







PBS Authorities – Changes to non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis program

We understand having access to PBS-subsidised medicines can be critical to patient care. That's why Services Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care are continuing to work together to increase the number of PBS medicines that can be requested and approved using the Online PBS Authorities system (the system). This will include bimekizumab, certolizumab pegol, golimumab, secukinumab and upadacitinib for the treatment of non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis from 1 February 2025.

These changes will make it easier for you to request authority approval for these medicines from Services Australia. You will no longer need to submit written authority applications, details of the proposed prescriptions and test results for certain medicines and treatment phases. Instead, you will be able to use the system to apply for authority approval and provide evidence digitally.

Summary of changes from 1 February 2025

Medicine	Authority Level	Details of Changes		
bimekizumab certolizumab pegol golimumab secukinumab upadacitinib	<p>Online / Written: <i>Initial & grandfather treatments</i></p> 	<p>Authority applications can be made using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.</p> <p>When submitted online, the application may still require assessment by a Services Australia operator (process known as a Full (Delayed) Assessment).</p> <p>When assessed you will receive an outcome notification directly to your Health Professional Online Service (HPOS) mailbox.</p>		
	<p>Online / Telephone: <i>Continuing & change treatments</i></p> 	<p>No change to Continuing or Change of treatment.</p> <p>Authority applications can be made in real-time using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.</p>		
 Request authority online – Immediate Assessment		 Request authority online – Full (Delayed) Assessment	 Request authority by telephone	 Upload form via HPOS or post

If you're submitting the authority application form via post or Health Professional Online Service (HPOS) form upload facility, you'll still need to submit the authority application form and details of the proposed prescriptions.

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.