Ministry of Health
Drug Plan and Extended Benefits
2nd Floor, 3475 Albert Street
Regina, Canada S4S 6X6

November 17, 2025

RE: Upcoming Launch of Phase 2 of the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative

Dear Health Care Providers:

The Ministry of Health will be launching the second phase of the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative in February 2026. This phase builds on the progress of the first phase of the Biosimilars Initiative, which was successfully completed in April 2024, and will continue to promote the use of biosimilar medications.

Under the Biosimilars Initiative, patients receive Saskatchewan Drug Plan coverage for a biosimilar version of their biologic medication where one is available and listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary. Biosimilars present a significant opportunity for cost savings and long-term health system sustainability while providing safe and effective medication options. Continued expansion of the Biosimilars Initiative supports patient access to public drug plan coverage.

All biosimilars approved by Health Canada meet rigorous quality standards to confirm they are as effective and safe as the reference biologic.

The second phase of the Biosimilars Initiative includes the following four drugs listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary: **denosumab (Prolia®), omalizumab (Xolair®), tocilizumab (Actemra®),** and **ustekinumab (Stelara®)** (see Appendix A for details).

Effective **December 1, 2025**, **patients who are newly starting an affected biologic medication (i.e., patients without previous Exception Drug Status [EDS] approval for the reference biologic)** will only be eligible for coverage of a listed biosimilar version.

Beginning **February 1, 2026, patients currently using an affected reference biologic medication** will need to use a listed biosimilar version **by the end of the transition period(s)** to maintain Saskatchewan Drug Plan coverage of their treatment. The end of the transition period is:

- **July 31, 2026** for omalizumab (Xolair®), tocilizumab (Actemra®), and ustekinumab (Stelara®);
- **January 31, 2027** for denosumab (Prolia®).

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From the start of the transition period(s) on February 1, 2026, until the end of the transition period(s) listed above, patients currently using an affected reference biologic medication will have Saskatchewan Drug Plan coverage of both the reference biologic and the biosimilar(s) listed on the Formulary. The transition period(s) allows time for patients using an affected reference biologic medication to talk to their health care provider and get a new prescription for a biosimilar. After the transition period(s), the Saskatchewan Drug Plan will no longer cover the reference biologic medication.

Exception Drug Status (EDS)

- Patients who have current EDS approval for an affected reference biologic will have EDS approval added for the biosimilar version(s) at the beginning of the transition period.
- You do not need to submit a new EDS application for your patient to transition to a biosimilar.
- Health care providers can also confirm their patient's EDS approval on their Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) profile.

Prescriptions for Biosimilars

- Patients will need a new prescription for a biosimilar version of their affected reference biologic medication.
- Biosimilars are not listed as interchangeable with the reference biologic on the Saskatchewan Formulary. They cannot be substituted at the pharmacy level.
- Prescriptions must clearly indicate the biosimilar brand to be dispensed by the pharmacy.

List of Patients for Prescribers

- Enclosed is a Patient List Request Form for prescribers to request a list of their patients who may need to transition to a biosimilar to maintain Drug Plan coverage of their treatment.
- The list will include patients who have received a recent prescription claim for the affected reference biologics.
- The Patient List Request Form is also available on the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative webpage at www.saskatchewan.ca/biosimilars.

Patient Notification

- Patients who are using an affected reference biologic and need to transition to a biosimilar will be notified of the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative and EDS approval updates by letter.
- Letters will include an information sheet on biosimilars. A Guide for Patients is also available on the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative webpage at www.saskatchewan.ca/biosimilars.
- Prescribers will be notified when letters are sent to affected patients. Letters are expected to be sent to affected patients at the beginning of the transition period.

Assessment of Unexpected Responses to Biosimilars

- medSask has developed a tool for prescribers to assess unexpected responses to biosimilars. Please refer to medsask.usask.ca for more details.
- Medication and device quality concerns should be reported to Health Canada as part of their ongoing safety monitoring.
- Health care professionals may also have requirements to report health product or adverse drug event concerns based on their regulatory authority's standards of practice.

Exemptions

- Exemptions for a patient to maintain coverage of a reference biologic will be considered for those who cannot use a biosimilar for a medical reason.
- Prescribers may submit an Exemption Request Form for review by the Drug Plan on a case-by-case basis. The Exemption Request Form is available on the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative webpage at www.saskatchewan.ca/biosimilars.
- Prescribers and patients will be notified of exemption decisions directly by letter.
- For questions related to biosimilar exemption requests, prescribers can contact sk.biosimilars@health.gov.sk.ca or call 1-800-667-2549 (306-787-8744 in Regina), and press 2, then 3.
- Patients will continue to be able to access Saskatchewan Drug Plan coverage of their reference biologic medication if a suitable biosimilar format is not available.

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Questions and Support

- For general questions about the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative:
  - Visit www.saskatchewan.ca/biosimilars
  - Email sk.biosimilars@health.gov.sk.ca
  - Call 1-800-667-2549 (306-787-8744 in Regina), press option 2, then 2
- For clinical support from medSask:
  - Health care providers:
    - Visit medsask.usask.ca/professional-practice/biosimilars-in-Saskatchewan
    - Email druginfo@usask.ca
    - Call 1-800-667-3425 (306-966-6340 in Saskatoon)
  - Patients:
    - Visit medsask.usask.ca/general-public/biosimilars-in-saskatchewan
    - Email med.sask@usask.ca
    - Call 1-800-665-3784 (306-966-6378 in Saskatoon)

The Saskatchewan Drug Plan is committed to understanding and responding to the needs and concerns of health care providers and patients to ensure the transition to biosimilars is as seamless as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch

Enclosure

APPENDIX A:

List of Drugs Affected by the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative (Phase 2)

Drug Name	**Reference Biologic Brand Name** (switch from)	**Biosimilar Brand Name** (switch to)*	**Health Conditions**	**Saskatchewan Formulary Listing Date** (new patients must use a biosimilar)	**Transition Period** (for affected patients)
Denosumab	Prolia®	Jubbonti®	Osteoporosis	Dec. 1, 2025	Feb. 1, 2026 to Jan. 31, 2027
Omalizumab	Xolair®	Omlyclo®	Chronic idiopathic urticaria		Feb. 1, 2026 to Jul. 31, 2026
Tocilizumab	Actemra®	Tyenne®	Autoimmune conditions (giant cell arteritis, rheumatoid arthritis, polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis, systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis)		
Ustekinumab	Stelara®	Jamteki™ Otulfi™ Steqeyma® Wezlana™	Autoimmune conditions (plaque psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, Crohn's disease)		

*Please refer to the Saskatchewan Formulary for the most current listings.

Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative
Patient List Request Form

Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch
3475 Albert Street
REGINA SK S4S 6X6
Phone: 1-800-667-2549 (306-787-8744 in Regina)
(option 2, then 2)
Fax: 306-798-1089
Email: sk.biosimilars@health.gov.sk.ca

This form is for prescribers to request a list of patients who may need to transition to a biosimilar to maintain Saskatchewan Drug Plan coverage under the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative.
The list will include the Health Services Number of patients who have filled a recent prescription claim through the Saskatchewan Drug Plan for the reference biologic drug(s) selected below where you are the prescriber listed. Please note that patients may also coordinate their drug coverage benefits through private insurance.

THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FORM TO REQUEST EXCEPTION DRUG STATUS COVERAGE.

All fields on this form must be fully completed for processing. Forms with missing information will be returned.

Section 1 – Prescriber Information

Prescriber Full Name:

Type of Prescriber (check one):
☐ Physician ☐ Nurse Practitioner ☐ Pharmacist

Prescriber Secure Email Address:

Prescriber Phone Number:

Prescriber Mailing Address (Street, City, Province, Postal Code):

The list of patients will be sent via encrypted email or mail.
Please indicate how you would like to receive this information (check one):

☐ Encrypted email
☐ Mail

Note: For privacy and security reasons, prescribers requesting a list of patients via encrypted email will receive a password to access the list of patients in a separate email.

Section 2 – Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative Reference Biologic Medication

DRUG(S) REQUESTED (check all that apply):

☐ **Actemra®** (tocilizumab) ☐ **Prolia®** (denosumab) ☐ **Stelara®** (ustekinumab)

☐ **Xolair®** (omalizumab)

Section 3 – Prescriber Request to Release Information

Information will be provided to prescribers in accordance with Section 27(4)(k)(ii) of *The Health Information Protection Act*.

If you have any questions about the disclosure of this information, please call 1-800-667-2549 (toll-free) or 306-787-8744 (Regina) (option 2, then 2).

Prescriber Signature:

Date Signed:

SEND COMPLETED FORM BY EMAIL TO sk.biosimilars@health.gov.sk.ca OR FAX TO 306-798-1089
OR MAIL TO 3475 ALBERT STREET, REGINA SK S4S 6X6