

# PHARMACY *update*

APRIL 2018

## BIOSIMILAR TRANSITION PROGRAM

In April 2016, Green Shield Canada (GSC) implemented our Biosimilar Policy under which any new biosimilar reviewed and listed becomes the preferred product under our formularies, and the originator product is covered only in exceptional circumstances. This policy applies only to new starts (naïve patients) while existing patients taking the originator biologic are not required to transition treatments to receive reimbursement.

While that policy will continue in effect for naïve patients, we are now introducing a **Biosimilar Transition Program** that will impact some existing patients taking Remicade® and Enbrel® for three rheumatic conditions as shown below.

Drug	Targeted indications
Remicade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rheumatoid arthritis</li><li>• Ankylosing spondylitis</li><li>• Psoriatic arthritis</li></ul>
Enbrel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rheumatoid arthritis</li><li>• Ankylosing apondylitis</li></ul>

Under the new program, patients taking Remicade or Enbrel for one of the targeted indications above will be offered two options: a) speak with their rheumatologist to discuss “transitioning” from the originator Remicade or Enbrel to the corresponding biosimilar, or b) remain on the originator product and pay the difference in cost between the originator and the biosimilar. Patients and their physicians choosing to transition will be provided one-on-one nursing support to facilitate and coordinate the transition process. Patients who choose to remain on the originator will not have their claim denied, instead the claim will be reimbursed at the lower biosimilar cost and a response code of **LG=lowest cost equivalent pricing** will be presented on adjudication.

## VICTOZA® (LIRAGLUTIDE) FOR DIABETES

We would like to remind you that, according to the Health Canada monograph for Victoza (liraglutide), the maximum dose of Victoza (liraglutide) for the treatment of adults with type 2 diabetes is 1.8mg per day. GSC will allow patients to claim for a maximum of 10 pens for a 100-day supply. Off-label use of Victoza (liraglutide) for chronic weight management in adults is not eligible for reimbursement under GSC plans.

As well, GSC adjudicates Victoza according to the number of pens dispensed. Please ensure that your pharmacy software system submits the quantity of Victoza in pens when submitting the claim to GSC.

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