

SASKATCHEWAN FORMULARY BULLETIN

Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative: Insulin Coverage Updates

The Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative was announced on October 20, 2022, to increase the use of more cost-effective biosimilar drugs. The Biosimilars Initiative includes ten drugs listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary (see page 2 of this bulletin for details).

As previously announced, **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. After April 30, 2023, coverage of the reference biologic will no longer be provided.

Please note the following updates and clarifications impacting the transition to biosimilar insulin products:

Humalog (insulin lispro): the transition for Humalog is paused until further notice, until supply of the biosimilar (Admelog) has stabilized and demand for Saskatchewan can be met.

NovoRapid (insulin aspart): coverage of NovoRapid will continue to be available for patients who use insulin pumps while the biosimilar(s) undergo insulin pump certification.

Vial formats of Lantus (insulin glargine) and NovoRapid (insulin aspart): Lantus and NovoRapid vials will remain covered at this time, until biosimilar(s) in a vial format are listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary.

Future listing or coverage changes to the affected drug products will be communicated through the usual Formulary update process. Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative updates will also be posted on our webpage for health care providers and patients.

For more information on the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative:

- Call 1-800-667-2549 (toll-free) or 306-787-8744 (Regina) and press option 3.
- 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>

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
Enoxaparin	Lovenox	Inclunox Noromby Redesca	Prevention and treatment of venous thromboembolic events
Etanercept	Enbrel	Brenzys Erelzi	Auto-immune conditions, including: Ankylosing spondylitis Juvenile idiopathic arthritis Plaque psoriasis Psoriatic arthritis Rheumatoid arthritis
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 (cartridge)	Trurapi	Diabetes
Insulin glargine	Lantus (cartridge, pre-filled pens)	Basaglar	Diabetes
Insulin lispro	Humalog*	Admelog	Diabetes
Rituximab	Rituxan	Riximyo Ruxience Truxima	Auto-immune conditions listed in Appendix A of the Saskatchewan Formulary

*The transition for Humalog is paused until further notice.

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