRP) levels and the joint count) or the prior non-bDMARD therapy requirements, except if the patient has had a break in therapy of more than 24 months. However the requirement for concomitant treatment with methotrexate, where it applies, must be met for each bDMARD trialled.

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.

A patient may trial an alternate bDMARD at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with a bDMARD at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular bDMARD if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug.

Abatacept patients:

Patients swapping from I.V. abatacept to subcutaneous abatacept will not be eligible for an I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation.

In order to trial rituximab, a patient must have trialled and failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment.

To ensure a patient receives 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.

PBS subsidy does not allow for patients to receive treatment with another PBS-subsidised biological agent during the required treatment-free period applying to patients who have demonstrated a response to their most recent course of rituximab. This means that patients who have demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD. Patients who fail to respond to rituximab and who qualify and wish to trial a course of an alternate bDMARD may do so without having to have any treatment-free period.

To avoid confusion, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to an alternate bDMARD should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the bDMARD the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

the Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the joint count, ESR and/or CRP submitted with the first authority application for a bDMARD. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority application is submitted and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements.

To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. Therefore, where only an ESR or CRP level is provided at baseline, an ESR or CRP level respectively must be provided to determine response. Similarly, where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints.

Except as specified under the Initial 1 treatment restriction, a baseline joint count and ESR and/or CRP should be performed whilst the patient is still on treatment or within 1 month of ceasing prior treatment. Applications under the Initial 1 treatment restriction for new or re-commencing patients must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Note No increase in the maximum quantity or number of units may be authorised.

Note No increase in the maximum number of repeats may be authorised.

Note Applications for treatment with this drug where the dosing frequency exceeds 40 mg per fortnight will not be approved.

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment - Initial 2 (change or re-commencement of treatment after break of less than 24 months)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have a documented history of severe active rheumatoid arthritis, **AND**

- Patient must have received prior PBS-subsidised biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARD) treatment for this condition and are eligible to receive further bDMARD therapy, **AND**
- Patient must not receive more than 16 weeks of treatment under this restriction.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

For the purposes of this restriction bDMARD means abatacept, adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, rituximab, tocilizumab or tofacitinib.

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

- (a) a completed authority prescription form and
- (b) a completed Rheumatoid Arthritis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form.

Application for a patient who has received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug and who wishes to re-commence therapy with this drug, must be accompanied by evidence of a response to the patient's most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug, within the timeframes specified below.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under either of the initial 1 or 2 treatment restrictions, the patient must have been assessed for response following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy. This assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under the continuing treatment criteria, the patient must have been assessed for response, and the assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition.

Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug.

If a patient who has demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD.

An adequate response to treatment is defined as:

an ESR no greater than 25 mm per hour or a CRP level no greater than 15 mg per L or either marker reduced by at least 20% from baseline;

AND either of the following:

- (a) a reduction in the total active (swollen and tender) joint count by at least 50% from baseline, where baseline is at least 20 active joints; or
- (b) a reduction in the number of the following active joints, from at least 4, by at least 50%:
 - (i) elbow, wrist, knee and/or ankle (assessed as swollen and tender); and/or
 - (ii) shoulder and/or hip (assessed as pain in passive movement and restriction of passive movement, where pain and limitation of movement are due to active disease and not irreversible damage such as joint destruction or bony overgrowth).

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis. Where the term bDMARD appears in the following notes and restrictions it refers to the tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonists (adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab), the chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (rituximab), the interleukin-6 inhibitor (tocilizumab), the T-cell co-stimulation modulator (abatacept) and the Janus-associated kinase (JAK) inhibitor (tofacitinib).

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the above biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs at any 1 time.

In order to be eligible to receive PBS-subsidised treatment with rituximab, a patient must have already failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 course of treatment with a PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist.

A patient receiving PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to experience a disease flare. Under these interchangeability arrangements:

- a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a PBS-subsidised bDMARD while they continue to show a response to therapy,
- a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised bDMARD more than once, and
- once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 5 times, they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised bDMARDs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

For patients who have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with 2 or 3 TNF-alfa antagonists prior to 1 August 2010 please contact the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270.

A patient whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised therapy was with rituximab and whose response to this treatment is sustained for more than 12 months, may apply for a further course of rituximab under the Continuing treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has a break in therapy of less than 24 months may commence a

further course of treatment with a bDMARD without having to requalify under the Initial 1 treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has had a break in therapy of longer than 24 months must requalify for treatment under the Initial 1 treatment restriction.

The length of a treatment break is measured from the date the most recent treatment with PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment is stopped to the date of the new application for treatment with a bDMARD.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy after 1 August 2010.

(a) Initial treatment.

Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

(i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment and wishes to commence such therapy, excluding rituximab (Initial 1); or

(ii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a bDMARD following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of more than 24 months (Initial 1); or

(iii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) bDMARD therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or

(iv) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific bDMARD following a break of less than 24 months in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

Initial applications for new or re-commencing patients (Initial 1) must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6-month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Initial treatment authorisations will be limited to provide a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept, golimumab, tocilizumab and tofacitinib, 18 to 20 weeks of therapy with certolizumab pegol (depending upon the dosing regimen), 22 weeks of therapy for infliximab and 2 infusions of rituximab.

A patient must be assessed for response to any course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment (excluding rituximab) following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients must be assessed following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services within 4 weeks.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised bDMARD (excluding rituximab) treatment it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Abatacept patients:

Patients are eligible to receive one I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation. For these patients two prescriptions are required, the first prescription for the I.V. loading dose for sufficient vials for one dose based on the patient's weight with no repeats. The second prescription for the pre-filled syringes, with a maximum quantity of 4 and up to 3 repeats, must be submitted with the initial application.

Rituximab patients:

A further application may be submitted to the Department of Human Services 24 weeks after the first infusion. New baselines may be submitted with this application if appropriate.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific bDMARD (excluding rituximab), a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing bDMARD treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted bDMARD supply.

Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients:

A patient may qualify to receive a further course of treatment (every 24 weeks) with this agent providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion of their most recent treatment with rituximab. The patient remains eligible to receive a course of rituximab every 24 weeks providing they continue to demonstrate a response as specified in the restriction.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised bDMARD is approved, a patient may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), the C-reactive protein (CRP) levels and the joint count) or the prior non-bDMARD therapy requirements, except if the patient has had a break in therapy of more than 24 months. However the requirement for concomitant treatment with methotrexate, where it applies, must be met for each bDMARD trialled.

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.

A patient may trial an alternate bDMARD at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with a bDMARD at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular bDMARD if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug.

Abatacept patients:

Patients swapping from I.V. abatacept to subcutaneous abatacept will not be eligible for an I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation.

In order to trial rituximab, a patient must have trialled and failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment.

To ensure a patient receives 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.

PBS subsidy does not allow for patients to receive treatment with another PBS-subsidised biological agent during the required treatment-free period applying to patients who have demonstrated a response to their most recent course of rituximab. This means that patients who have demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD. Patients who fail to respond to rituximab and who qualify and wish to trial a course of an alternate bDMARD may do so without having to have any treatment-free period.

To avoid confusion, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to an alternate bDMARD should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the bDMARD the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

the Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the joint count, ESR and/or CRP submitted with the first authority application for a bDMARD. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority application is submitted and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. Therefore, where only an ESR or CRP level is provided at baseline, an ESR or CRP level respectively must be provided to determine response. Similarly, where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints.

Except as specified under the Initial 1 treatment restriction, a baseline joint count and ESR and/or CRP should be performed whilst the patient is still on treatment or within 1 month of ceasing prior treatment. Applications under the Initial 1 treatment restriction for new or re-commencing patients must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Note No increase in the maximum quantity or number of units may be authorised.

Note No increase in the maximum number of repeats may be authorised.

Note Applications for treatment with this drug where the dosing frequency exceeds 40 mg per fortnight will not be approved.

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment - Initial 1 (new patient or patient recommencing treatment after a break of more than 24 months) or Initial 2 (change or recommencement of treatment after break of less than 24 months) – balance of supply.

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Initial 1 (new patient or patient recommencing treatment after break of more than 24 months) restriction to complete 16 weeks treatment; OR
- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Initial 2 (change or recommencement of treatment after break of less than 24 months) restriction to complete 16 weeks treatment, **AND**
- The treatment must provide no more than the balance of up to 16 weeks treatment available under the above restrictions.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

Note Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Written application for authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL cartridges

9099X	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	3	..	1401.30	38.80	Humira [VE]

adalimumab 40 mg/0.8 mL injection, 2 x 0.8 mL syringes

8737W	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	3	..	1401.30	38.80	Humira [VE]

■ DASATINIB

Note Dasatinib will only be subsidised for patients with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia who are not receiving concomitant PBS-subsidised imatinib mesilate and who are not appropriate for an allogeneic haemopoietic stem cell transplant.

Note No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

Authority required

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be expressing the Philadelphia chromosome; OR
- The condition must have the transcript BCR-ABL, **AND**
- Patient must have failed treatment with chemotherapy, **AND**

- Patient must have failed treatment with imatinib, **AND**
- Patient must have failed an allogeneic haemopoietic stem cell transplantation if applicable, **AND**
- The treatment must be the sole PBS-subsidised therapy for this condition.

Failure of treatment is defined as either:

- (i) Failure to achieve a complete morphological and cytogenetic remission after a minimum of 2 months treatment with intensive chemotherapy and imatinib;
- (ii) Morphological or cytogenetic relapse of leukaemia after achieving a complete remission induced by chemotherapy and imatinib;
- (iii) Morphological or cytogenetic relapse or persistence of leukaemia after allogeneic haemopoietic stem cell transplantation.

Patients must have active leukaemia, as defined by presence on current pathology assessments of either morphological infiltration of the bone marrow (greater than 5% lymphoblasts) or cerebrospinal fluid or other sites; OR the presence of cells expressing the Philadelphia chromosome on cytogenetic or FISH analysis in the bone marrow of patients in morphological remission.

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

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia Dasatinib PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form; and
- (c) a signed patient acknowledgement; and
- (d) a pathology report demonstrating that the patient has active acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, either manifest as cytogenetic evidence of the Philadelphia chromosome, or morphological evidence of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia plus qualitative RT-PCR evidence of BCR-ABL transcript. The date of the relevant pathology report(s) need(s) to be provided.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

Treatment Phase: Initial Treatment

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be expressing the Philadelphia chromosome; OR
- The condition must have the transcript BCR-ABL, **AND**
- Patient must have been treated for this condition prior to 1 December 2007, **AND**
- Patient must have failed treatment with chemotherapy, **AND**
- Patient must have failed an allogeneic haemopoietic stem cell transplantation if applicable, **AND**
- The treatment must be the sole PBS-subsidised therapy for this condition.

Patients must have active leukaemia, as defined by presence on current pathology assessments of either morphological infiltration of the bone marrow (greater than 5% lymphoblasts) or cerebrospinal fluid or other sites; OR the presence of cells expressing the Philadelphia chromosome on cytogenetic or FISH analysis in the bone marrow of patients in morphological remission.

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

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia Dasatinib PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form; and
- (c) a signed patient acknowledgement; and
- (d) a pathology report demonstrating that the patient has active acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, either manifest as cytogenetic evidence of the Philadelphia chromosome, or morphological evidence of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia plus qualitative RT-PCR evidence of BCR-ABL transcript. The date of the relevant pathology report(s) need(s) to be provided.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be expressing the Philadelphia chromosome; OR
- The condition must have the transcript BCR-ABL, **AND**
- Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition, **AND**
- The condition must not have progressed, **AND**
- The treatment must be the sole PBS-subsidised therapy for this condition.

Note Authority applications for continuing treatment may be made by telephone on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

dasatinib 100 mg tablet, 30

9343R	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	2	..	4762.45	38.80	Sprycel [BQ]

dasatinib 20 mg tablet, 60

9125G	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	2	..	2949.52	38.80	Sprycel [BQ]

dasatinib 50 mg tablet, 60

9126H	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	2	..	4762.45	38.80	Sprycel [BQ]

dasatinib 70 mg tablet, 60

9127J	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	2	..	5861.02	38.80	Sprycel [BQ]

▪ DIMETHYL FUMARATE

Note Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

Authority required

Multiple sclerosis

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be diagnosed as clinically definite relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis by magnetic resonance imaging of the brain and/or spinal cord; OR
 - The condition must be diagnosed as clinically definite relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis by accompanying written certification provided by a radiologist that a magnetic resonance imaging scan is contraindicated because of the risk of physical (not psychological) injury to the patient, **AND**
 - The treatment must be a sole PBS-subsidised disease modifying therapy for this condition, **AND**
 - Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition, **AND**
 - Patient must not show continuing progression of disability while on treatment with this drug.
- Where applicable, the date of the magnetic resonance imaging scan must be recorded in the patient's medical records.

dimethyl fumarate 120 mg enteric capsule, 14

2943X	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	2	..	..	*968.70	38.80	Tecfidera [BD]

▪ DIMETHYL FUMARATE

Note No increase in the maximum quantity or number of units may be authorised.

Note No increase in the maximum number of repeats may be authorised.

Note Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

Authority required

Multiple sclerosis

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be diagnosed as clinically definite relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis by magnetic resonance imaging of the brain and/or spinal cord; OR
 - The condition must be diagnosed as clinically definite relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis by accompanying written certification provided by a radiologist that a magnetic resonance imaging scan is contraindicated because of the risk of physical (not psychological) injury to the patient, **AND**
 - The treatment must be a sole PBS-subsidised disease modifying therapy for this condition, **AND**
 - Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition, **AND**
 - Patient must not show continuing progression of disability while on treatment with this drug.
- Where applicable, the date of the magnetic resonance imaging scan must be recorded in the patient's medical records.

dimethyl fumarate 240 mg enteric capsule, 56

2966D	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	5	..	1870.61	38.80	Tecfidera [BD]

▪ EVEROLIMUS

Caution Careful monitoring of patients is mandatory.

everolimus 1 mg tablet, 60

9352F	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	2	3	..	*1966.84	38.80	Certican [NV]

everolimus 250 microgram tablet, 60

8840G	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	3	..	258.31	38.80	Certican [NV]

everolimus 500 microgram tablet, 60

8841H	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	3	..	512.34	38.80	Certican [NV]

everolimus 750 microgram tablet, 60

8842J	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	2	3	..	*1494.30	38.80	Certican [NV]

■ FLUTICASONE FUROATE + VILANTEROL

Note This drug is not recommended nor PBS-subsidised for use as 'maintenance and reliever' therapy.

Note This drug is not PBS-subsidised for the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Restricted benefit

Asthma

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have previously had frequent episodes of asthma while receiving treatment with oral corticosteroids or optimal doses of inhaled corticosteroids.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 12 years or over.

fluticasone furoate 200 microgram/actuation + vilanterol 25 microgram/actuation powder for inhalation, 30 actuations

11129R	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
 ‡1	5	..	71.09	38.80	Breo Ellipta 200/25 [GK]	

■ FLUTICASONE FUROATE + VILANTEROL**Restricted benefit**

Asthma

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have previously had frequent episodes of asthma while receiving treatment with oral corticosteroids or optimal doses of inhaled corticosteroids.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 12 years or over.

Note This drug is not recommended nor PBS-subsidised for use as 'maintenance and reliever' therapy.

Restricted benefit

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)


Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have a forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1) less than 50% of predicted normal prior to therapy, **AND**
- Patient must have a history of repeated exacerbations with significant symptoms despite regular beta-2 agonist bronchodilator therapy, **AND**
- The treatment must be for symptomatic treatment.

Note Patient must not be on a concomitant single agent long-acting beta-2 agonist.

Note This product is not indicated for the initiation of bronchodilator therapy in COPD.

fluticasone furoate 100 microgram/actuation + vilanterol 25 microgram/actuation powder for inhalation, 30 actuations

11124L	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
 ‡1	5	..	55.59	38.80	Breo Ellipta 100/25 [GK]	

■ IMATINIB

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

Note Allogeneic stem cell transplantation is the preferred therapy for eligible patients achieving a complete remission of Philadelphia positive acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

Note No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

Note Pharmaceutical benefits that have the form imatinib tablet 100 mg and imatinib capsule 100 mg are equivalent for the purposes of substitution.

Note Pharmaceutical benefits that have the form imatinib tablet 400 mg and imatinib capsule 400 mg are equivalent for the purposes of substitution.

Authority required

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must be newly diagnosed, **AND**
- The condition must be expressing the Philadelphia chromosome; OR
- The condition must have the transcript BCR-ABL, **AND**
- The treatment must be for induction and consolidation therapy, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with chemotherapy.

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

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia Imatinib PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form; and
- (c) a pathology cytogenetic report conducted on peripheral blood or bone marrow supporting the diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia to confirm eligibility for treatment, with either cytogenetic evidence of the Philadelphia chromosome, or a qualitative PCR report documenting the presence of the BCR-ABL transcript in either peripheral blood or bone marrow. (The date of the relevant pathology report needs to be provided); and
- (d) a signed patient acknowledgement

Authority required

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be expressing the Philadelphia chromosome; OR
 - The condition must have the transcript BCR-ABL, **AND**
 - Patient must have previously received treatment with this drug for this condition under Imatinib Compassionate Program.
- The authority application must be made in writing and must include:

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia Imatinib PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form; and
- (c) a pathology cytogenetic report conducted on peripheral blood or bone marrow supporting the diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia to confirm eligibility for treatment, with either cytogenetic evidence of the Philadelphia chromosome, or a qualitative PCR report documenting the presence of the BCR-ABL transcript in either peripheral blood or bone marrow. (The date of the relevant pathology report needs to be provided); and
- (d) a signed patient acknowledgement

Authority required

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition, **AND**
- The condition must be expressing the Philadelphia chromosome; OR
- The condition must have the transcript BCR-ABL, **AND**
- The treatment must be for maintenance of first complete remission, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with chemotherapy.

Imatinib is available with a lifetime maximum of 24 months for continuing treatment with imatinib therapy for patients with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia reimbursed through the PBS.

Note Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe this drug beyond 24 months may be directed to the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

imatinib 100 mg capsule, 60

10924Y	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	2	..	1576.95	38.80	^a CIPLA IMATINIB ADULT [LR] ^a Imatinib-APOTEX [TX] ^a Imatinib GH [GQ]	^a IMATINIB AN [EA] ^a IMATINIB-DRLA [RZ]

imatinib 100 mg tablet, 60

9123E	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	2	..	1576.95	38.80	^a Glivec [AF] ^a Imatinib-Teva [TB]	^a IMATINIB RBX [RA]

imatinib 400 mg capsule, 30

10917N	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	2	..	3047.02	38.80	^a CIPLA IMATINIB ADULT [LR] ^a Imatinib-APOTEX [TX] ^a Imatinib GH [GQ]	^a IMATINIB AN [EA] ^a IMATINIB-DRLA [RZ]

imatinib 400 mg tablet, 30

9124F	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	2	..	3047.02	38.80	^a Glivec [AF] ^a Imatinib-Teva [TB]	^a IMATINIB RBX [RA]

■ NETUPITANT + PALONOSETRON

Note No increase in the maximum number of repeats may be authorised.

Note No increase in the maximum quantity or number of units may be authorised.

Note This medicine is not PBS-subsidised for nausea and vomiting associated with radiotherapy being used to treat malignancy.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)**5991**

Nausea and vomiting

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be associated with cytotoxic chemotherapy being used to treat malignancy, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with dexamethasone, **AND**
- Patient must be scheduled to be administered a chemotherapy regimen that includes any 1 of the following agents: altretamine; carmustine; cisplatin when a single dose constitutes a cycle of chemotherapy; cyclophosphamide at a dose of 1500 mg per square metre per day or greater; dacarbazine; procarbazine when a single dose constitutes a cycle of chemotherapy; streptozocin.

No more than 1 capsule of 300 mg netupitant/0.5 mg palonosetron fixed dose combination will be authorised per cycle of cytotoxic chemotherapy.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)**5994**

Nausea and vomiting

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be associated with cytotoxic chemotherapy being used to treat breast cancer, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with dexamethasone, **AND**
- Patient must be scheduled to be co-administered cyclophosphamide and an anthracycline.

No more than 1 capsule of 300 mg netupitant/0.5 mg palonosetron fixed dose combination will be authorised per cycle of cytotoxic chemotherapy.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)**6937**

Nausea and vomiting

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be associated with moderately emetogenic cytotoxic chemotherapy being used to treat malignancy, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with dexamethasone on day 1 of a chemotherapy cycle, **AND**
- Patient must have had a prior episode of chemotherapy induced nausea or vomiting, **AND**
- Patient must be scheduled to be administered a chemotherapy regimen that includes any 1 of the following intravenous chemotherapy agents: arsenic trioxide; azacitidine; cyclophosphamide at a dose of less than 1500 mg per square metre per day; cytarabine at a dose of greater than 1 g per square metre per day; dactinomycin; daunorubicin; doxorubicin; epirubicin; fotemustine; idarubicin; ifosfamide; irinotecan; melphalan; methotrexate at a dose of 250 mg to 1 g per square metre; raltitrexed.

No more than 1 capsule of 300 mg netupitant/0.5 mg palonosetron fixed dose combination will be authorised per cycle of cytotoxic chemotherapy.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)**6879**

Nausea and vomiting

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be associated with moderately emetogenic cytotoxic chemotherapy being used to treat malignancy, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with dexamethasone on day 1 of a chemotherapy cycle, **AND**
- Patient must be scheduled to be administered a chemotherapy regimen that includes either carboplatin or oxaliplatin.

No more than 1 capsule of 300 mg netupitant/0.5 mg palonosetron fixed dose combination will be authorised per cycle of cytotoxic chemotherapy.

netupitant 300 mg + palonosetron 500 microgram capsule, 1

10731T	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	±1	5	..	115.03	38.80	Akynzeo [MF]

■ RISPERIDONE

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.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

6897

Severe behavioural disturbances

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have autism spectrum disorder, **AND**
- The treatment must be under the supervision of a paediatrician or psychiatrist, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with non-pharmacological measures.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.

Behaviour disturbances are defined as severe aggression and injuries to self or others where non-pharmacological methods alone have been unsuccessful.

The diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder must be made based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V) or ICD-10 international classification of mental and behavioural disorders.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

6938

Severe behavioural disturbances

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have autism spectrum disorder, **AND**
- Patient must have been commenced on PBS-subsidised treatment with risperidone prior to turning 18 years of age, **AND**
- The treatment must be under the supervision of a paediatrician or psychiatrist, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with non-pharmacological measures.


Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Behaviour disturbances are defined as severe aggression and injuries to self or others where non-pharmacological methods alone have been unsuccessful.

The diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder must be made based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V) or ICD-10 international classification of mental and behavioural disorders.

risperidone 2 mg tablet, 60

9079W	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	2	..	26.52	27.71	^a APO-Risperidone [TX] ^a Rispa [RW] ^a Rispericor 2 [CR] ^a Risperidone AN [EA] ^a Risperidone Sandoz [SZ] ^a Rixadone [AF]	^a Ozidal [RA] ^a Risperdal [JC] ^a Risperidone AMNEAL [EF] ^a Risperidone generichealth [GQ] ^a Rispernia [ER]

■ RISPERIDONE

Caution In placebo controlled trials in elderly patients with dementia there was a significantly higher incidence of cerebrovascular adverse events, such as stroke (including fatalities) and transient ischaemic attacks, in patients treated with risperidone compared with patients treated with placebo.

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.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

5993

Behavioural disturbances

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be characterised by psychotic symptoms and aggression, **AND**
- Patient must have dementia of the Alzheimer type, **AND**
- Patient must have failed to respond to non-pharmacological methods of treatment, **AND**
- The treatment must be limited to a maximum duration of 12 weeks.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

6897

Severe behavioural disturbances

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have autism spectrum disorder, **AND**
- The treatment must be under the supervision of a paediatrician or psychiatrist, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with non-pharmacological measures.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.
- Behavioural disturbances are defined as severe aggression and injuries to self or others where non-pharmacological methods alone have been unsuccessful.

The diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder must be made based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V) or ICD-10 international classification of mental and behavioural disorders.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)**6938**

Severe behavioural disturbances

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have autism spectrum disorder, **AND**
- Patient must have been commenced on PBS-subsidised treatment with risperidone prior to turning 18 years of age, **AND**
- The treatment must be under the supervision of a paediatrician or psychiatrist, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with non-pharmacological measures.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Behaviour disturbances are defined as severe aggression and injuries to self or others where non-pharmacological methods alone have been unsuccessful.

The diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder must be made based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V) or ICD-10 international classification of mental and behavioural disorders.

risperidone 1 mg tablet, 60

8789N	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
NP	1	2	..	17.54	18.73	^a APO-Risperidone [TX] ^a Rispa [RW] ^a Rispericor 1 [CR] ^a Risperidone AN [EA] ^a Risperidone Sandoz [SZ] ^a Rixadone [AF]	^a Ozidal [RA] ^a Risperdal [JC] ^a Risperidone AMNEAL [EF] ^a Risperidone generichealth [GQ] ^a Rispernia [ER]

risperidone 1 mg/mL oral liquid, 100 mL

9293D	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
NP	±1	2	..	112.02	38.80	Risperdal [JC]

■ RISPERIDONE

Caution In placebo controlled trials in elderly patients with dementia there was a significantly higher incidence of cerebrovascular adverse events, such as stroke (including fatalities) and transient ischaemic attacks, in patients treated with risperidone compared with patients treated with placebo.

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 For items 8787L and 1842Y, pharmaceutical benefits that have the form tablet 0.5 mg are equivalent for the purposes of substitution.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)**6010**

Behavioural disturbances

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be characterised by psychotic symptoms and aggression, **AND**
- Patient must have dementia of the Alzheimer type, **AND**
- Patient must have failed to respond to non-pharmacological methods of treatment, **AND**
- The treatment must be limited to a maximum duration of 12 weeks.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)**6898**

Severe behavioural disturbances

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have autism spectrum disorder, **AND**
- The treatment must be under the supervision of a paediatrician or psychiatrist, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with non-pharmacological measures.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.

Behaviour disturbances are defined as severe aggression and injuries to self or others where non-pharmacological methods alone have been unsuccessful.

The diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder must be made based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V) or ICD-10 international classification of mental and behavioural disorders.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

6899

Severe behavioural disturbances

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have autism spectrum disorder, **AND**
- Patient must have been commenced on PBS-subsidised treatment with risperidone prior to turning 18 years of age, **AND**
- The treatment must be under the supervision of a paediatrician or psychiatrist, **AND**
- The treatment must be in combination with non-pharmacological measures.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Behaviour disturbances are defined as severe aggression and injuries to self or others where non-pharmacological methods alone have been unsuccessful.

The diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder must be made based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V) or ICD-10 international classification of mental and behavioural disorders.

risperidone 500 microgram tablet, 20

1842Y	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
NP	3	2	..	*17.70	18.89	^a APO-Risperidone [TX]	^a Risperdal [JC]

risperidone 500 microgram tablet, 60

8787L	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
NP	1	2	..	17.69	18.88	^a Ozidal [RA] ^a Rispericor 0.5 [CR] ^a Risperidone AN [EA] ^a Rispernia [ER]	^a Rispa [RW] ^a Risperidone AMNEAL [EF] ^a Risperidone Sandoz [SZ] ^a Rixadone [AF]

▪ SACUBITRIL + VALSARTAN**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.

Note Special Pricing Arrangements apply.**Authority required (STREAMLINED)****6915**

Chronic heart failure

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must be symptomatic with NYHA classes II, III or IV, **AND**
- Patient must have a documented left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) of less than or equal to 40%, **AND**
- Patient must receive concomitant optimal standard chronic heart failure treatment, which must include the maximum tolerated dose of a beta-blocker, unless contraindicated or not tolerated, **AND**
- Patient must have been stabilised on an ACE inhibitor at the time of initiation with this drug, unless such treatment is contraindicated according to the TGA-approved Product Information or cannot be tolerated; OR
- Patient must have been stabilised on an angiotensin II antagonist at the time of initiation with this drug, unless such treatment is contraindicated according to the TGA-approved Product Information or cannot be tolerated, **AND**
- The treatment must not be co-administered with an ACE inhibitor or an angiotensin II antagonist.

sacubitril 24.3 mg + valsartan 25.7 mg tablet, 56

11123K	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
NP	1	5	..	201.69	38.80	Entresto [NV]

sacubitril 48.6 mg + valsartan 51.4 mg tablet, 56

11131W	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
NP	1	5	..	201.69	38.80	Entresto [NV]

sacubitril 97.2 mg + valsartan 102.8 mg tablet, 56

11122J	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
NP	1	5	..	201.69	38.80	Entresto [NV]

▪ SALBUTAMOL**Note** Pharmaceutical benefits that have a 30 x 2 pack size and a 20 x 3 pack size are equivalent for the purposes of substitution.**Restricted benefit**

Asthma

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must be unable to use this drug delivered from an oral pressurised inhalation device via a spacer.

Restricted benefit

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must be unable to use this drug delivered from an oral pressurised inhalation device via a spacer.

salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation solution, 20 x 2.5 mL ampoules

11130T	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
NP	3	5	^S 1.02	*19.59	19.76	^a Ventolin Nebules [GK]

salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation solution, 30 x 2.5 mL ampoules

2000G	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
NP	2	5	..	*18.56	19.75	^a APO-Salbutamol [TX]	^a Butamol 2.5 [QA]
						^a Salbutamol Actavis [EA]	^a Salbutamol Sandoz [SZ]
			^B 0.50	*19.06	19.75	^a Asmol 2.5 uni-dose [AF]	
			^B 1.04	*19.60	19.75	^a Ventolin Nebules [GK]	

■ TERIFLUNOMIDE

Caution Teriflunomide is a category X drug and must not be given to pregnant women or women of childbearing potential who are not currently using reliable contraception.

Pregnancy should be avoided for two years after cessation of therapy, unless special wash-out procedures are carried out.

Note No increase in the maximum quantity or number of units may be authorised.

Note No increase in the maximum number of repeats may be authorised.

Note Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

Authority required

Multiple sclerosis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be diagnosed as clinically definite relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis by magnetic resonance imaging of the brain and/or spinal cord; OR
- The condition must be diagnosed as clinically definite relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis by accompanying written certification provided by a radiologist that a magnetic resonance imaging scan is contraindicated because of the risk of physical (not psychological) injury to the patient, **AND**
- The treatment must be a sole PBS-subsidised disease modifying therapy for this condition, **AND**
- Patient must have experienced at least 2 documented attacks of neurological dysfunction, believed to be due to the multiple sclerosis, in the preceding 2 years, **AND**
- Patient must be ambulatory (without assistance or support).

Where applicable, the date of the magnetic resonance imaging scan must be recorded in the patient's medical records.

Authority required

Multiple sclerosis

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- The condition must be diagnosed as clinically definite relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis by magnetic resonance imaging of the brain and/or spinal cord; OR
- The condition must be diagnosed as clinically definite relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis by accompanying written certification provided by a radiologist that a magnetic resonance imaging scan is contraindicated because of the risk of physical (not psychological) injury to the patient, **AND**
- The treatment must be a sole PBS-subsidised disease modifying therapy for this condition, **AND**
- Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition, **AND**
- Patient must not show continuing progression of disability while on treatment with this drug.

Where applicable, the date of the magnetic resonance imaging scan must be recorded in the patient's medical records.

teriflunomide 14 mg tablet, 28

2898M	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	5	..	1836.73	38.80	Aubagio [GZ]

■ TESTOSTERONE

Authority required

Androgen deficiency

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have an established pituitary or testicular disorder.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Androgen deficiency

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must not have an established pituitary or testicular disorder, **AND**
- The condition must not be due to age, obesity, cardiovascular diseases, infertility or drugs.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 40 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

Androgen deficiency is defined as:

(i) testosterone level of less than 6 nmol per litre; OR

(ii) testosterone level between 6 and 15 nmol per litre with high luteinising hormone (LH) (greater than 1.5 times the upper limit of the eugonadal reference range for young men, or greater than 14 IU per litre, whichever is higher).

Androgen deficiency must be confirmed by at least two morning blood samples taken on different mornings.

The dates and levels of the qualifying testosterone and LH measurements must be, or must have been provided in the authority application when treatment with this drug is or was initiated.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Micropenis

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Pubertal induction

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Constitutional delay of growth or puberty

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

testosterone 1% (12.5 mg/actuation) gel, 2 x 60 actuations

10380H	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	‡1	4	..	87.17	38.80	Testogel [HB]

testosterone 1% (50 mg/5 g) gel, 30 x 5 g sachets

8830R	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	‡1	5	..	87.17	38.80	Testogel [HB]

testosterone 2% (30 mg/actuation) solution, 60 actuations

2341F	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	‡1	5	..	76.23	38.80	Axiron [LY]

testosterone 2.5 mg/24 hours patch, 60

8460G	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	‡1	5	..	87.78	38.80	Androderm [GN]

testosterone 5 mg/24 hours patch, 30

8619P	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	‡1	5	..	87.78	38.80	Androderm [GN]

testosterone 5% (50 mg/mL) cream, 50 mL

10378F	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	‡1	6	..	73.42	38.80	AndroForte 5 [LX]

▪ **TESTOSTERONE ENANTHATE**

Authority required

Androgen deficiency

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have an established pituitary or testicular disorder.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Androgen deficiency

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must not have an established pituitary or testicular disorder, **AND**
- The condition must not be due to age, obesity, cardiovascular diseases, infertility or drugs.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 40 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

Androgen deficiency is defined as:

- (i) testosterone level of less than 6 nmol per litre; OR
- (ii) testosterone level between 6 and 15 nmol per litre with high luteinising hormone (LH) (greater than 1.5 times the upper limit of the eugonadal reference range for young men, or greater than 14 IU per litre, whichever is higher).

Androgen deficiency must be confirmed by at least two morning blood samples taken on different mornings.

The dates and levels of the qualifying testosterone and LH measurements must be, or must have been provided in the authority application when treatment with this drug is or was initiated.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Micropenis

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Pubertal induction

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Constitutional delay of growth or puberty

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

testosterone enanthate 250 mg/mL injection, 3 x 1 mL syringes

2114G

Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
1	3	..	32.91	34.10	Primoteston Depot [BN]

▪ **TESTOSTERONE UNDECANOATE**

Authority required

Androgen deficiency

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have an established pituitary or testicular disorder.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Androgen deficiency

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must not have an established pituitary or testicular disorder, **AND**
- The condition must not be due to age, obesity, cardiovascular diseases, infertility or drugs.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 40 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

Androgen deficiency is defined as:

(i) testosterone level of less than 6 nmol per litre; OR

(ii) testosterone level between 6 and 15 nmol per litre with high luteinising hormone (LH) (greater than 1.5 times the upper limit of the eugonadal reference range for young men, or greater than 14 IU per litre, whichever is higher).

Androgen deficiency must be confirmed by at least two morning blood samples taken on different mornings.

The dates and levels of the qualifying testosterone and LH measurements must be, or must have been provided in the authority application when treatment with this drug is or was initiated.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Micropenis

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Pubertal induction

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

Authority required

Constitutional delay of growth or puberty

Population criteria:

- Patient must be under 18 years of age.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a specialist general paediatrician, specialist paediatric endocrinologist, specialist urologist, specialist endocrinologist or a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; or in consultation with one of these specialists; or have an appointment to be assessed by one of these specialists.

The name of the specialist must be included in the authority application.

testosterone undecanoate 1 g/4 mL injection, 4 mL vial

10205D	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	1	..	132.33	38.80	Reandron 1000 [BN]

testosterone undecanoate 40 mg capsule, 60

2115H	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	5	..	36.26	37.45	Andriol Testocaps [MK]

▪ **VEMURAFENIB**

Note A patient who has progressive disease when treated with this drug is no longer eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug.

Note No increase in the maximum quantity or number of units may be authorised.

Note No increase in the maximum number of repeats may be authorised.

Note Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

6924

Unresectable Stage III or Stage IV malignant melanoma

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must be receiving PBS subsidised cobimetinib concomitantly for this condition, **AND**
- Patient must have previously been issued with an authority prescription for this drug, **AND**
- Patient must have stable or responding disease.

vemurafenib 240 mg tablet, 56

11081F	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	MRVSN \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	4	5	..	*8185.94	38.80	Zelboraf [RO]

Highly Specialised Drugs Program (Private Hospital)

▪ ABATACEPT

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment - Initial 1 (new patient or patient recommencing treatment after a break of more than 24 months)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have severe active rheumatoid arthritis, **AND**
- Patient must have received no PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARD) for this condition in the previous 24 months, **AND**
- Patient must not have failed previous PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition, and have not already failed, or ceased to respond to, PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment for this condition 5 times, **AND**
- Patient must have failed, in the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the application, to achieve an adequate response to a trial of at least 6 months of intensive treatment with disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) which must include at least 3 months continuous treatment with each of at least 2 DMARDs, one of which must be methotrexate at a dose of at least 20 mg weekly and one of which must be: (i) hydroxychloroquine at a dose of at least 200 mg daily; or (ii) leflunomide at a dose of at least 10 mg daily; or (iii) sulfasalazine at a dose of at least 2 g daily; OR
- Patient must have failed, in the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the application, to achieve an adequate response to a trial of at least 6 months of intensive treatment with DMARDs which, if methotrexate is contraindicated according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)-approved Product Information or cannot be tolerated at a 20 mg weekly dose, must include at least 3 months continuous treatment with each of at least 2 of the following DMARDs: (i) hydroxychloroquine at a dose of at least 200 mg daily; and/or (ii) leflunomide at a dose of at least 10 mg daily; and/or (iii) sulfasalazine at a dose of at least 2 g daily; OR
- Patient must have failed, in the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the application, to achieve an adequate response to a trial of at least 6 months of intensive treatment with DMARDs which, if 3 or more of methotrexate, hydroxychloroquine, leflunomide and sulfasalazine are contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information or cannot be tolerated at the doses specified above, must include at least 3 months continuous treatment with each of at least 2 DMARDs, with one or more of the following DMARDs being used in place of the DMARDs which are contraindicated or not tolerated: (i) azathioprine at a dose of at least 1 mg/kg per day; and/or (ii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg/kg/day; and/or (iii) sodium aurothiomalate at a dose of 50 mg weekly, **AND**
- Patient must not receive more than 16 weeks of treatment under this restriction, **AND**
- The treatment must be given concomitantly with methotrexate at a dose of at least 7.5 mg weekly.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

For the purposes of this restriction bDMARD means abatacept, adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, rituximab, tocilizumab or tofacitinib.

If methotrexate is contraindicated according to the TGA-approved Product Information or cannot be tolerated at a 20 mg weekly dose, the application must include details of the contraindication or intolerance to methotrexate. The maximum tolerated dose of methotrexate must be documented in the application, if applicable.

The application must include details of the DMARDs trialled, their doses and duration of treatment, and all relevant contraindications and/or intolerances.

The requirement to trial at least 2 DMARDs for periods of at least 3 months each can be met using single agents sequentially or by using one or more combinations of DMARDs.

If the requirement to trial 6 months of intensive DMARD therapy with at least 2 DMARDs cannot be met because of contraindications and/or intolerances of a severity necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal to all of the DMARDs specified above, details of the contraindication or intolerance and dose for each DMARD must be provided in the authority application.

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

- (1) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (2) a completed Rheumatoid Arthritis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form; and
- (3) a signed patient acknowledgement.

At the time of authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials to provide sufficient drug, based on the weight of the patient, for a single infusion. Up to a maximum of 4 repeats will be authorised.

Assessment of a patient's response to an 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 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 within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug.

Applications for a patient who has received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug and who wishes to re-commence therapy with this drug, must be accompanied by evidence of a response to the patient's most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment, within the timeframes specified below.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under either of the initial 1 or 2 treatment restrictions, the patient must have been assessed for response following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy. This assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under the continuing treatment criteria, the patient must have been assessed for response, and the assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition.

The following criteria indicate failure to achieve an adequate response and must be demonstrated in all patients at the time of the initial application:

an elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) greater than 25 mm per hour or a C-reactive protein (CRP) level greater than 15 mg per L; AND either

(a) a total active joint count of at least 20 active (swollen and tender) joints; or

(b) at least 4 active joints from the following list of major joints:

(i) elbow, wrist, knee and/or ankle (assessed as swollen and tender); and/or

(ii) shoulder and/or hip (assessed as pain in passive movement and restriction of passive movement, where pain and limitation of movement are due to active disease and not irreversible damage such as joint destruction or bony overgrowth).

The joint count and ESR and/or CRP must be determined at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy. All measures must be no more than one month old at the time of initial application.

If the above requirement to demonstrate an elevated ESR or CRP cannot be met, the application must state the reasons why this criterion cannot be satisfied.

Where the baseline joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints. If only an ESR or CRP is provided with the initial application, the same marker will be used to determine response.

Note The Department of Human Services website (www.humanservices.gov.au) has details of the toxicities, including severity, which will be accepted for the following purposes:

(a) exempting a patient from the requirement to undertake a minimum 3 month trial of methotrexate at a 20 mg weekly dose;

(b) substituting azathioprine, cyclosporin or sodium aurothiomalate for another DMARD as part of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial;

(c) exempting a patient from the requirement for a 6 month trial of intensive DMARD therapy.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis. Where the term bDMARD appears in the following notes and restrictions it refers to the tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonists (adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab), the chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (rituximab), the interleukin-6 inhibitor (tocilizumab), the T-cell co-stimulation modulator (abatacept) and the Janus-associated kinase (JAK) inhibitor (tofacitinib).

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the above biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs at any 1 time.

In order to be eligible to receive PBS-subsidised treatment with rituximab, a patient must have already failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 course of treatment with a PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist.

A patient receiving PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to experience a disease flare. Under these interchangeability arrangements:

- a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a PBS-subsidised bDMARD while they continue to show a response to therapy,

- a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised bDMARD more than once, and

- once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 5 times, they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised bDMARDs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

For patients who have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with 2 or 3 TNF-alfa antagonists prior to 1 August 2010 please contact the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270.

A patient whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised therapy was with rituximab and whose response to this treatment is

sustained for more than 12 months, may apply for a further course of rituximab under the Continuing treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has a break in therapy of less than 24 months may commence a further course of treatment with a bDMARD without having to requalify under the Initial 1 treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has had a break in therapy of longer than 24 months must requalify for treatment under the Initial 1 treatment restriction.

The length of a treatment break is measured from the date the most recent treatment with PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment is stopped to the date of the new application for treatment with a bDMARD.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy after 1 August 2010.

(a) Initial treatment.

Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

(i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment and wishes to commence such therapy, excluding rituximab (Initial 1); or

(ii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a bDMARD following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of more than 24 months (Initial 1); or

(iii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) bDMARD therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or

(iv) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific bDMARD following a break of less than 24 months in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

Initial applications for new or re-commencing patients (Initial 1) must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6-month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Initial treatment authorisations will be limited to provide a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept, golimumab, tocilizumab and tofacitinib, 18 to 20 weeks of therapy with certolizumab pegol (depending upon the dosing regimen), 22 weeks of therapy for infliximab and 2 infusions of rituximab.

A patient must be assessed for response to any course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment (excluding rituximab) following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients must be assessed following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services within 4 weeks.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised bDMARD (excluding rituximab) treatment it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Abatacept patients:

Patients are eligible to receive one I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation. For these patients two prescriptions are required, the first prescription for the I.V. loading dose for sufficient vials for one dose based on the patient's weight with no repeats. The second prescription for the pre-filled syringes, with a maximum quantity of 4 and up to 3 repeats, must be submitted with the initial application.

Rituximab patients:

A further application may be submitted to the Department of Human Services 24 weeks after the first infusion. New baselines may be submitted with this application if appropriate.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific bDMARD (excluding rituximab), a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing bDMARD treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted bDMARD supply.

Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients:

A patient may qualify to receive a further course of treatment (every 24 weeks) with this agent providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion of their most recent treatment with rituximab. The patient remains eligible to receive a course of rituximab every 24 weeks providing they continue to demonstrate a response as specified in the restriction.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised bDMARD is approved, a patient may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), the C-reactive protein (CRP) levels and the joint count) or the prior non-bDMARD therapy requirements, except if the patient has had a break in therapy of more than 24 months. However the requirement for concomitant treatment with methotrexate, where it applies, must be met for each bDMARD trialled.

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.

A patient may trial an alternate bDMARD at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with a bDMARD at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular bDMARD if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug.

Abatacept patients:

Patients swapping from I.V. abatacept to subcutaneous abatacept will not be eligible for an I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation.

In order to trial rituximab, a patient must have trialled and failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment.

To ensure a patient receives 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.

PBS subsidy does not allow for patients to receive treatment with another PBS-subsidised biological agent during the required treatment-free period applying to patients who have demonstrated a response to their most recent course of rituximab. This means that patients who have demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD. Patients who fail to respond to rituximab and who qualify and wish to trial a course of an alternate bDMARD may do so without having to have any treatment-free period.

To avoid confusion, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to an alternate bDMARD should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the bDMARD the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

the Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the joint count, ESR and/or CRP submitted with the first authority application for a bDMARD. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority application is submitted and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. Therefore, where only an ESR or CRP level is provided at baseline, an ESR or CRP level respectively must be provided to determine response. Similarly, where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints.

Except as specified under the Initial 1 treatment restriction, a baseline joint count and ESR and/or CRP should be performed whilst the patient is still on treatment or within 1 month of ceasing prior treatment. Applications under the Initial 1 treatment restriction for new or re-commencing patients must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment - Initial 2 (change or re-commencement of treatment after break of less than 24 months).

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have a documented history of severe active rheumatoid arthritis, **AND**
- Patient must have received prior PBS-subsidised biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARD) treatment for this condition and are eligible to receive further bDMARD therapy, **AND**
- Patient must not receive more than 16 weeks of treatment under this restriction, **AND**
- The treatment must be given concomitantly with methotrexate at a dose of at least 7.5 mg weekly.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

For the purposes of this restriction bDMARD means abatacept, adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, rituximab, tocilizumab or tofacitinib.

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

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Rheumatoid Arthritis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form.

At the time of authority application, medical practitioners must request the appropriate number of vials to provide sufficient drug, based on the weight of the patient, for a single infusion. Up to a maximum of 4 repeats will be authorised.

Applications for a patient who has received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug and who wishes to re-commence therapy with this drug, must be accompanied by evidence of a response to the patient's most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment, within the timeframes specified below.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under either of the initial 1 or 2 treatment restrictions, the patient must have been assessed for response following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy. This assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under the continuing treatment criteria, the patient must have been assessed for response, and the assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug.

If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to a treatment with this drug under this restriction will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition.

A patient who has demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD.

An adequate response to treatment is defined as:

an ESR no greater than 25 mm per hour or a CRP level no greater than 15 mg per L or either marker reduced by at least 20% from baseline;

AND either of the following:

- (a) an active joint count of fewer than 10 active (swollen and tender) joints; or
- (b) a reduction in the active (swollen and tender) joint count by at least 50% from baseline; or
- (c) a reduction in the number of the following active joints, from at least 4, by at least 50%:

- (i) elbow, wrist, knee and/or ankle (assessed as swollen and tender); and/or
- (ii) shoulder, cervical spine and/or hip (assessed as pain in passive movement and restriction of passive movement, where pain and limitation of movement are due to active disease and not irreversible damage such as joint destruction or bony overgrowth).

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis. Where the term bDMARD appears in the following notes and restrictions it refers to the tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonists (adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab), the chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (rituximab), the interleukin-6 inhibitor (tocilizumab), the T-cell co-stimulation modulator (abatacept) and the Janus-associated kinase (JAK) inhibitor (tofacitinib).

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the above biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs at any 1 time.

In order to be eligible to receive PBS-subsidised treatment with rituximab, a patient must have already failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 course of treatment with a PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist.

A patient receiving PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to experience a disease flare. Under these interchangeability arrangements:

- a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a PBS-subsidised bDMARD while they continue to show a response to therapy,
- a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised bDMARD more than once, and
- once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 5 times, they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised bDMARDs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

For patients who have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with 2 or 3 TNF-alfa antagonists prior to 1 August 2010 please contact the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270.

A patient whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised therapy was with rituximab and whose response to this treatment is sustained for more than 12 months, may apply for a further course of rituximab under the Continuing treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has a break in therapy of less than 24 months may commence a further course of treatment with a bDMARD without having to requalify under the Initial 1 treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has had a break in therapy of longer than 24 months must requalify for treatment under the Initial 1 treatment restriction.

The length of a treatment break is measured from the date the most recent treatment with PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment is stopped to the date of the new application for treatment with a bDMARD.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy after 1 August 2010.

(a) Initial treatment.

Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

- (i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment and wishes to commence such therapy, excluding rituximab (Initial 1); or
- (ii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a bDMARD following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of more than 24 months (Initial 1); or
- (iii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) bDMARD therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iv) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific bDMARD following a break of less than 24 months in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

Initial applications for new or re-commencing patients (Initial 1) must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6-month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Initial treatment authorisations will be limited to provide a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept, golimumab, tocilizumab and tofacitinib, 18 to 20 weeks of therapy with certolizumab pegol (depending upon the dosing regimen), 22 weeks of therapy for infliximab and 2 infusions of rituximab.

A patient must be assessed for response to any course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment (excluding rituximab) following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients must be assessed following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services within 4 weeks.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised bDMARD (excluding rituximab) treatment it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Abatacept patients:

Patients are eligible to receive one I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation. For these patients two prescriptions are required, the first prescription for the I.V. loading dose for sufficient vials for one dose based on the patient's weight with no repeats. The second prescription for the pre-filled syringes, with a maximum quantity of 4 and up to 3 repeats, must be submitted with the initial application.

Rituximab patients:

A further application may be submitted to the Department of Human Services 24 weeks after the first infusion. New

baselines may be submitted with this application if appropriate.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific bDMARD (excluding rituximab), a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing bDMARD treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted bDMARD supply.

Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients:

A patient may qualify to receive a further course of treatment (every 24 weeks) with this agent providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion of their most recent treatment with rituximab. The patient remains eligible to receive a course of rituximab every 24 weeks providing they continue to demonstrate a response as specified in the restriction.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised bDMARD is approved, a patient may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), the C-reactive protein (CRP) levels and the joint count) or the prior non-bDMARD therapy requirements, except if the patient has had a break in therapy of more than 24 months. However the requirement for concomitant treatment with methotrexate, where it applies, must be met for each bDMARD trialled.

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.

A patient may trial an alternate bDMARD at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with a bDMARD at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular bDMARD if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug.

Abatacept patients:

Patients swapping from I.V. abatacept to subcutaneous abatacept will not be eligible for an I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation.

In order to trial rituximab, a patient must have trialled and failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment.

To ensure a patient receives 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.

PBS subsidy does not allow for patients to receive treatment with another PBS-subsidised biological agent during the required treatment-free period applying to patients who have demonstrated a response to their most recent course of rituximab. This means that patients who have demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD. Patients who fail to respond to rituximab and who qualify and wish to trial a course of an alternate bDMARD may do so without having to have any treatment-free period.

To avoid confusion, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to an alternate bDMARD should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the bDMARD the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

the Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the joint count, ESR and/or CRP submitted with the first authority application for a bDMARD. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority application is submitted and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. Therefore, where only an ESR or CRP level is provided at baseline, an ESR or CRP level respectively must be provided to determine response. Similarly, where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints.

Except as specified under the Initial 1 treatment restriction, a baseline joint count and ESR and/or CRP should be performed whilst the patient is still on treatment or within 1 month of ceasing prior treatment. Applications under the Initial 1 treatment restriction for new or re-commencing patients must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment - Initial 1 (new patient or patient recommencing treatment after a break of more than 24 months) or Initial 2 (change or recommencement of treatment after break of less than 24 months) – balance of supply.

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Initial 1 (new patient or patient recommencing treatment after break of more than 24 months) restriction to complete 16 weeks treatment; OR
- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Initial 2 (change or recommencement of treatment after break of less than 24 months) restriction to complete 16 weeks treatment, **AND**
- The treatment must provide no more than the balance of up to 16 weeks treatment available under the above restrictions.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

Note Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Written application for authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have a documented history of severe active rheumatoid arthritis, **AND**
- Patient must have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment with this drug, **AND**
- Patient must have received this drug as their most recent course of PBS-subsidised biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARD) treatment, **AND**
- Patient must not receive more than 24 weeks of treatment per continuing treatment course authorised under this restriction, **AND**
- The treatment must be given concomitantly with methotrexate at a dose of at least 7.5 mg weekly.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

For the purposes of this restriction bDMARD means abatacept, adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, rituximab, tocilizumab or tofacitinib.

An adequate response to treatment is defined as:

an ESR no greater than 25 mm per hour or a CRP level no greater than 15 mg per L or either marker reduced by at least 20% from baseline;

AND either of the following:

(a) a reduction in the total active (swollen and tender) joint count by at least 50% from baseline, where baseline is at least 20 active joints; or

(b) a reduction in the number of the following active joints, from at least 4, by at least 50%:

(i) elbow, wrist, knee and/or ankle (assessed as swollen and tender); and/or

(ii) shoulder and/or hip (assessed as pain in passive movement and restriction of passive movement, where pain and limitation of movement are due to active disease and not irreversible damage such as joint destruction or bony overgrowth).

Where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints. If only an ESR or CRP level is provided with the initial application, the same marker will be used to determine response.

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

(1) a completed authority prescription form; and

(2) a completed Rheumatoid Arthritis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form.

At the time of authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials to provide sufficient drug, based on the weight of the patient, for a single infusion. Up to a maximum of 5 repeats will be authorised.

All applications for continuing treatment with this drug must include a measurement of response to the prior course of therapy. This assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with this drug, it must be accompanied by an assessment of response to a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with an initial treatment course.

Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug.

If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis. Where the term bDMARD appears in the following notes and restrictions it refers to the tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonists (adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab), the chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (rituximab), the interleukin-6 inhibitor (tocilizumab), the T-cell co-stimulation modulator (abatacept) and the Janus-associated

kinase (JAK) inhibitor (tofacitinib).

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the above biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs at any 1 time.

In order to be eligible to receive PBS-subsidised treatment with rituximab, a patient must have already failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 course of treatment with a PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist.

A patient receiving PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to experience a disease flare. Under these interchangeability arrangements:

- a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a PBS-subsidised bDMARD while they continue to show a response to therapy,

- a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised bDMARD more than once, and

- once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 5 times, they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised bDMARDs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

For patients who have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with 2 or 3 TNF-alfa antagonists prior to 1 August 2010 please contact the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270.

A patient whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised therapy was with rituximab and whose response to this treatment is sustained for more than 12 months, may apply for a further course of rituximab under the Continuing treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has a break in therapy of less than 24 months may commence a further course of treatment with a bDMARD without having to requalify under the Initial 1 treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has had a break in therapy of longer than 24 months must requalify for treatment under the Initial 1 treatment restriction.

The length of a treatment break is measured from the date the most recent treatment with PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment is stopped to the date of the new application for treatment with a bDMARD.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy after 1 August 2010.

(a) Initial treatment.

Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

(i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment and wishes to commence such therapy, excluding rituximab (Initial 1); or

(ii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a bDMARD following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of more than 24 months (Initial 1); or

(iii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) bDMARD therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or

(iv) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific bDMARD following a break of less than 24 months in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

Initial applications for new or re-commencing patients (Initial 1) must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6-month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Initial treatment authorisations will be limited to provide a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept, golimumab, tocilizumab and tofacitinib, 18 to 20 weeks of therapy with certolizumab pegol (depending upon the dosing regimen), 22 weeks of therapy for infliximab and 2 infusions of rituximab.

A patient must be assessed for response to any course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment (excluding rituximab) following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients must be assessed following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services within 4 weeks.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised bDMARD (excluding rituximab) treatment it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Abatacept patients:

Patients are eligible to receive one I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation. For these patients two prescriptions are required, the first prescription for the I.V. loading dose for sufficient vials for one dose based on the patient's weight with no repeats. The second prescription for the pre-filled syringes, with a maximum quantity of 4 and up to 3 repeats, must be submitted with the initial application.

Rituximab patients:

A further application may be submitted to the Department of Human Services 24 weeks after the first infusion. New baselines may be submitted with this application if appropriate.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific bDMARD (excluding rituximab), a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing bDMARD treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted bDMARD supply.

Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients:

A patient may qualify to receive a further course of treatment (every 24 weeks) with this agent providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion of their most recent treatment with rituximab. The patient remains eligible to receive a course of rituximab every 24 weeks providing they continue to demonstrate a response as specified in the restriction.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised bDMARD is approved, a patient may swap to an alternate bDMARD

without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), the C-reactive protein (CRP) levels and the joint count) or the prior non-bDMARD therapy requirements, except if the patient has had a break in therapy of more than 24 months. However the requirement for concomitant treatment with methotrexate, where it applies, must be met for each bDMARD trialled.

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.

A patient may trial an alternate bDMARD at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with a bDMARD at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular bDMARD if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug.

Abatacept patients:

Patients swapping from I.V. abatacept to subcutaneous abatacept will not be eligible for an I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation.

In order to trial rituximab, a patient must have trialled and failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment.

To ensure a patient receives 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.

PBS subsidy does not allow for patients to receive treatment with another PBS-subsidised biological agent during the required treatment-free period applying to patients who have demonstrated a response to their most recent course of rituximab. This means that patients who have demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD. Patients who fail to respond to rituximab and who qualify and wish to trial a course of an alternate bDMARD may do so without having to have any treatment-free period.

To avoid confusion, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to an alternate bDMARD should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the bDMARD the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

the Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the joint count, ESR and/or CRP submitted with the first authority application for a bDMARD. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority application is submitted and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. Therefore, where only an ESR or CRP level is provided at baseline, an ESR or CRP level respectively must be provided to determine response. Similarly, where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints.

Except as specified under the Initial 1 treatment restriction, a baseline joint count and ESR and/or CRP should be performed whilst the patient is still on treatment or within 1 month of ceasing prior treatment. Applications under the Initial 1 treatment restriction for new or re-commencing patients must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Continuing Treatment – balance of supply.

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Continuing treatment restriction to complete 24 weeks treatment, **AND**
- The treatment must provide no more than the balance of up to 24 weeks treatment available under the above restriction.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

Note Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Written application for authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

abatacept 250 mg injection, 1 vial

9621J	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	..	..	284.01	Orencia [BQ]

▪ BACLOFEN

Note Pharmaceutical benefits that have the form baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 5 mL ampoule and pharmaceutical benefits that have the form baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 10 x 5 mL ampoules are equivalent for the purposes of substitution.

Authority required

Severe chronic spasticity

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have failed to respond to treatment with oral antispastic agents; OR
- Patient must have had unacceptable side effects to treatment with oral antispastic agents, **AND**
- Patient must have chronic spasticity of cerebral origin.

Authority required

Severe chronic spasticity

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have failed to respond to treatment with oral antispastic agents; OR
- Patient must have had unacceptable side effects to treatment with oral antispastic agents, **AND**
- Patient must have chronic spasticity due to multiple sclerosis.

Authority required

Severe chronic spasticity

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have failed to respond to treatment with oral antispastic agents; OR
- Patient must have had unacceptable side effects to treatment with oral antispastic agents, **AND**
- Patient must have chronic spasticity due to spinal cord injury.

Authority required

Severe chronic spasticity

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have failed to respond to treatment with oral antispastic agents; OR
- Patient must have had unacceptable side effects to treatment with oral antispastic agents, **AND**
- Patient must have chronic spasticity due to spinal cord disease.

baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 10 x 5 mL ampoules

11128Q	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	..	..	1293.32	^a Sintetica Baclofen Intrathecal [BZ]

baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 5 mL ampoule

6284R	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	10	..	..	*1293.32	^a Bacthecal [DZ]	^a Lioresal Intrathecal [NV]

■ INFLIXIMAB**Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS**

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of infliximab, vedolizumab and adalimumab for adult patients with ulcerative colitis. Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with either infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab at any one time. From 1 December 2016, under the PBS, all adult patients will be able to commence a treatment cycle where they may trial each of PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab without having to experience a disease flare when swapping to one of the alternate agents. Under these arrangements, within a single treatment cycle, a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab while they continue to show a response to therapy. A patient who received PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment prior to 1 December 2016 is considered to be in their first cycle as of 1 December 2016. Within the same treatment cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab more than once. 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 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 infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment in the most recent cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab under the new treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of either infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of more than 5 years, may commence a new treatment cycle.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab and adalimumab after therapy after 1 December 2016 .

(a) Initial treatment. Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

- an adult patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab in this treatment cycle and wishes to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or
- an adult patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or
- an adult patient wishes to re-commence treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with the same agent (Initial 2).

Treatment authorisations under Initial 1 and Initial 2 will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for adalimumab , 14 weeks of therapy for infliximab and vedolizumab.

A patient must be assessed for response to a course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and up to 12 weeks after the first dose (6 weeks following the third dose) for infliximab and vedolizumab, and this assessment must be provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not provided to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist. For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment, it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab, a patient may qualify to

receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response. It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted supply of treatment. Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not provided to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that drug.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised treatment is approved, a patient may swap if eligible to the alternate infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment within the same treatment cycle without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. Mayo clinic score or partial Mayo clinic score), or the prior corticosteroid therapy and immunosuppressive therapy. A patient may trial an alternate treatment at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular therapy if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug once within the same treatment cycle. To ensure a patient receives the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under these 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, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to the alternate infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the therapy the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

The Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the Mayo clinic score or partial Mayo clinic score submitted with the first authority application for infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time other than when an initial treatment authority application is provided within a treatment cycle and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications.

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

A patient who wishes to trial a second or subsequent course of treatment following a break in PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment with respect to the scores of disease severity. A patient must have received treatment with a 5-aminosalicylate oral preparation in a standard dose for induction of remission for a minimum of 3 consecutive months, and, either azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine for a minimum of 3 consecutive months or a tapered course of oral steroids over a 6 week period followed by an appropriately dosed thiopurine agent for a minimum of 3 consecutive months (unless intolerance develops necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal to these agents) immediately prior to the time the Mayo score is measured.

(5) Patients 'grandfathered' onto PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab.

A patient who commenced treatment with adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis prior to 1 December 2016 and who continues to receive treatment at the time of application, may qualify for treatment under the initial 3 'grandfather' treatment restriction.

A patient may only qualify for PBS-subsidised treatment under this criterion once. A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment will be authorised under this criterion. Following completion of the initial PBS-subsidised course, further applications for treatment will be assessed under the continuing treatment restriction of the relevant drug. 'Grandfather' arrangements will only apply for the first treatment cycle.

For the second and subsequent cycles, a 'grandfather' patient must requalify for continuing treatment under the criteria that apply to a continuing patient.

Note TREATMENT OF PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for paediatric patients with infliximab or adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis; and infliximab for acute severe ulcerative colitis.

Where the term 'tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonist' appears in the following NOTES and restrictions, it refers to infliximab and adalimumab only. A patient is eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the 2 TNF-alfa antagonists at any one time. Infliximab and adalimumab are PBS-subsidised for moderate to severe disease while only infliximab is PBS-subsidised for acute severe disease. From 1 June 2017, under the PBS, all will be able to commence a treatment cycle where they may trial each PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist without having to experience a disease flare when swapping to the alternate agent. Under these arrangements, within a single treatment cycle and depending on the disease severity, a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a TNF-alfa antagonist while they continue to show a response to therapy. A patient who received PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment prior to 1 June 2017 is considered to be in their first cycle as of 1 June 2017. Within the same treatment cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist more than twice. 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 TNF-alfa antagonist 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 TNF-alfa antagonist treatment in the most recent cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with a TNF-alfa antagonist under the new treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of TNF-alfa antagonists in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of less than 5 years, may commence a further course of treatment within the same treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of TNF-alfa antagonists in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of more than 5 years, may commence a new treatment cycle. There is no limit to the number of treatment cycles a patient may undertake in their lifetime. (1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist therapy after 1 June 2017. (a) Initial treatment. Applications for initial treatment should be made where: (i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment in this treatment cycle and wishes to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or (ii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) treatment with a TNF-alfa antagonist and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping treatment' below]; or (iii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific TNF-alfa antagonist following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2). Treatment authorisations under Initial 1 and Initial 2 will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and 14 weeks of treatment for infliximab. From 1

June 2017, a patient must be assessed for response to a course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and up to 12 weeks after the first dose (6 weeks following the third dose) for infliximab, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist. For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment, 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 the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course. Adalimumab only: Two completed authority prescriptions should be submitted with every initial application for this drug. For patients weighing 40 kg or greater, one prescription should be for the induction pack containing a quantity of 6 doses of 40 mg and no repeats and the second prescription should be written for 2 doses of 40 mg and 2 repeats. For patients weighing less than 40 kg, one prescription should be written for 2 doses of 40 mg with no repeats and the second prescription should be written for 2 doses of 20 mg with 3 repeats. (b) Continuing treatment. Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific TNF-alfa antagonist, a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing TNF-alfa antagonist treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response. It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted TNF-alfa antagonist supply. Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised treatment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist. (2) Swapping treatment. Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist is approved, a patient may swap if eligible to the alternate TNF-alfa antagonist within the same treatment cycle without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) Score, confirmation of ulcerative colitis disease), or the prior conventional therapies of corticosteroids or immunosuppressives. A patient may trial an alternate agent at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving treatment (initial or continuing) with infliximab or adalimumab at the time of the application. However, a patient cannot swap to a particular TNF-alfa antagonist if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug two times within the same treatment cycle. To ensure a patient receives the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under these swapping 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, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to the alternate TNF-alfa antagonist (where eligible in terms of disease severity) should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the TNF-alfa antagonist the patient is ceasing. (3) Baseline measurements to determine response. The Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the PUCAI submitted with the first authority application for a TNF-alfa antagonist. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time other than when an initial treatment authority application is submitted within a treatment cycle and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. (4) Re-commencement of treatment after a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised therapy. A patient who wishes to trial a second or subsequent treatment cycle following a break in PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment with respect to the indices of disease severity. A patient must have received treatment with a 5-aminosalicylate oral preparation in a standard dose for induction of remission for a minimum of 3 consecutive months, and, either azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine for a minimum of 3 consecutive months or a tapered course of oral steroids over a 6 week period followed by an appropriately dosed thiopurine agent for a minimum of 3 consecutive months (unless intolerance develops necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal to these agents) immediately prior to the time the PUCAI score is measured. (5) Patients 'grandfathered' onto PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab. A patient who commenced treatment with adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis prior to 1 June 2017 and who continues to receive treatment at the time of application, may qualify for treatment under the initial 3 'grandfather' treatment restriction. A patient may only qualify for PBS-subsidised treatment under this criterion once. A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with adalimumab will be authorised under this criterion. Following completion of the initial PBS-subsidised course, further applications for treatment with adalimumab will be assessed under the continuing treatment restriction. 'Grandfather' arrangements will only apply for the first treatment cycle. For the second and subsequent cycles, a 'grandfather' patient must requalify for continuing treatment under the criteria that apply to a continuing patient.

Note Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment (new patient or Recommencement of treatment after more than 5 years break in therapy - Initial 1)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to a 5-aminosalicylate oral preparation in a standard dose for induction of remission for 3 or more months or have intolerance necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal, **AND**
- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to azathioprine at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg daily for 3 or more months or have intolerance necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal; OR
- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to 6-mercaptopurine at a dose of at least 1 mg per kg daily for 3 or more months or have intolerance necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal; OR
- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to a tapered course of oral steroids, starting at a dose of at least 40 mg (for a child, 1 to 2 mg/kg up to 40 mg) prednisolone (or equivalent), over a 6 week period or have intolerance necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal, and followed by a failure to achieve an adequate response to 3 or more months of treatment of an appropriately dosed thiopurine agent, **AND**
- Patient must have a Mayo clinic score greater than or equal to 6 if an adult patient; OR

- Patient must have a partial Mayo clinic score greater than or equal to 6, provided the rectal bleeding and stool frequency subscores are both greater than or equal to 2 (endoscopy subscore is not required for a partial Mayo clinic score); OR
- Patient must have a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) Score greater than or equal to 30 if aged 6 to 17 years; OR
- Patient must have previously received induction therapy with this drug for an acute severe episode of ulcerative colitis in the last 4 months and demonstrated an adequate response to induction therapy by achieving and maintaining a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or a PUCAI score less than 10 (if aged 6 to 17 years).

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

Applications for authorisation of initial treatment must be in writing and must include:

(a) a completed authority prescription form; and

(b) a completed Ulcerative Colitis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following:

(i) the completed current Mayo clinic or partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) calculation sheet including the date of assessment of the patient's condition; and

(ii) details of prior systemic drug therapy [dosage, date of commencement and duration of therapy]; and

(iii) the signed patient acknowledgement or guardian acknowledgement.

A maximum quantity and number of repeats to provide for an initial course of this drug consisting of 3 doses at 5 mg per kg body weight per dose to be administered at weeks 0, 2 and 6, or to be administered at 8-weekly intervals for patients who have received prior treatment for an acute severe episode, will be authorised.

All tests and assessments should be performed preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior conventional treatment.

The most recent Mayo clinic, partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Where treatment for an acute severe episode has occurred, an adequate response to induction therapy needs to be demonstrated by achieving and maintaining a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score less than 10 (if aged 6 to 17 years), within the first 12 weeks of receiving this drug for acute severe ulcerative colitis.

Patients who fail to achieve a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score less than 10 within the first 12 weeks of receiving this drug for ulcerative colitis, or have failed to maintain a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or have failed to maintain a PUCAI score less than 10 (if aged 6 to 17 years) with continuing treatment with this drug, will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug.

A partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made up to 12 weeks after the first dose for patients administered doses at weeks 0, 2 and 6 (6 weeks following the third dose) so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated.

The patient or guardian (required if patient is aged 6 to 17 years) must have signed a patient acknowledgement indicating that he or she understands and acknowledges that the PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if he or she does not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment.

If treatment with any of the above-mentioned drugs is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, details must be provided at the time of application.

If intolerance to treatment develops during the relevant period of use, which is of a severity necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal, details of this toxicity must be provided at the time of application.

Details of the accepted toxicities including severity can be found on the Department of Human Services website.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have previously been issued with an authority prescription for this drug for this condition, **AND**
- Patient must have demonstrated or sustained an adequate response to treatment by having a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1 while receiving treatment with this drug; OR
- Patient must have demonstrated or sustained an adequate response to treatment by having a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score of less than 10 while receiving treatment with this drug, if aged 6 to 17 years.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

Patients who have failed to maintain a partial Mayo clinic score of less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or, patients who have failed to maintain a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score of less than 10 (if aged 6 to 17 years) with continuing treatment with this drug, will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug.

Patients are eligible to receive continuing treatment with this drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

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.

Note No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

Note Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Written application for authority approval should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Change or Re-commencement of treatment after a break in therapy (Initial 2)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab, infliximab or vedolizumab for this condition in this treatment cycle; OR
- Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab or infliximab for this condition in this treatment cycle if aged 6 to 17 years, **AND**
- Patient must not have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab for this condition in the current treatment cycle; OR
- Patient must not have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab for this condition in the current treatment cycle more than once if aged 6 to 17 years.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied by the results of the most recent course of this drug within the timelines specified in the relevant restriction. If the response assessment to the previous course of this drug is not submitted as detailed in the relevant restriction, the patient will be deemed to have failed therapy with this drug.

Applications for authorisation of initial treatment must be in writing and must include:(a) a completed authority prescription form; and(b) a completed Ulcerative Colitis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following:(i) the completed current Mayo clinic or partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) calculation sheet including the date of assessment of the patient's condition; and(ii) details of prior systemic drug therapy [dosage, date of commencement and duration of therapy];

A maximum quantity and number of repeats to provide for an initial course of this drug consisting of 3 doses at 5 mg per kg body weight per dose to be administered at weeks 0, 2 and 6, will be authorised.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity 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.

Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 3 initial doses or 2 repeats may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services.

Note No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Balance of supply

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Initial 1 (new patient) restriction to complete the 3 doses (i.e. the initial infusion regimen at 0, 2 and 6 weeks); OR
- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Initial 2 (Change or Recommencement of treatment after a break in therapy) restriction to complete the 3 doses (i.e. the initial infusion regimen at 0, 2 and 6 weeks); OR
- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Continuing treatment restriction to complete 24 weeks of treatment, **AND**
- The treatment must provide no more than the balance of up to 3 doses (Initial 1 and Initial 2 restrictions) or 2 repeats (Continuing restriction).

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 3 initial doses or 2 repeats may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services.

infliximab 100 mg injection, 1 vial

10184B	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	..	..	604.86	^a Inflectra [PF]	^a Remicade [JC]

Highly Specialised Drugs Program (Public Hospital)

▪ ABATACEPT

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment - Initial 1 (new patient or patient recommencing treatment after a break of more than 24 months)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have severe active rheumatoid arthritis, **AND**
- Patient must have received no PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARD) for this condition in the previous 24 months, **AND**
- Patient must not have failed previous PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition, and have not already failed, or ceased to respond to, PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment for this condition 5 times, **AND**
- Patient must have failed, in the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the application, to achieve an adequate response to a trial of at least 6 months of intensive treatment with disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) which must include at least 3 months continuous treatment with each of at least 2 DMARDs, one of which must be methotrexate at a dose of at least 20 mg weekly and one of which must be: (i) hydroxychloroquine at a dose of at least 200 mg daily; or (ii) leflunomide at a dose of at least 10 mg daily; or (iii) sulfasalazine at a dose of at least 2 g daily; OR
- Patient must have failed, in the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the application, to achieve an adequate response to a trial of at least 6 months of intensive treatment with DMARDs which, if methotrexate is contraindicated according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)-approved Product Information or cannot be tolerated at a 20 mg weekly dose, must include at least 3 months continuous treatment with each of at least 2 of the following DMARDs: (i) hydroxychloroquine at a dose of at least 200 mg daily; and/or (ii) leflunomide at a dose of at least 10 mg daily; and/or (iii) sulfasalazine at a dose of at least 2 g daily; OR
- Patient must have failed, in the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the application, to achieve an adequate response to a trial of at least 6 months of intensive treatment with DMARDs which, if 3 or more of methotrexate, hydroxychloroquine, leflunomide and sulfasalazine are contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information or cannot be tolerated at the doses specified above, must include at least 3 months continuous treatment with each of at least 2 DMARDs, with one or more of the following DMARDs being used in place of the DMARDs which are contraindicated or not tolerated: (i) azathioprine at a dose of at least 1 mg/kg per day; and/or (ii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg/kg/day; and/or (iii) sodium aurothiomalate at a dose of 50 mg weekly, **AND**
- Patient must not receive more than 16 weeks of treatment under this restriction, **AND**
- The treatment must be given concomitantly with methotrexate at a dose of at least 7.5 mg weekly.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

For the purposes of this restriction bDMARD means abatacept, adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, rituximab, tocilizumab or tofacitinib.

If methotrexate is contraindicated according to the TGA-approved Product Information or cannot be tolerated at a 20 mg weekly dose, the application must include details of the contraindication or intolerance to methotrexate. The maximum tolerated dose of methotrexate must be documented in the application, if applicable.

The application must include details of the DMARDs trialled, their doses and duration of treatment, and all relevant contraindications and/or intolerances.

The requirement to trial at least 2 DMARDs for periods of at least 3 months each can be met using single agents sequentially or by using one or more combinations of DMARDs.

If the requirement to trial 6 months of intensive DMARD therapy with at least 2 DMARDs cannot be met because of contraindications and/or intolerances of a severity necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal to all of the DMARDs specified above, details of the contraindication or intolerance and dose for each DMARD must be provided in the authority application.

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

- (1) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (2) a completed Rheumatoid Arthritis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form; and
- (3) a signed patient acknowledgement.

At the time of authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials to provide sufficient drug, based on the weight of the patient, for a single infusion. Up to a maximum of 4 repeats will be authorised.

Assessment of a patient's response to an 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 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 within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug.

Applications for a patient who has received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug and who wishes to re-commence therapy with this drug, must be accompanied by evidence of a response to the patient's most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment, within the timeframes specified below.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under either of the initial 1 or 2 treatment restrictions, the patient must have been assessed for response following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy. This assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under the continuing treatment criteria, the patient must have been assessed for response, and the assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition.

The following criteria indicate failure to achieve an adequate response and must be demonstrated in all patients at the time of the initial application:

an elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) greater than 25 mm per hour or a C-reactive protein (CRP) level greater than 15 mg per L; AND either

(a) a total active joint count of at least 20 active (swollen and tender) joints; or

(b) at least 4 active joints from the following list of major joints:

(i) elbow, wrist, knee and/or ankle (assessed as swollen and tender); and/or

(ii) shoulder and/or hip (assessed as pain in passive movement and restriction of passive movement, where pain and limitation of movement are due to active disease and not irreversible damage such as joint destruction or bony overgrowth).

The joint count and ESR and/or CRP must be determined at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy. All measures must be no more than one month old at the time of initial application.

If the above requirement to demonstrate an elevated ESR or CRP cannot be met, the application must state the reasons why this criterion cannot be satisfied.

Where the baseline joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints. If only an ESR or CRP is provided with the initial application, the same marker will be used to determine response.

Note The Department of Human Services website (www.humanservices.gov.au) has details of the toxicities, including severity, which will be accepted for the following purposes:

(a) exempting a patient from the requirement to undertake a minimum 3 month trial of methotrexate at a 20 mg weekly dose;

(b) substituting azathioprine, cyclosporin or sodium aurothiomalate for another DMARD as part of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial;

(c) exempting a patient from the requirement for a 6 month trial of intensive DMARD therapy.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis. Where the term bDMARD appears in the following notes and restrictions it refers to the tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonists (adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab), the chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (rituximab), the interleukin-6 inhibitor (tocilizumab), the T-cell co-stimulation modulator (abatacept) and the Janus-associated kinase (JAK) inhibitor (tofacitinib).

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the above biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs at any 1 time.

In order to be eligible to receive PBS-subsidised treatment with rituximab, a patient must have already failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 course of treatment with a PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist.

A patient receiving PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to experience a disease flare. Under these interchangeability arrangements:

- a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a PBS-subsidised bDMARD while they continue to show a response to therapy,

- a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised bDMARD more than once, and

- once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 5 times, they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised bDMARDs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

For patients who have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with 2 or 3 TNF-alfa antagonists prior to 1 August 2010 please contact the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270.

A patient whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised therapy was with rituximab and whose response to this treatment is

sustained for more than 12 months, may apply for a further course of rituximab under the Continuing treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has a break in therapy of less than 24 months may commence a further course of treatment with a bDMARD without having to requalify under the Initial 1 treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has had a break in therapy of longer than 24 months must requalify for treatment under the Initial 1 treatment restriction.

The length of a treatment break is measured from the date the most recent treatment with PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment is stopped to the date of the new application for treatment with a bDMARD.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy after 1 August 2010.

(a) Initial treatment.

Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

(i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment and wishes to commence such therapy, excluding rituximab (Initial 1); or

(ii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a bDMARD following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of more than 24 months (Initial 1); or

(iii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) bDMARD therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or

(iv) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific bDMARD following a break of less than 24 months in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

Initial applications for new or re-commencing patients (Initial 1) must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6-month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Initial treatment authorisations will be limited to provide a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept, golimumab, tocilizumab and tofacitinib, 18 to 20 weeks of therapy with certolizumab pegol (depending upon the dosing regimen), 22 weeks of therapy for infliximab and 2 infusions of rituximab.

A patient must be assessed for response to any course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment (excluding rituximab) following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients must be assessed following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services within 4 weeks.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised bDMARD (excluding rituximab) treatment it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Abatacept patients:

Patients are eligible to receive one I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation. For these patients two prescriptions are required, the first prescription for the I.V. loading dose for sufficient vials for one dose based on the patient's weight with no repeats. The second prescription for the pre-filled syringes, with a maximum quantity of 4 and up to 3 repeats, must be submitted with the initial application.

Rituximab patients:

A further application may be submitted to the Department of Human Services 24 weeks after the first infusion. New baselines may be submitted with this application if appropriate.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific bDMARD (excluding rituximab), a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing bDMARD treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted bDMARD supply.

Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients:

A patient may qualify to receive a further course of treatment (every 24 weeks) with this agent providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion of their most recent treatment with rituximab. The patient remains eligible to receive a course of rituximab every 24 weeks providing they continue to demonstrate a response as specified in the restriction.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised bDMARD is approved, a patient may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), the C-reactive protein (CRP) levels and the joint count) or the prior non-bDMARD therapy requirements, except if the patient has had a break in therapy of more than 24 months. However the requirement for concomitant treatment with methotrexate, where it applies, must be met for each bDMARD trialled.

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.

A patient may trial an alternate bDMARD at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with a bDMARD at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular bDMARD if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug.

Abatacept patients:

Patients swapping from I.V. abatacept to subcutaneous abatacept will not be eligible for an I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation.

In order to trial rituximab, a patient must have trialled and failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment.

To ensure a patient receives 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.

PBS subsidy does not allow for patients to receive treatment with another PBS-subsidised biological agent during the required treatment-free period applying to patients who have demonstrated a response to their most recent course of rituximab. This means that patients who have demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD. Patients who fail to respond to rituximab and who qualify and wish to trial a course of an alternate bDMARD may do so without having to have any treatment-free period.

To avoid confusion, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to an alternate bDMARD should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the bDMARD the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

the Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the joint count, ESR and/or CRP submitted with the first authority application for a bDMARD. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority application is submitted and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. Therefore, where only an ESR or CRP level is provided at baseline, an ESR or CRP level respectively must be provided to determine response. Similarly, where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints.

Except as specified under the Initial 1 treatment restriction, a baseline joint count and ESR and/or CRP should be performed whilst the patient is still on treatment or within 1 month of ceasing prior treatment. Applications under the Initial 1 treatment restriction for new or re-commencing patients must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment - Initial 2 (change or re-commencement of treatment after break of less than 24 months).

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have a documented history of severe active rheumatoid arthritis, **AND**
- Patient must have received prior PBS-subsidised biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARD) treatment for this condition and are eligible to receive further bDMARD therapy, **AND**
- Patient must not receive more than 16 weeks of treatment under this restriction, **AND**
- The treatment must be given concomitantly with methotrexate at a dose of at least 7.5 mg weekly.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

For the purposes of this restriction bDMARD means abatacept, adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, rituximab, tocilizumab or tofacitinib.

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

- (a) a completed authority prescription form; and
- (b) a completed Rheumatoid Arthritis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form.

At the time of authority application, medical practitioners must request the appropriate number of vials to provide sufficient drug, based on the weight of the patient, for a single infusion. Up to a maximum of 4 repeats will be authorised.

Applications for a patient who has received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug and who wishes to re-commence therapy with this drug, must be accompanied by evidence of a response to the patient's most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment, within the timeframes specified below.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under either of the initial 1 or 2 treatment restrictions, the patient must have been assessed for response following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy. This assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Where the most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug was approved under the continuing treatment criteria, the patient must have been assessed for response, and the assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug.

If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to a treatment with this drug under this restriction will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition.

A patient who has demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD.

An adequate response to treatment is defined as:

an ESR no greater than 25 mm per hour or a CRP level no greater than 15 mg per L or either marker reduced by at least 20% from baseline;

AND either of the following:

- (a) an active joint count of fewer than 10 active (swollen and tender) joints; or
- (b) a reduction in the active (swollen and tender) joint count by at least 50% from baseline; or
- (c) a reduction in the number of the following active joints, from at least 4, by at least 50%:

- (i) elbow, wrist, knee and/or ankle (assessed as swollen and tender); and/or
- (ii) shoulder, cervical spine and/or hip (assessed as pain in passive movement and restriction of passive movement, where pain and limitation of movement are due to active disease and not irreversible damage such as joint destruction or bony overgrowth).

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis. Where the term bDMARD appears in the following notes and restrictions it refers to the tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonists (adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab), the chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (rituximab), the interleukin-6 inhibitor (tocilizumab), the T-cell co-stimulation modulator (abatacept) and the Janus-associated kinase (JAK) inhibitor (tofacitinib).

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the above biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs at any 1 time.

In order to be eligible to receive PBS-subsidised treatment with rituximab, a patient must have already failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 course of treatment with a PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist.

A patient receiving PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to experience a disease flare. Under these interchangeability arrangements:

- a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a PBS-subsidised bDMARD while they continue to show a response to therapy,
- a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised bDMARD more than once, and
- once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 5 times, they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised bDMARDs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

For patients who have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with 2 or 3 TNF-alfa antagonists prior to 1 August 2010 please contact the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270.

A patient whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised therapy was with rituximab and whose response to this treatment is sustained for more than 12 months, may apply for a further course of rituximab under the Continuing treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has a break in therapy of less than 24 months may commence a further course of treatment with a bDMARD without having to requalify under the Initial 1 treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has had a break in therapy of longer than 24 months must requalify for treatment under the Initial 1 treatment restriction.

The length of a treatment break is measured from the date the most recent treatment with PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment is stopped to the date of the new application for treatment with a bDMARD.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy after 1 August 2010.

(a) Initial treatment.

Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

- (i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment and wishes to commence such therapy, excluding rituximab (Initial 1); or
- (ii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a bDMARD following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of more than 24 months (Initial 1); or
- (iii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) bDMARD therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iv) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific bDMARD following a break of less than 24 months in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

Initial applications for new or re-commencing patients (Initial 1) must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6-month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Initial treatment authorisations will be limited to provide a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept, golimumab, tocilizumab and tofacitinib, 18 to 20 weeks of therapy with certolizumab pegol (depending upon the dosing regimen), 22 weeks of therapy for infliximab and 2 infusions of rituximab.

A patient must be assessed for response to any course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment (excluding rituximab) following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients must be assessed following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services within 4 weeks.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised bDMARD (excluding rituximab) treatment it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Abatacept patients:

Patients are eligible to receive one I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation. For these patients two prescriptions are required, the first prescription for the I.V. loading dose for sufficient vials for one dose based on the patient's weight with no repeats. The second prescription for the pre-filled syringes, with a maximum quantity of 4 and up to 3 repeats, must be submitted with the initial application.

Rituximab patients:

A further application may be submitted to the Department of Human Services 24 weeks after the first infusion. New

baselines may be submitted with this application if appropriate.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific bDMARD (excluding rituximab), a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing bDMARD treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted bDMARD supply.

Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients:

A patient may qualify to receive a further course of treatment (every 24 weeks) with this agent providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion of their most recent treatment with rituximab. The patient remains eligible to receive a course of rituximab every 24 weeks providing they continue to demonstrate a response as specified in the restriction.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised bDMARD is approved, a patient may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), the C-reactive protein (CRP) levels and the joint count) or the prior non-bDMARD therapy requirements, except if the patient has had a break in therapy of more than 24 months. However the requirement for concomitant treatment with methotrexate, where it applies, must be met for each bDMARD trialled.

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.

A patient may trial an alternate bDMARD at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with a bDMARD at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular bDMARD if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug.

Abatacept patients:

Patients swapping from I.V. abatacept to subcutaneous abatacept will not be eligible for an I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation.

In order to trial rituximab, a patient must have trialled and failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment.

To ensure a patient receives 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.

PBS subsidy does not allow for patients to receive treatment with another PBS-subsidised biological agent during the required treatment-free period applying to patients who have demonstrated a response to their most recent course of rituximab. This means that patients who have demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD. Patients who fail to respond to rituximab and who qualify and wish to trial a course of an alternate bDMARD may do so without having to have any treatment-free period.

To avoid confusion, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to an alternate bDMARD should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the bDMARD the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

the Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the joint count, ESR and/or CRP submitted with the first authority application for a bDMARD. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority application is submitted and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. Therefore, where only an ESR or CRP level is provided at baseline, an ESR or CRP level respectively must be provided to determine response. Similarly, where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints.

Except as specified under the Initial 1 treatment restriction, a baseline joint count and ESR and/or CRP should be performed whilst the patient is still on treatment or within 1 month of ceasing prior treatment. Applications under the Initial 1 treatment restriction for new or re-commencing patients must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment - Initial 1 (new patient or patient recommencing treatment after a break of more than 24 months) or Initial 2 (change or recommencement of treatment after break of less than 24 months) – balance of supply.

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Initial 1 (new patient or patient recommencing treatment after break of more than 24 months) restriction to complete 16 weeks treatment; OR
- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Initial 2 (change or recommencement of treatment after break of less than 24 months) restriction to complete 16 weeks treatment, **AND**
- The treatment must provide no more than the balance of up to 16 weeks treatment available under the above restrictions.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

Note Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Written application for authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have a documented history of severe active rheumatoid arthritis, **AND**
- Patient must have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment with this drug, **AND**
- Patient must have received this drug as their most recent course of PBS-subsidised biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (bDMARD) treatment, **AND**
- Patient must not receive more than 24 weeks of treatment per continuing treatment course authorised under this restriction, **AND**
- The treatment must be given concomitantly with methotrexate at a dose of at least 7.5 mg weekly.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be aged 18 years or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

For the purposes of this restriction bDMARD means abatacept, adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, rituximab, tocilizumab or tofacitinib.

An adequate response to treatment is defined as:

an ESR no greater than 25 mm per hour or a CRP level no greater than 15 mg per L or either marker reduced by at least 20% from baseline;

AND either of the following:

(a) a reduction in the total active (swollen and tender) joint count by at least 50% from baseline, where baseline is at least 20 active joints; or

(b) a reduction in the number of the following active joints, from at least 4, by at least 50%:

(i) elbow, wrist, knee and/or ankle (assessed as swollen and tender); and/or

(ii) shoulder and/or hip (assessed as pain in passive movement and restriction of passive movement, where pain and limitation of movement are due to active disease and not irreversible damage such as joint destruction or bony overgrowth).

Where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints. If only an ESR or CRP level is provided with the initial application, the same marker will be used to determine response.

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

(1) a completed authority prescription form; and

(2) a completed Rheumatoid Arthritis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form.

At the time of authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate number of vials to provide sufficient drug, based on the weight of the patient, for a single infusion. Up to a maximum of 5 repeats will be authorised.

All applications for continuing treatment with this drug must include a measurement of response to the prior course of therapy. This assessment must be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the cessation of that treatment course. If the application is the first application for continuing treatment with this drug, it must be accompanied by an assessment of response to a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment with an initial treatment course.

Where a response assessment is not undertaken and submitted within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug.

If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis. Where the term bDMARD appears in the following notes and restrictions it refers to the tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alfa antagonists (adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab), the chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (rituximab), the interleukin-6 inhibitor (tocilizumab), the T-cell co-stimulation modulator (abatacept) and the Janus-associated

kinase (JAK) inhibitor (tofacitinib).

Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the above biological disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs at any 1 time.

In order to be eligible to receive PBS-subsidised treatment with rituximab, a patient must have already failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 course of treatment with a PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist.

A patient receiving PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy may swap to an alternate bDMARD without having to experience a disease flare. Under these interchangeability arrangements:

- a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a PBS-subsidised bDMARD while they continue to show a response to therapy,

- a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised bDMARD more than once, and

- once a patient has either failed or ceased to respond to treatment 5 times, they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised bDMARDs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

For patients who have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with 2 or 3 TNF-alfa antagonists prior to 1 August 2010 please contact the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270.

A patient whose most recent course of PBS-subsidised therapy was with rituximab and whose response to this treatment is sustained for more than 12 months, may apply for a further course of rituximab under the Continuing treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has a break in therapy of less than 24 months may commence a further course of treatment with a bDMARD without having to requalify under the Initial 1 treatment restriction. A patient who has failed fewer than 5 bDMARDs and who has had a break in therapy of longer than 24 months must requalify for treatment under the Initial 1 treatment restriction.

The length of a treatment break is measured from the date the most recent treatment with PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment is stopped to the date of the new application for treatment with a bDMARD.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised bDMARD therapy after 1 August 2010.

(a) Initial treatment.

Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

(i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised bDMARD treatment and wishes to commence such therapy, excluding rituximab (Initial 1); or

(ii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a bDMARD following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy of more than 24 months (Initial 1); or

(iii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) bDMARD therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or

(iv) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific bDMARD following a break of less than 24 months in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2).

Initial applications for new or re-commencing patients (Initial 1) must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6-month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Initial treatment authorisations will be limited to provide a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept, golimumab, tocilizumab and tofacitinib, 18 to 20 weeks of therapy with certolizumab pegol (depending upon the dosing regimen), 22 weeks of therapy for infliximab and 2 infusions of rituximab.

A patient must be assessed for response to any course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment (excluding rituximab) following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients must be assessed following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services within 4 weeks.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised bDMARD (excluding rituximab) treatment it is recommended that a patient is reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

Abatacept patients:

Patients are eligible to receive one I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation. For these patients two prescriptions are required, the first prescription for the I.V. loading dose for sufficient vials for one dose based on the patient's weight with no repeats. The second prescription for the pre-filled syringes, with a maximum quantity of 4 and up to 3 repeats, must be submitted with the initial application.

Rituximab patients:

A further application may be submitted to the Department of Human Services 24 weeks after the first infusion. New baselines may be submitted with this application if appropriate.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific bDMARD (excluding rituximab), a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing bDMARD treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted bDMARD supply.

Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased.

Rituximab patients:

A patient may qualify to receive a further course of treatment (every 24 weeks) with this agent providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks after the first infusion of their most recent treatment with rituximab. The patient remains eligible to receive a course of rituximab every 24 weeks providing they continue to demonstrate a response as specified in the restriction.

Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that bDMARD.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised bDMARD is approved, a patient may swap to an alternate bDMARD

without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), the C-reactive protein (CRP) levels and the joint count) or the prior non-bDMARD therapy requirements, except if the patient has had a break in therapy of more than 24 months. However the requirement for concomitant treatment with methotrexate, where it applies, must be met for each bDMARD trialled.

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.

A patient may trial an alternate bDMARD at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with a bDMARD at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular bDMARD if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug.

Abatacept patients:

Patients swapping from I.V. abatacept to subcutaneous abatacept will not be eligible for an I.V. loading dose when commencing treatment with the subcutaneous formulation.

In order to trial rituximab, a patient must have trialled and failed to demonstrate a response to at least 1 PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment.

To ensure a patient receives 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.

PBS subsidy does not allow for patients to receive treatment with another PBS-subsidised biological agent during the required treatment-free period applying to patients who have demonstrated a response to their most recent course of rituximab. This means that patients who have demonstrated a response to a course of rituximab must have a PBS-subsidised biological therapy treatment-free period of at least 22 weeks, immediately following the second infusion, before swapping to an alternate bDMARD. Patients who fail to respond to rituximab and who qualify and wish to trial a course of an alternate bDMARD may do so without having to have any treatment-free period.

To avoid confusion, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to an alternate bDMARD should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the bDMARD the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

the Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the joint count, ESR and/or CRP submitted with the first authority application for a bDMARD.

However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time that an initial treatment authority application is submitted and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements.

To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. Therefore, where only an ESR or CRP level is provided at baseline, an ESR or CRP level respectively must be provided to determine response. Similarly, where the baseline active joint count is based on total active joints (i.e. more than 20 active joints), response will be determined according to the reduction in the total number of active joints. Where the baseline is determined on total number of major joints, the response must be demonstrated on the total number of major joints.

Except as specified under the Initial 1 treatment restriction, a baseline joint count and ESR and/or CRP should be performed whilst the patient is still on treatment or within 1 month of ceasing prior treatment. Applications under the Initial 1 treatment restriction for new or re-commencing patients must include a joint count and ESR and/or CRP measured at the completion of the 6 month intensive DMARD trial, but prior to ceasing DMARD therapy.

Authority required

Severe active rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment Phase: Continuing Treatment – balance of supply.

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Continuing treatment restriction to complete 24 weeks treatment, **AND**
- The treatment must provide no more than the balance of up to 24 weeks treatment available under the above restriction.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a rheumatologist; OR
- Must be treated by a clinical immunologist with expertise in the management of rheumatoid arthritis.

Note Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Written application for authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

abatacept 250 mg injection, 1 vial

5605B	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	..	..	266.34	Orencia [BQ]

▪ BACLOFEN

Note Pharmaceutical benefits that have the form baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 5 mL ampoule and pharmaceutical benefits that have the form baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 10 x 5 mL ampoules are equivalent for the purposes of substitution.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

6925

Severe chronic spasticity

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have failed to respond to treatment with oral antispastic agents; OR
- Patient must have had unacceptable side effects to treatment with oral antispastic agents, **AND**
- Patient must have chronic spasticity of cerebral origin.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

6939

Severe chronic spasticity

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have failed to respond to treatment with oral antispastic agents; OR
- Patient must have had unacceptable side effects to treatment with oral antispastic agents, **AND**
- Patient must have chronic spasticity due to multiple sclerosis.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

6940

Severe chronic spasticity

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have failed to respond to treatment with oral antispastic agents; OR
- Patient must have had unacceptable side effects to treatment with oral antispastic agents, **AND**
- Patient must have chronic spasticity due to spinal cord injury.

Authority required (STREAMLINED)

6911

Severe chronic spasticity

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have failed to respond to treatment with oral antispastic agents; OR
- Patient must have had unacceptable side effects to treatment with oral antispastic agents, **AND**
- Patient must have chronic spasticity due to spinal cord disease.

baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 10 x 5 mL ampoules

11126N	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	..	..	1246.30	^a Sintetica Baclofen Intrathecal [BZ]

baclofen 10 mg/5 mL intrathecal injection, 5 mL ampoule

5617P	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	10	..	..	*1246.30	^a Bacthecal [DZ]	^a Lioresal Intrathecal [NV]

▪ **INFLIXIMAB**

Note TREATMENT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of infliximab, vedolizumab and adalimumab for adult patients with ulcerative colitis. Patients are eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with either infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab at any one time. From 1 December 2016, under the PBS, all adult patients will be able to commence a treatment cycle where they may trial each of PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab without having to experience a disease flare when swapping to one of the alternate agents. Under these arrangements, within a single treatment cycle, a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab while they continue to show a response to therapy. A patient who received PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment prior to 1 December 2016 is considered to be in their first cycle as of 1 December 2016. Within the same treatment cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab more than once. 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 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 infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment in the most recent cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab under the new treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of either infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of more than 5 years, may commence a new treatment cycle.

(1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab and adalimumab after therapy after 1 December 2016 .

(a) Initial treatment. Applications for initial treatment should be made where:

- (i) an adult patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab in this treatment cycle and wishes to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or
- (ii) an adult patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or continuing) infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping therapy' below]; or
- (iii) an adult patient wishes to re-commence treatment with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with the same agent (Initial 2).

Treatment authorisations under Initial 1 and Initial 2 will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of therapy for adalimumab , 14 weeks of therapy for infliximab and vedolizumab.

A patient must be assessed for response to a course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and up to 12 weeks after the first dose (6 weeks following the third dose) for infliximab and vedolizumab, and this assessment must be provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not provided to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist. For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment, it is recommended that a patient is

reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment and that an application is provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course.

(b) Continuing treatment.

Following the completion of an initial treatment course with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab, a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response. It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted supply of treatment. Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised therapy must be provided to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not provided to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that drug.

(2) Swapping therapy.

Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised treatment is approved, a patient may swap if eligible to the alternate infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab treatment within the same treatment cycle without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. Mayo clinic score or partial Mayo clinic score), or the prior corticosteroid therapy and immunosuppressive therapy. A patient may trial an alternate treatment at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving therapy (initial or continuing) with infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab at the time of the application. However, they cannot swap to a particular therapy if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug once within the same treatment cycle. To ensure a patient receives the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under these 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, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to the alternate infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the therapy the patient is ceasing.

(3) Baseline measurements to determine response.

The Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the Mayo clinic score or partial Mayo clinic score submitted with the first authority application for infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time other than when an initial treatment authority application is provided within a treatment cycle and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications.

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

A patient who wishes to trial a second or subsequent course of treatment following a break in PBS-subsidised infliximab, vedolizumab or adalimumab therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment with respect to the scores of disease severity. A patient must have received treatment with a 5-aminosalicylate oral preparation in a standard dose for induction of remission for a minimum of 3 consecutive months, and, either azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine for a minimum of 3 consecutive months or a tapered course of oral steroids over a 6 week period followed by an appropriately dosed thiopurine agent for a minimum of 3 consecutive months (unless intolerance develops necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal to these agents) immediately prior to the time the Mayo score is measured.

(5) Patients 'grandfathered' onto PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab.

A patient who commenced treatment with adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis prior to 1 December 2016 and who continues to receive treatment at the time of application, may qualify for treatment under the initial 3 'grandfather' treatment restriction.

A patient may only qualify for PBS-subsidised treatment under this criterion once. A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment will be authorised under this criterion. Following completion of the initial PBS-subsidised course, further applications for treatment will be assessed under the continuing treatment restriction of the relevant drug. 'Grandfather' arrangements will only apply for the first treatment cycle.

For the second and subsequent cycles, a 'grandfather' patient must requalify for continuing treatment under the criteria that apply to a continuing patient.

Note TREATMENT OF PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS

The following information applies to the prescribing under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for paediatric patients with infliximab or adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis; and infliximab for acute severe ulcerative colitis.

Where the term 'tumour necrosis factor (TNF) alpha antagonist' appears in the following NOTES and restrictions, it refers to infliximab and adalimumab only. A patient is eligible for PBS-subsidised treatment with only 1 of the 2 TNF-alpha antagonists at any one time. Infliximab and adalimumab are PBS-subsidised for moderate to severe disease while only infliximab is PBS-subsidised for acute severe disease. From 1 June 2017, under the PBS, all will be able to commence a treatment cycle where they may trial each PBS-subsidised TNF-alpha antagonist without having to experience a disease flare when swapping to the alternate agent. Under these arrangements, within a single treatment cycle and depending on the disease severity, a patient may continue to receive long-term treatment with a TNF-alpha antagonist while they continue to show a response to therapy. A patient who received PBS-subsidised TNF-alpha antagonist treatment prior to 1 June 2017 is considered to be in their first cycle as of 1 June 2017. Within the same treatment cycle, a patient cannot trial and fail, or cease to respond to, the same PBS-subsidised TNF-alpha antagonist more than twice. 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 TNF-alpha antagonist 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 TNF-alpha antagonist treatment in the most recent cycle to the date of the first application for initial treatment with a TNF-alpha antagonist under the new treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of TNF-alpha antagonists in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of less than 5 years, may commence a further course of treatment within the same treatment cycle. A patient who has failed fewer than 3 trials of TNF-alpha antagonists in a treatment cycle and who has a break in therapy of more than 5 years, may commence a new treatment cycle. There is no limit to the number of treatment cycles a patient may undertake in their lifetime. (1) How to prescribe PBS-subsidised TNF-alpha antagonist therapy after 1 June 2017. (a) Initial treatment. Applications for initial treatment should be made where: (i) a patient has received no prior PBS-subsidised TNF-alpha antagonist treatment in this treatment cycle and wishes to commence such therapy (Initial 1); or (ii) a patient has received prior PBS-subsidised (initial or

continuing) treatment with a TNF-alfa antagonist and wishes to trial an alternate agent (Initial 2) [further details are under 'Swapping treatment' below]; or (iii) a patient wishes to re-commence treatment with a specific TNF-alfa antagonist following a break in PBS-subsidised therapy with that agent (Initial 2). Treatment authorisations under Initial 1 and Initial 2 will be limited to provide for a maximum of 16 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and 14 weeks of treatment for infliximab. From 1 June 2017, a patient must be assessed for response to a course of initial PBS-subsidised treatment following a minimum of 12 weeks of treatment for adalimumab and up to 12 weeks after the first dose (6 weeks following the third dose) for infliximab, and this assessment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist. For second and subsequent courses of PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist treatment, 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 the Department of Human Services no later than 2 weeks prior to the patient completing their current treatment course. Adalimumab only: Two completed authority prescriptions should be submitted with every initial application for this drug. For patients weighing 40 kg or greater, one prescription should be for the induction pack containing a quantity of 6 doses of 40 mg and no repeats and the second prescription should be written for 2 doses of 40 mg and 2 repeats. For patients weighing less than 40 kg, one prescription should be written for 2 doses of 40 mg with no repeats and the second prescription should be written for 2 doses of 20 mg with 3 repeats. (b) Continuing treatment. Following the completion of an initial treatment course with a specific TNF-alfa antagonist, a patient may qualify to receive up to 24 weeks of continuing treatment with that drug providing they have demonstrated an adequate response to treatment. The patient remains eligible to receive continuing TNF-alfa antagonist treatment with the same drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response. It is recommended that a patient be reviewed in the month prior to completing their current course of treatment to ensure uninterrupted TNF-alfa antagonist supply. Assessments of response to a course of PBS-subsidised treatment must be submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 4 weeks from the date that course was ceased. Where a response assessment is not submitted to the Department of Human Services within these timeframes, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with that TNF-alfa antagonist. (2) Swapping treatment. Once initial treatment with the first PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist is approved, a patient may swap if eligible to the alternate TNF-alfa antagonist within the same treatment cycle without having to requalify with respect to the indices of disease severity (i.e. Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) Score, confirmation of ulcerative colitis disease), or the prior conventional therapies of corticosteroids or immunosuppressives. A patient may trial an alternate agent at any time, regardless of whether they are receiving treatment (initial or continuing) with infliximab or adalimumab at the time of the application. However, a patient cannot swap to a particular TNF-alfa antagonist if they have failed to respond to prior treatment with that drug two times within the same treatment cycle. To ensure a patient receives the maximum treatment opportunities allowed under these swapping 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, an application for a patient who wishes to swap to the alternate TNF-alfa antagonist (where eligible in terms of disease severity) should be accompanied by the approved authority prescription or remaining repeats for the TNF-alfa antagonist the patient is ceasing. (3) Baseline measurements to determine response. The Department of Human Services will determine whether a response to treatment has been demonstrated based on the baseline measurements of the PUCAI submitted with the first authority application for a TNF-alfa antagonist. However, prescribers may provide new baseline measurements any time other than when an initial treatment authority application is submitted within a treatment cycle and the Department of Human Services will assess response according to these revised baseline measurements. To ensure consistency in determining response, the same indices of disease severity used to establish baseline at the commencement of treatment with each initial treatment application must be provided for all subsequent continuing treatment applications. (4) Re-commencement of treatment after a 5-year break in PBS-subsidised therapy. A patient who wishes to trial a second or subsequent treatment cycle following a break in PBS-subsidised TNF-alfa antagonist therapy of at least 5 years, must requalify for initial treatment with respect to the indices of disease severity. A patient must have received treatment with a 5-aminosalicylate oral preparation in a standard dose for induction of remission for a minimum of 3 consecutive months, and, either azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine for a minimum of 3 consecutive months or a tapered course of oral steroids over a 6 week period followed by an appropriately dosed thiopurine agent for a minimum of 3 consecutive months (unless intolerance develops necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal to these agents) immediately prior to the time the PUCAI score is measured. (5) Patients 'grandfathered' onto PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab. A patient who commenced treatment with adalimumab for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis prior to 1 June 2017 and who continues to receive treatment at the time of application, may qualify for treatment under the initial 3 'grandfather' treatment restriction. A patient may only qualify for PBS-subsidised treatment under this criterion once. A maximum of 24 weeks of treatment with adalimumab will be authorised under this criterion. Following completion of the initial PBS-subsidised course, further applications for treatment with adalimumab will be assessed under the continuing treatment restriction. 'Grandfather' arrangements will only apply for the first treatment cycle. For the second and subsequent cycles, a 'grandfather' patient must requalify for continuing treatment under the criteria that apply to a continuing patient.

Note Special Pricing Arrangements apply.

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Initial treatment (new patient or Re commencement of treatment after more than 5 years break in therapy - Initial 1)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to a 5-aminosalicylate oral preparation in a standard dose for induction of remission for 3 or more months or have intolerance necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal, **AND**
- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to azathioprine at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg daily for 3 or more months or have intolerance necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal; OR
- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to 6-mercaptopurine at a dose of at least 1 mg per kg daily for 3 or more months or have intolerance necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal; OR
- Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response to a tapered course of oral steroids, starting at a dose of at least 40 mg (for a child, 1 to 2 mg/kg up to 40 mg) prednisolone (or equivalent), over a 6 week period or have intolerance

necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal, and followed by a failure to achieve an adequate response to 3 or more months of treatment of an appropriately dosed thiopurine agent, **AND**

- Patient must have a Mayo clinic score greater than or equal to 6 if an adult patient; OR
- Patient must have a partial Mayo clinic score greater than or equal to 6, provided the rectal bleeding and stool frequency subscores are both greater than or equal to 2 (endoscopy subscore is not required for a partial Mayo clinic score); OR
- Patient must have a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) Score greater than or equal to 30 if aged 6 to 17 years; OR
- Patient must have previously received induction therapy with this drug for an acute severe episode of ulcerative colitis in the last 4 months and demonstrated an adequate response to induction therapy by achieving and maintaining a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or a PUCAI score less than 10 (if aged 6 to 17 years).

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

Applications for authorisation of initial treatment must be in writing and must include:

(a) a completed authority prescription form; and

(b) a completed Ulcerative Colitis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following:

(i) the completed current Mayo clinic or partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) calculation sheet including the date of assessment of the patient's condition; and

(ii) details of prior systemic drug therapy [dosage, date of commencement and duration of therapy]; and

(iii) the signed patient acknowledgement or guardian acknowledgement.

A maximum quantity and number of repeats to provide for an initial course of this drug consisting of 3 doses at 5 mg per kg body weight per dose to be administered at weeks 0, 2 and 6, or to be administered at 8-weekly intervals for patients who have received prior treatment for an acute severe episode, will be authorised.

All tests and assessments should be performed preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior conventional treatment.

The most recent Mayo clinic, partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application.

Where treatment for an acute severe episode has occurred, an adequate response to induction therapy needs to be demonstrated by achieving and maintaining a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score less than 10 (if aged 6 to 17 years), within the first 12 weeks of receiving this drug for acute severe ulcerative colitis.

Patients who fail to achieve a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score less than 10 within the first 12 weeks of receiving this drug for ulcerative colitis, or have failed to maintain a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or have failed to maintain a PUCAI score less than 10 (if aged 6 to 17 years) with continuing treatment with this drug, will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug.

A partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) assessment of the patient's response to this initial course of treatment must be made up to 12 weeks after the first dose for patients administered doses at weeks 0, 2 and 6 (6 weeks following the third dose) so that there is adequate time for a response to be demonstrated.

The patient or guardian (required if patient is aged 6 to 17 years) must have signed a patient acknowledgement indicating that he or she understands and acknowledges that the PBS-subsidised treatment will cease if he or she does not meet the predetermined response criterion for ongoing PBS-subsidised treatment, as outlined in the restriction for continuing treatment.

If treatment with any of the above-mentioned drugs is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, details must be provided at the time of application.

If intolerance to treatment develops during the relevant period of use, which is of a severity necessitating permanent treatment withdrawal, details of this toxicity must be provided at the time of application.

Details of the accepted toxicities including severity can be found on the Department of Human Services website.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services

Complex Drugs

Reply Paid 9826

HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Continuing treatment

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have previously been issued with an authority prescription for this drug for this condition, **AND**
- Patient must have demonstrated or sustained an adequate response to treatment by having a partial Mayo clinic score less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1 while receiving treatment with this drug; OR

-
- Patient must have demonstrated or sustained an adequate response to treatment by having a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score of less than 10 while receiving treatment with this drug, if aged 6 to 17 years.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

Patients who have failed to maintain a partial Mayo clinic score of less than or equal to 2, with no subscore greater than 1, or, patients who have failed to maintain a Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) score of less than 10 (if aged 6 to 17 years) with continuing treatment with this drug, will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug.

Patients are eligible to receive continuing treatment with this drug in courses of up to 24 weeks providing they continue to sustain the response.

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.

Note No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

Note Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 24 weeks of treatment may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday to Friday).

Written application for authority approval should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Change or Re-commencement of treatment after a break in therapy (Initial 2)

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab, infliximab or vedolizumab for this condition in this treatment cycle; OR
- Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with adalimumab or infliximab for this condition in this treatment cycle if aged 6 to 17 years, **AND**
- Patient must not have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab for this condition in the current treatment cycle; OR
- Patient must not have failed PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab for this condition in the current treatment cycle more than once if aged 6 to 17 years.

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied by the results of the most recent course of this drug within the timelines specified in the relevant restriction. If the response assessment to the previous course of this drug is not submitted as detailed in the relevant restriction, the patient will be deemed to have failed therapy with this drug. Applications for authorisation of initial treatment must be in writing and must include:(a) a completed authority prescription form; and(b) a completed Ulcerative Colitis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following:(i) the completed current Mayo clinic or partial Mayo clinic or Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis Activity Index (PUCAI) calculation sheet including the date of assessment of the patient's condition; and(ii) details of prior systemic drug therapy [dosage, date of commencement and duration of therapy];

A maximum quantity and number of repeats to provide for an initial course of this drug consisting of 3 doses at 5 mg per kg body weight per dose to be administered at weeks 0, 2 and 6, will be authorised.

At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity 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.

Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 3 initial doses or 2 repeats may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services.

Note No applications for increased repeats will be authorised.

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

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Department of Human Services website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Applications for authority to prescribe should be forwarded to:

Department of Human Services
Complex Drugs
Reply Paid 9826
HOBART TAS 7001

Authority required

Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

Treatment Phase: Balance of supply

Clinical criteria:

- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Initial 1 (new patient) restriction to complete the 3 doses (i.e. the initial infusion regimen at 0, 2 and 6 weeks); OR
- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Initial 2 (Change or Recommencement of treatment after a break in therapy) restriction to complete the 3 doses (i.e. the initial infusion regimen at 0, 2 and 6 weeks); OR
- Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug under the Continuing treatment restriction to complete 24 weeks of treatment, **AND**
- The treatment must provide no more than the balance of up to 3 doses (Initial 1 and Initial 2 restrictions) or 2 repeats (Continuing restriction).

Population criteria:

- Patient must be 6 years of age or older.

Treatment criteria:

- Must be treated by a gastroenterologist (code 87); OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [internal medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 81)]; OR
- Must be treated by a consultant physician [general medicine specialising in gastroenterology (code 82)]; OR
- Must be treated by a paediatrician; OR
- Must be treated by a specialist paediatric gastroenterologist.

Authority approval for sufficient therapy to complete a maximum of 3 initial doses or 2 repeats may be requested by telephone by contacting the Department of Human Services.

infliximab 100 mg injection, 1 vial

10196P	Max.Qty Packs	No. of Rpts	Premium \$	DPMQ \$	Brand Name and Manufacturer	Brand Name and Manufacturer
	1	..	..	574.85	^a Inflectra [PF]	^a Remicade [JC]