






# PBS Authorities – Planned changes to severe psoriatic arthritis program

Changes are coming to enable digital self-service for all severe psoriatic arthritis PBS Authorities. From 1 July 2025, you will be able to use the Online PBS Authorities system to request PBS Authority approvals for adalimumab, bimekizumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, guselkumab, infliximab, ixekizumab, risankizumab, secukinumab, tofacitinib, upadacitinib and ustekinumab.

PBS Authority requests made online provide immediate, real-time assessment outcomes, or in some instances, a full/delayed assessment where the authority request is digitally submitted to a Service Australia operator for assessment.

From July 2025, you will notice changes when responding to severe psoriatic arthritis eligibility questions. In preparation for these changes, we recommend you start documenting your patient's baseline values and previous treatment failures in their medical records. This will help if you need to provide previously supplied information to demonstrate patient eligibility for change, recommencement and continuing treatments.

## Summary of changes from 1 July 2025

<b>Initial treatment</b>	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p> <b>Tip:</b> Document your patient's baseline values in their medical records, as these may be needed for future applications.</p>
<b>Initial grandfather</b> (for bimekizumab or risankizumab only)	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p> <b>Tip:</b> Document your patient's baseline values in their medical records, as these may be needed for future applications.</p>
<b>Change/recommencement</b>	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p> <b>Tip:</b> Document your patient's new baseline values and failures to previous medicines (if applicable) in their medical records, as these may be required for future applications. You may need to provide your patient's previous baseline values to demonstrate their eligibility for PBS-subsidised treatment.</p>
<b>Continuing</b>	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p> <b>Tip:</b> You may need to provide your patient's baseline values to demonstrate their eligibility for PBS-subsidised treatment.</p>
<b>First continuing, subsequent continuing</b> (for adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab only)	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p> <b>Tip:</b> You may need to provide your patient's baseline values to demonstrate their eligibility for PBS-subsidised treatment.</p>
<b>Subsequent continuing</b> (for biosimilar brands of adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab only)	<p>There are no changes to the administration of subsequent continuing applications for biosimilar brands of adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab. These remain Authority Required (STREAMLINED).</p>

## Important Information

### **PBS Authorities items criteria**

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

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

### **Release of information**

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

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

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

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

Make sure you've:

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

Visit [servicesaustralia.gov.au/HPOS](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/HPOS) for more information on how to Link your Health Identifiers to HPOS and Manage delegations.

## **Reminders**

### **Correct PBS item code**

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

### **Ensuring you are providing accurate data**

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

## **More information**

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

For more information about the **Online PBS Authorities system** visit

**[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hppbsauthorities](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hppbsauthorities)**

Services Australia has a broad range of educational resources on the **Health Professional Education Resources** website. This includes simulations, podcast and an infographic on the Online PBS Authorities system. Visit **<https://hpe.servicesaustralia.gov.au/pharmaceutical-benefits-scheme.html>**

If you require additional assistance or have any queries, please email **[authority.comms.change@servicesaustralia.gov.au](mailto:authority.comms.change@servicesaustralia.gov.au)**.