

June 30, 2026

Dear Health-Care Providers:

RE: JULY 31, 2026 – End of Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative Transition Period for Actemra® (tocilizumab), Stelara® (ustekinumab), and Xolair® (omalizumab)

The second phase of the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative launched on February 1, 2026. If your patient is receiving one of the above noted reference biologic medications, they must transition to a biosimilar version to maintain coverage of this treatment under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan after July 31, 2026.

After July 31, 2026, the following reference biologics will no longer be eligible for coverage under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan. This means patients will be responsible for the full cost of a prescription for these reference biologics starting August 1, 2026:

Actemra® (tocilizumab)

Stelara® (ustekinumab)

Xolair® (omalizumab)

*Please note, the end of the Biosimilars Initiative transition period for **Prolia®** (denosumab) is **January 31, 2027**.

Biosimilar options are listed on www.saskatchewan.ca/biosimilars and <https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/SearchFormulary>.

We encourage you to prepare patients to transition to biosimilars prior to the transition deadline to ensure there is sufficient time to address patient concerns, update the patient's prescription with the chosen biosimilar, and support the patient's enrollment in the biosimilar patient support program (if applicable).

Please note, patients who receive approval for an exemption from the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative policy will continue to receive coverage of their reference biologic for an approved time period. Details are communicated directly to the prescriber and patient.

Safety Reminder – Preventing Medication Errors

- As with any medication change, there is a risk that a patient may inadvertently experience a medication error when transitioning to a biosimilar.

- **All health-care providers can support safety when transitioning to biosimilars:**
 - Review the patient's medication history prior to starting a biosimilar.
 - Ensure the biosimilar is prescribed with the same dosing regimen as the reference biologic.
 - Confirm when the patient received their last dose of reference biologic to ensure they maintain their prescribed dosing schedule with the biosimilar.
 - Counsel the patient that the biosimilar **replaces** the reference biologic.
- **Work with the patient to prevent duplication of therapy:**
 - wait until the reference biologic supply is used up before dispensing the biosimilar;
 - have patients return unused reference biologic medication to the pharmacy for disposal when the biosimilar is started; or
 - clearly instruct patients to stop using and safely store the reference biologic away from their biosimilar, until it can be safely returned to the pharmacy for disposal.

Reminders and Tools

- Patients with current Exception Drug Status (EDS) coverage for an affected reference biologic should already have EDS coverage for the listed biosimilars, where applicable.
- Patients were notified by a Saskatchewan Drug Plan letter of this policy and their updated biosimilar drug coverage, where possible.
- Prescriptions must clearly indicate the biosimilar brand to be dispensed by the pharmacy.
 - *Biosimilars are not listed as interchangeable with the reference biologic on the Saskatchewan Formulary.*
 - Biosimilar options are listed on www.saskatchewan.ca/biosimilars and <https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/SearchFormulary>.
- A Patient List Request Form and Exemption Request Form are available on our webpage under *Prescriber Forms*: www.saskatchewan.ca/biosimilars.

Questions and Support

- For prescriber 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 3

- 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)

Drug Plan and Extended Benefits
