



Australian
Rheumatology
Association

Therapeutic Update

1 Dec PBS Changes for Ankylosing Spondylitis

As you may have heard, the PBS listing for medicines for ankylosing spondylitis (adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab) have recently changed for biosimilars:

- Initial therapy will change from Authority Required (Written), to Authority Required (telephone/immediate online assessment).
- First continuing therapy will change to Authority Required (Streamlined).

The ARA are writing to the PBAC for the expansion of authority changes to also include originator brands. We will keep you updated on the progress of any news.

For more information, you can find the PBS News item [here](#).

You can find a summary table of the changes [here](#).

Update on TGA Safety alert: Romosozumab

The TGA have published a new warning for romosozumab (Eventify) due to increased cardiovascular risk. The risk of heart attack and stroke in patients taking romosozumab warranted stronger risks and it is now advised that patients with a history of heart attack or stroke should not take romosozumab. The benefit-risk balance of romosozumab remains positive and it continues to be a useful treatment osteoporosis patients.

The [Product Information \(PI\)](#) and [Consumer Medicine Information \(CMI\)](#) have been updated accordingly.

The ARA [romosozumab medication information leaflet](#) has been updated to reflect these changes.

For more information, please see the [TGA Medicine Safety Update](#).



Updated ARA Clinical Resources

The ARA Therapeutics Committee have updated the ARA Biosimilars Position Statement which is available on the ARA website [here](#).

The following COVID resources have also been updated in line with recent ATAGI recommendations:

- [COVID Vaccination Information for Patients](#)
- [Advice for GPs and other Health Professionals caring for patients with autoimmune and inflammatory rheumatic diseases \(AIIRD\) in the COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) pandemic](#)

The following ARA vaccination resources have also been updated with recent Shingrix changes (and discontinuation of Zostavax).

- [Vaccinations in Autoimmune Inflammatory Rheumatic Disease for GPs/AHPs](#)
- [Table of Vaccinations](#)
- [Vaccinations in Rheumatology](#)

If you have any feedback or suggestions for other resources, please be in touch with Jing Ye, ARA Clinical Project Officer, project@rheumatology.org.au.

