




PBS Authorities – Changes to digital access




July 2023





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 in ‘real-time’ using the Online PBS Authorities system (the system). This includes the recent changes made to the juvenile idiopathic arthritis medicines from 1 July 2023.

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 hard copy authority applications, prescriptions and test results. Instead, you will be able to use the system to apply for authority approval and provide evidence digitally.

Summary of July 2023 Changes

 request Authority Online
  request Authority by Telephone
  upload form via HPOS or post

Condition	Drug/s	1 July 2023 Authority Level	1 July 2023 Changes
- Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) - Systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA)	- Adalimumab (JIA only)	Telephone / Electronic: Initial treatment 	Change to the initial Authority Required restrictions. You will no longer be required to submit a written application for initial scripts. Authority applications for initial treatment can be made in real time using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.
	- Etanercept (JIA only)	Streamlined: Continuing treatment	Change to the continuing Authority Required restrictions. You will no longer be required to submit a written application for continuing scripts. Prescriptions for continuing treatment will now be Authority Required (STREAMLINED).
- Tocilizumab (JIA and sJIA)			
Chronic immune (idiopathic) thrombocytopenia purpura	Avatrombopag (New)	Written / Electronic: Initial and grandfather treatments 	Adding an online channel to existing written restrictions for an immediate assessment result for your patient.
	Eltrombopag	Telephone / Electronic: First continuing, subsequent continuing, balance of supply treatments 	Authority applications for first continuing, subsequent continuing, and balance of supply treatment will remain as telephone / electronic. Authority applications for continuing treatment can be made in real-time using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.
	Romiplostim		

Condition	Drug/s	1 July 2023 Authority Level	1 July 2023 Changes
Giant cell arteritis	Tocilizumab	Written / Electronic: Initial treatment  	Adding an online channel to existing written restrictions for an immediate assessment result for your patient.
		Telephone / Electronic: Continuing treatment  	Authority applications for continuing treatment will remain as telephone / electronic. Authority applications for continuing treatment can be made in real-time using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.

Additional information

Where to find the changes

You can find out if a PBS medicine can be submitted digitally by checking the Administrative advice for that condition.

You can find the Administrative advice for each item under the Note in the PBS Schedule on the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

The PBS Authority Required application forms for these medicines will reflect the requirements for digital submission.

Example Administrative advice:

Note

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe may be directed to Services Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Services Australia website at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au

Applications for authorisation under this restriction should be made in real time using the Online PBS Authorities system (see www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpos)

Alternatively, applications for authority to prescribe can be submitted online using the form upload facility in Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpos

Or mailed to:

Services Australia
 Complex Drugs
 Reply Paid 9826
 HOBART TAS 7001

If you're using the authority application form via post or Health Professional Online Service (HPOS) form upload facility, you'll still need to submit authority applications, prescriptions and test result details. This will delay the assessment of the authority application.

Can PBS authority applications be submitted by post?

You can still submit applications for authority to prescribe by:

- mailing your application
- uploading documents in HPOS.

Updated versions of application forms will remain available on our website.

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 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.

Important information

This information relates to the administration of these listings by Services Australia. For further information on broader PBS changes, please visit the PBS website.