SERVICES AUSTRALIA

PBS Authorities – Planned changes to ankylosing spondylitis program

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

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

From October 2025, you will notice changes when responding to ankylosing spondylitis 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 October 2025

Ankylosing spondylitis – Originator brands	
Initial treatment	Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing. **Tip:** Document your patient's baseline values in their medical records, as these may be needed for future applications.
Grandfather treatment (bimekizumab only)	Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing. **Tip:** Document your patient's baseline values in their medical records, as these may be needed for future applications.
Change or recommencement treatment	Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing. **Tip:** Document your patient's new baseline values and failures to previous medicines (if applicable) in their medical records, as these may be needed for future applications. You may need to provide your patient's previous baseline values to demonstrate their eligibility for PBS-subsidised treatment.
First continuing and subsequent continuing treatment (adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab IV only)	Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing. **Tip:** You may need to provide your patient's baseline values to demonstrate their eligibility for PBS-subsidised treatment.
Continuing treatment (bimekizumab, certolizumab pegol, golimumab, infliximab SC, ixekizumab, secukinumab, tofacitinib and upadacitinib only)	Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing. **Tip:** You may need to provide your patient's baseline values to demonstrate their eligibility for PBS-subsidised treatment.
Balance of supply	There are no changes to the administration of balance of supply applications for originator brands. Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.

Ankylosing spondylitis – Biosimilar brands	
Initial treatment (adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab IV only)	There are no changes to the administration of initial applications for biosimilar brands of biological medicines. Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.
Change or recommencement treatment (adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab IV only)	There are no changes to the administration of change/recommencement applications for biosimilar brands of biological medicines. Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.
First continuing treatment (adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab IV only)	There are no changes to the administration of first continuing applications for biosimilar brands of biological medicines. These remain Authority Required (STREAMLINED).
Subsequent continuing treatment (adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab IV only)	There are no changes to the administration of subsequent continuing applications for biosimilar brands of biological medicines. These remain Authority Required (STREAMLINED).
Balance of supply (Initial treatment only)	There are no changes to the administration of balance of supply applications for biosimilar brands of biological medicines. Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.

Important Information

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 ankylosing spondylitis 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. Search for QC 31841 on the Services Australia website to access the most recent forms.

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 for more information on how to Link your Health Identifiers to HPOS and Manage delegations.

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**

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**.