

PBS Authorities – Planned changes to Crohn’s disease program

Changes are coming to enable digital self-service for all severe Crohn’s disease (for patients 18 years and older) and fistulising Crohn’s disease PBS Authorities.

From 1 December 2025, you will be able to use the Online PBS Authorities system to request PBS Authority approvals for adalimumab, infliximab, upadacitinib, ustekinumab and vedolizumab.

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 December 2025, you will notice changes when responding to severe Crohn’s disease and fistulising Crohn’s disease 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 December 2025

Severe Crohn’s disease (for patients over 18 years of age)	
Initial treatment	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p> Tip: Document your patient’s baseline values in their medical records, as these may be needed for future applications.</p>
Extended induction period (upadacitinib & vedolizumab IV only)	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.</p>
Change/recommencement	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p> Tip: 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>
Continuing	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p> Tip: You may need to provide your patient’s baseline values to demonstrate their eligibility for PBS-subsidised treatment.</p>
Subsequent continuing (biosimilar brands of adalimumab, infliximab IV and ustekinumab only)	<p>After the first application for continuing treatment is approved, subsequent continuing treatments with PBS-subsidised biosimilar brands of biological medicine are Authority Required (STREAMLINED).</p>
Continuing/switching from IV to SC (infliximab SC only)	<p>Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab SC or switching from IV to SC form is Authority Required (STREAMLINED).</p>

Fistulising Crohn's disease	
Initial treatment	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p> Tip: Document your patient's baseline values in their medical records, as these may be needed for future applications.</p>
Change/recommencement	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p> Tip: 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>
Continuing	<p>Authority applications can be made digitally using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p> Tip: You may need to provide your patient's baseline values to demonstrate their eligibility for PBS-subsidised treatment.</p>
Subsequent continuing (biosimilar brands of adalimumab, infliximab IV and ustekinumab only)	<p>After the first application for continuing treatment is approved, subsequent continuing treatments with PBS-subsidised biosimilar brands of biological medicine are Authority Required (STREAMLINED).</p>
Continuing/switching from IV to SC (infliximab SC only)	<p>Continuing PBS-subsidised treatment with infliximab SC or switching from IV to SC form is Authority Required (STREAMLINED).</p>

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 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 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.