



Pharmacy update

National Edition

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Evolution of GreenShield's Biosimilar Strategy - Preferred Products for Adalimumab Biosimilars

With new biologics entering the market rapidly, the overall cost of biologic drugs continues to impact the sustainability of private drug plans. GreenShield's evidence-based biosimilar strategy combines innovative programs and approaches to ensure the best value for treatment, optimize plan sponsor resources, support the uptake of biosimilars, and improve access to medications for all plan members.

In 2016, GreenShield was the first to establish a "New Start" program that lists biosimilars as preferred products under all formularies for all patients starting biologic therapy. In 2018, we were the first to launch the Biosimilar Transition Program (BTP) to help plan members currently taking originator biologic drugs to transition to the corresponding biosimilar product. Today, following our lead, nearly all provinces and territories have expanded the use of biosimilars and adopted policies that mandate biosimilar switching.

The originator biologic, Humira (adalimumab), continues to be one of the world's top selling drugs for over two decades, treating various inflammatory conditions. Currently, there are eight approved adalimumab biosimilars in the Canadian market that have all demonstrated similar safety and efficacy profiles to the originator, Humira.

As part of our commitment to delivering maximum value to plan sponsors, we will be introducing tiered listing of adalimumab biosimilar products on our formularies. Effective **January 22, 2024**, the following biosimilar products will be split into two categories: preferred and non-preferred products as outlined in the table below. This means, anyone newly starting adalimumab therapy, effective January 22, 2024, would be required to use a Category 1 (preferred product) below.

Category 1 (preferred products)	Abrilada, Hyrimoz, and Hadlima
Category 2 (non-preferred products)*	Amgevita, Hulio, Idacio, Simlandi, and Yuflyma

The choice of preferred products was evaluated based on several criteria including the formulation and format of the product, the robustness of the manufacturer's patient co-pay assistance program, quality of the patient support program, and the manufacturer's track record of drug shortages. All three preferred products demonstrated excellence in these areas and maintain the opportunity for plan member choice.

The preferential listing applies to all Health Canada approved indications including**:

- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Juvenile Arthritis
- Psoriatic Arthritis
- Ankylosing Spondylitis
- Plaque Psoriasis
- Uveitis (adult and pediatric)
- Crohn's Disease (adult and pediatric)
- Ulcerative Colitis
- Hidradenitis Suppurativa

This preferential listing also applies to plan sponsors who have opted into GreenShield's BTP. If a new member under this program chooses to transition to an adalimumab biosimilar, they must select a Category 1 (preferred product) unless an exception applies*.

GreenShield will return with the following messages outlined in the table below if a claim for a Category 2 non-preferred product or Humira is submitted without prior approval, along with the "drug requires prior authorization" message.

Product(s)	Pharmacy messaging
Amgevita, Hulio, Idacio, Simlandi, and Yuflyma	This is a non-preferred biosimilar. Reprocess with alternative biosimilar for more info. See providerConnect for more info.
Humira (originator)	Preferred biosimilar(s) may be eligible. Reprocess with biosimilar for more info. See providerConnect for more info.

As a reminder, to access the most up to date GreenShield drug authorization forms, please visit providerConnect™ (<https://providerconnect.ca/>) and navigate to the **Pharmacy Provider** section under "What you Need."

** Products listed as Category 2 agents will be non-preferred products and will only be available to patients in exceptional circumstances (e.g., documented intolerance or adverse events to 2 preferred products).*

*** Preferential listing does not apply in Quebec and will only apply where GreenShield is the primary payor.*