

PBS Authorities – Changes to severe Crohn's disease - adult patient

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), at their March 2026 meeting, recommended a series of amendments to align restrictions, improve consistency across indications and reduce administrative complexity across the PBS listings for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) medicines.

From 1 July 2026, there are changes to the authority levels for adalimumab, infliximab, upadacitinib, ustekinumab and vedolizumab for the treatment of severe Crohn's disease (for patients 18 years and older).

These changes will make it easier for you to request authority approval for these medicines from Services Australia. Changes you will notice from 1 July are:

- Applications no longer need to be in writing.
- Authority applications for **initial, change/recommencement and continuing treatments** can now be made using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.
- Prescriptions for **continuing treatment** (biosimilar brands of adalimumab, infliximab IV and ustekinumab only) are Authority Required (STREAMLINED).
- You no longer need to submit the Adult Crohn's Disease Activity Index (CDAI) sheet with the application. You will only need to provide responses to a series of questions.

Summary of changes from 1 July 2026

Treatment Phase	Medicine	Authority Level
Severe Crohn's disease (for patients over 18 years of age)		
- Initial treatment; - Change/ recommencement treatment; - Continuing treatment (innovator brands).	adalimumab, infliximab, upadacitinib, ustekinumab, vedolizumab.	Online / Telephone: Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.  
Grandfather treatment (transitioning from non-PBS-subsidised therapy that was commenced as a paediatric patient).	upadacitinib, ustekinumab SC, vedolizumab SC and IV.	Online / Telephone: Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.  
Continuing treatment (biosimilar brands)	adalimumab, infliximab IV, ustekinumab SC.	STREAMLINED: Continuing treatment with PBS-subsidised biosimilar brands of targeted therapies is Authority Required (STREAMLINED).
Continuing treatment	infliximab SC or switching from IV to SC form.	STREAMLINED: Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab SC or switching from IV to SC form is Authority Required (STREAMLINED).
 Request authority online – Immediate Assessment		 Request authority by telephone

FURTHER 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.

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.

**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.

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.