

SASKATCHEWAN FORMULARY BULLETIN

Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative Announced October 20, 2022

Following today's public news release, Saskatchewan will be the seventh Canadian public drug plan to implement a comprehensive biosimilars drug coverage policy to increase the use of more cost-effective biosimilar drugs.

The following policy will apply to Saskatchewan residents who receive Saskatchewan Drug Plan coverage of their reference biologic medication. A list of drugs impacted by the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative is included on page 2.

Established patients already receiving a reference biologic drug (or “originator” biologic) with an available biosimilar version will be required to use a biosimilar version **by April 30, 2023**, in order to maintain coverage under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan.

During the period from now until April 30, 2023, established patients will have access to Saskatchewan Drug Plan coverage of both the reference biologic and the available biosimilar options listed on the Formulary. After April 30, 2023, coverage of the reference biologic will no longer be provided.

Patients who are impacted by this policy will be notified of these changes by a letter in early November.

Exemptions for a patient to maintain coverage of a reference biologic will be considered for those who cannot use a biosimilar for a medical reason. Prescribers will be able to submit a request, along with clinical rationale, for review by the Drug Plan on a case-by-case basis.

Please note: patients will continue to be able to access Saskatchewan Drug Plan coverage of their reference biologic medication if a suitable biosimilar format is not available.

Any listing or coverage changes to the affected drug products will be communicated through the usual Formulary update process.

For more information on the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative:

- Call 1-800-667-2549 (toll-free) or 306-787-8744 (Regina) and press Option 3 (this option will become available the week of October 24, 2022)
- E-mail sk.biosimilars@health.gov.sk.ca
- Visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/prescription-drug-plans-and-health-coverage/extended-benefits-and-drug-plan/biosimilars> (webpage will be launched shortly)

List of Drugs Affected by the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative:

Drug name	Reference biologic brand name	Biosimilar brand name	Health conditions
Adalimumab	Humira	Abrilada Amgevita Hadlima Hulio Hyrimoz Idacio Simlandi Yuflyma	Auto-immune conditions, including: Ankylosing spondylitis Crohn's disease Hidradenitis suppurativa Juvenile idiopathic arthritis Plaque psoriasis Psoriatic arthritis Rheumatoid arthritis Ulcerative colitis Uveitis
Etanercept	Enbrel	Brenzys Erelzi	Auto-immune conditions, including: Ankylosing spondylitis Juvenile idiopathic arthritis Plaque psoriasis Psoriatic arthritis Rheumatoid arthritis
Enoxaparin	Lovenox	Inclunox Noromby Redesca	Prevention and treatment of venous thromboembolic events
Filgrastim	Neupogen	Grastofil Nivestym	Low white blood cell count (non-cancer related)
Glatiramer (a non-biologic complex drug)	Copaxone	Glatect	Multiple sclerosis
Infliximab	Remicade	Avsola Inflectra Renflexis	Auto-immune conditions, including: Ankylosing spondylitis Crohn's disease Plaque psoriasis Psoriatic arthritis Rheumatoid arthritis Ulcerative colitis
Insulin aspart	NovoRapid	Trurapi	Diabetes
Insulin glargine	Lantus	Basaglar	Diabetes
Insulin lispro	Humalog	Admelog	Diabetes
Rituximab	Rituxan	Riximyo Ruxience Truxima	Auto-immune conditions listed in Appendix A of the Saskatchewan Formulary

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