

**PB 129 of 2020**

**National Health (Highly specialised drugs program) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2020 (No. 11)**

*National Health Act 1953*

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I, NATASHA PLOENGES, Acting Assistant Secretary, Pharmacy Branch, Technology Assessment and Access Division, Department of Health, delegate of the Minister for Health, make this Amendment Instrument under subsection 100(2) of the *National Health Act 1953*.

Dated 21 December 2020

**NATASHA PLOENGES**

Acting Assistant Secretary

Pharmacy Branch

Technology Assessment and Access Division

Department of Health

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1. **Name of Instrument**
2. This Instrument is the *National Health (Highly specialised drugs program) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2020 (No. 11)*.
3. This Instrument may also be cited as PB 129 of 2020.
4. **Commencement**

This Instrument commences on 1 January 2021.

1. **Amendment of *National Health (Highly specialised drugs program) Special Arrangement 2010* (PB 116 of 2010)**

Schedule 1 amends the *National Health (Highly specialised drugs program) Special Arrangement 2010* (PB 116 of 2010).

**Schedule 1 Amendments**

1. Schedule 1, entry for Ambrisentan in the form Tablet 5 mg
2. *omit from the column headed “Circumstances” (all instances):* **C10728 C10845 C10846 C10850 C10869**
3. *insert in the columns in the order indicated, and in alphabetical order for the column headed “Brand”:*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | PULMORIS | YC | C10228 C10236 C10285 C11007 C11008 C11010 C11024 C11037 |  | See Note 1 | See Note 2 | D |

1. Schedule 1, entry for Ambrisentan in the form Tablet 10 mg

*insert in the columns in the order indicated, and in alphabetical order for the column headed “Brand”:*

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|  |  |  | PULMORIS | YC | C10228 C10236 C10285 C11007 C11008 C11010 C11024 C11037 |  | See Note 1 | See Note 2 | D |

1. Schedule 1, entry for Benralizumab

*substitute:*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Benralizumab | Injection 30 mg in 1 mL single dose pre-filled pen | Injection | Fasenra Pen | AP | C9887 C10264 C10281 C10314 |  | See Note 1 | See Note 2 | D |
|  | Injection 30 mg in 1 mL single dose pre‑filled syringe | Injection | Fasenra | AP | C9887 C10264 C10281 C10314 |  | See Note 1 | See Note 2 | D |

1. Schedule 1, entry for Infliximab
2. *omit from the column headed “Circumstances” (all instances):* **C8801**
3. *omit from the column headed “Circumstances” (all instances):* **C8885**
4. *insert in numerical order in the column headed “Circumstances”(all instances):* **C11094 C11095 C11111 C11112 C11127 C11128 C11129 C11158 C11159**
5. Schedule 1, omit entry for Sofosbuvir
6. Schedule 1, entry for Zoledronic acid in the form Injection concentrate for I.V. infusion 4 mg (as monohydrate) in 5 mL

*omit from the column headed “Responsible Person” for the brand “Zometa”:* NV  *substitute:* SA

1. Schedule 2, after details relevant to Responsible Person code RZ

*insert:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SA | SciGen (Australia) Pty Limited | 76 055 016 969 |

1. Schedule 2, after details relevant to Responsible Person code XI

*insert:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| YC | Cipla Australia Pty Ltd | 46 132 155 063 |

1. Schedule 3, entry for Ambrisentan

*omit:*

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|  | C10728 |  | Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) Continuing treatment (dual therapy) Patient must have received their most recent course of PBS-subsidised dual therapy with this PAH agent and a phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor (PDE-5i) for this condition. The term 'PAH agents' refers to bosentan monohydrate, iloprost trometamol, epoprostenol sodium, sildenafil citrate, ambrisentan, tadalafil, macitentan, and riociguat. For the purposes of PBS subsidy, dual therapy refers to combined use of an endothelin receptor antagonist (ERA) and a phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor (PDE-5i). (i) An ERA includes bosentan monohydrate, or macitentan. (ii) A PDE-5i includes sildenafil citrate, or tadalafil. PAH agents are not PBS-subsidised for patients with pulmonary hypertension secondary to interstitial lung disease associated with connective tissue disease, where the total lung capacity is less than 70% of predicted. The maximum quantity authorised will be limited to provide sufficient supply for 1 month of treatment, based on the dosage recommendations in the TGA-approved Product Information. A maximum of 5 repeats may be requested. | Compliance with Authority Required procedures |
|  | C10845 |  | Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) Initial 1 (dual therapy - previously untreated patients) Patient must not have received prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) agent; AND Patient must have been assessed by a physician with expertise in the management of PAH; AND Patient must currently have WHO Functional Class III PAH or WHO Functional Class IV PAH; AND The treatment must be in combination with a PBS-subsidised phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor (PDE-5i) for this condition. The term 'PAH agents' refers to bosentan monohydrate, iloprost trometamol, epoprostenol sodium, sildenafil citrate, ambrisentan, tadalafil, macitentan, and riociguat. For the purposes of PBS subsidy, dual therapy refers to combined use of an endothelin receptor antagonist (ERA) and a phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor (PDE-5i). (i) An ERA includes bosentan monohydrate, or macitentan. (ii) A PDE-5i includes sildenafil citrate, or tadalafil. PAH agents are not PBS-subsidised for patients with pulmonary hypertension secondary to interstitial lung disease associated with connective tissue disease, where the total lung capacity is less than 70% of predicted. PAH (WHO Group 1 pulmonary hypertension) is defined as follows: (i) mean pulmonary artery pressure (mPAP) greater than or equal to 25 mmHg at rest and pulmonary artery wedge pressure (PAWP) less than or equal to 15 mmHg; or (ii) where a right heart catheter (RHC) cannot be performed on clinical grounds, right ventricular systolic pressure (RVSP), assessed by echocardiography (ECHO), greater than 40 mmHg, with normal left ventricular function. Applications for authorisation must be in writing and must include: (1) a completed authority prescription form; and (2) a completed Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information form which includes results from the three tests below, where available: (i) RHC composite assessment; and (ii) ECHO composite assessment; and (iii) 6 Minute Walk Test (6MWT). Where it is not possible to perform all 3 tests on clinical grounds, the following list outlines the preferred test combination, in descending order, for the purposes of initiation of PBS-subsidised treatment: (1) RHC plus ECHO composite assessments; (2) RHC composite assessment plus 6MWT; (3) RHC composite assessment only. In circumstances where a RHC cannot be performed on clinical grounds, applications may be submitted for consideration based on the results of the following test combinations, which are listed in descending order of preference: (1) ECHO composite assessment plus 6MWT; (2) ECHO composite assessment only. Where fewer than 3 tests are able to be performed on clinical grounds, a patient specific reason outlining why the particular test(s) could not be conducted must be provided with the authority application. Where a RHC cannot be performed on clinical grounds, confirmation of the reason(s) must be provided with the authority application by a second PAH physician or cardiologist with expertise in the management of PAH. The test results provided must not be more than 2 months old at the time of application. The maximum quantity authorised will be limited to provide sufficient supply for 1 month of treatment, based on the dosage recommendations in the TGA-approved Product Information. A maximum of 5 repeats may be requested. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |
|  | C10846 |  | Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) Grandfathered patients (dual therapy) Patient must be receiving dual therapy with this non PBS-subsidised pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) agent and a non PBS-subsidised phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor (PDE-5i) for this condition prior to 1 October 2020; AND Patient must have been assessed by a physician with expertise in the management of PAH; AND Patient must have documented WHO Functional Class III PAH or WHO Functional Class IV PAH. The term 'PAH agents' refers to bosentan monohydrate, iloprost trometamol, epoprostenol sodium, sildenafil citrate, ambrisentan, tadalafil, macitentan, and riociguat. For the purposes of PBS subsidy, dual therapy refers to combined use of an endothelin receptor antagonist (ERA) and a phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor (PDE-5i). (i) An ERA includes bosentan monohydrate, or macitentan. (ii) A PDE-5i includes sildenafil citrate, or tadalafil. PAH agents are not PBS-subsidised for patients with pulmonary hypertension secondary to interstitial lung disease associated with connective tissue disease, where the total lung capacity is less than 70% of predicted. PAH (WHO Group 1 pulmonary hypertension) is defined as follows: (i) mean pulmonary artery pressure (mPAP) greater than or equal to 25 mmHg at rest and pulmonary artery wedge pressure (PAWP) less than or equal to 15 mmHg; or (ii) where a right heart catheter (RHC) cannot be performed on clinical grounds, right ventricular systolic pressure (RVSP), assessed by echocardiography (ECHO), greater than 40 mmHg, with normal left ventricular function. Applications for authorisation must be in writing and must include: (1) a completed authority prescription form; and (2) a completed Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information form which includes results from the three tests below, where available: (i) RHC composite assessment; and (ii) ECHO composite assessment; and (iii) 6 Minute Walk Test (6MWT). Where it was not possible to perform all 3 tests on clinical grounds, the following list outlines the preferred test combination, in descending order, for the purposes of initiation of PBS-subsidised treatment: (1) RHC plus ECHO composite assessments; (2) RHC composite assessment plus 6MWT; (3) RHC composite assessment only. In circumstances where a RHC could not be performed on clinical grounds, applications may be submitted for consideration based on the results of the following test combinations, which are listed in descending order of preference: (1) ECHO composite assessment plus 6MWT; (2) ECHO composite assessment only. Where fewer than 3 tests were able to be performed on clinical grounds, a patient specific reason outlining why the particular test(s) could not be conducted must be provided with the authority application. Where a RHC could not be performed on clinical grounds, confirmation of the reason(s) must be provided with the authority application by a second PAH physician or cardiologist with expertise in the management of PAH. A patient may qualify for PBS-subsidised treatment under this restriction once only. For continuing PBS-subsidised treatment, a Grandfathered patient must qualify under the Continuing treatment criteria for dual therapy for this condition. The maximum quantity authorised will be limited to provide sufficient supply for 1 month of treatment, based on the dosage recommendations in the TGA-approved Product Information. A maximum of 5 repeats may be requested. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |
|  | C10850 |  | Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) Initial 3 (dual therapy - change) Patient must have had their most recent course of PBS-subsidised dual therapy with a phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor (PDE-5i) and an endothelin receptor antagonist (ERA) other than this agent for this condition. The term 'PAH agents' refers to bosentan monohydrate, iloprost trometamol, epoprostenol sodium, sildenafil citrate, ambrisentan, tadalafil, macitentan, and riociguat. For the purposes of PBS subsidy, dual therapy refers to combined use of an endothelin receptor antagonist (ERA) and a phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor (PDE-5i). (i) An ERA includes bosentan monohydrate, or macitentan. (ii) A PDE-5i includes sildenafil citrate, or tadalafil. PAH agents are not PBS-subsidised for patients with pulmonary hypertension secondary to interstitial lung disease associated with connective tissue disease, where the total lung capacity is less than 70% of predicted. Swapping between PAH agents: Patients can access PAH agents through the PBS according to the relevant restrictions. Once patients are approved dual therapy with a PAH agent from the PDE-5i class; or a PAH agent from the ERA class, they may swap between PAH agents within the same class. This means that patients may commence treatment with another PAH agent in the same class, subject to that agent's restriction, irrespective of the severity of their disease at the time the application to swap therapy is submitted. Applications to swap within a PAH agent class must be made under the relevant initial treatment restriction. The maximum quantity authorised will be limited to provide sufficient supply for 1 month of treatment, based on the dosage recommendations in the TGA-approved Product Information. A maximum of 5 repeats may be requested. | Compliance with Authority Required procedures |
|  | C10869 |  | Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) Initial 2 (dual therapy - previously treated patients) Patient must have documented WHO Functional Class III PAH or WHO Functional Class IV PAH; AND Patient must have documented a failure to achieve or maintain WHO Functional Class II status with prior PBS-subsidised monotherapy treatment with a phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor (PDE-5i) for this condition; AND The treatment must be in combination with the PBS-subsidised PDE-5i for this condition. The term 'PAH agents' refers to bosentan monohydrate, iloprost trometamol, epoprostenol sodium, sildenafil citrate, ambrisentan, tadalafil, macitentan, and riociguat. For the purposes of PBS subsidy, dual therapy refers to combined use of an endothelin receptor antagonist (ERA) and a phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor (PDE-5i). (i) An ERA includes bosentan monohydrate, or macitentan. (ii) A PDE-5i includes sildenafil citrate, or tadalafil. PAH agents are not PBS-subsidised for patients with pulmonary hypertension secondary to interstitial lung disease associated with connective tissue disease, where the total lung capacity is less than 70% of predicted. PAH (WHO Group 1 pulmonary hypertension) is defined as follows: (i) mean pulmonary artery pressure (mPAP) greater than or equal to 25 mmHg at rest and pulmonary artery wedge pressure (PAWP) less than or equal to 15 mmHg; or (ii) where a right heart catheter (RHC) cannot be performed on clinical grounds, right ventricular systolic pressure (RVSP), assessed by echocardiography (ECHO), greater than 40 mmHg, with normal left ventricular function. The results and date of the RHC, ECHO and 6 MWT as applicable must be included in the patient's medical record. Where a RHC cannot be performed on clinical grounds, the written confirmation of the reasons why must also be included in the patient's medical record. The maximum quantity authorised will be limited to provide sufficient supply for 1 month of treatment, based on the dosage recommendations in the TGA-approved Product Information. A maximum of 5 repeats may be requested. | Compliance with Authority Required procedures |

1. Schedule 3, entry for Benralizumab
2. *omit from the column headed “Purposes Code” for the Circumstances Code “C9887”:* P9887
3. *omit from the column headed “Purposes Code” for the Circumstances Code “C10264”:* P10264
4. *omit from the column headed “Purposes Code” for the Circumstances Code “C10281”:* P10281
5. *omit from the column headed “Purposes Code” for the Circumstances Code “C10314”:* P10314
6. Schedule 3, entry for Infliximab
7. *omit:*

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|  | C8801 |  | Severe chronic plaque psoriasis Initial treatment ‑ Initial 1, Face, hand, foot (new patient) Patient must have severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot where the plaque or plaques have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; AND Patient must not have received PBS‑subsidised treatment with a biological medicine for this condition; AND Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 2 of the following 4 treatments: (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; and/or (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; and/or (iii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; and/or (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; AND The treatment must be as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate); AND Patient must not receive more than 22 weeks of treatment under this restriction. Patient must be aged 18 years or older. Must be treated by a dermatologist. Where treatment with methotrexate, cyclosporin or acitretin is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA‑approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, details must be provided at the time of application. Where intolerance to treatment with phototherapy, methotrexate, cyclosporin or acitretin developed during the relevant period of use, which was of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, details of the degree of this toxicity must be provided at the time of application. Regardless of if a patient has a contraindication to treatment with either methotrexate, cyclosporin, acitretin or phototherapy, the patient is still required to trial 2 of these prior therapies until a failure to achieve an adequate response is met. The following criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response to prior treatment and must be demonstrated in the patient at the time of the application: (a) Chronic plaque psoriasis classified as severe due to a plaque or plaques on the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot where: (i) at least 2 of the 3 Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for erythema, thickness and scaling are rated as severe or very severe, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment; or (ii) the skin area affected is 30% or more of the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment; (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment. (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application. At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide for infusions at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised. The authority application must be made in writing and must include: (a) a completed authority prescription form(s); and (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application ‑ Supporting Information Form which includes the following: (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient’s condition; and (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]. It is recommended that an assessment of a patient’s response is conducted following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and no later than 4 weeks from the completion of the most recent course of treatment. To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied with the assessment of response from the most recent course of biological medicine therapy following a minimum of 12 weeks in therapy. It is recommended that an application for the continuing treatment is submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 1 month from the date of completion of the most recent course of treatment. This is to ensure continuity of treatment for those who meet the continuing restriction for PBS‑subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition. Demonstration of response should be provided within this timeframe. The PASI assessment for first continuing or subsequent continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline. Where a response assessment is not conducted within the required timeframe, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug, unless the patient has experienced a serious adverse reaction of a severity resulting in the necessity for permanent withdrawal of treatment. If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS‑subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition within this treatment cycle. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |

1. *omit:*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | C8885 |  | Severe chronic plaque psoriasis Initial 1 ‑ Whole body (new patient) Patient must have severe chronic plaque psoriasis where lesions have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; AND Patient must not have received PBS‑subsidised treatment with a biological medicine for this condition; AND Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 2 of the following 4 treatments: (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; and/or (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; and/or (iii) cyclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; and/or (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; AND The treatment must be as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate); AND Patient must not receive more than 22 weeks of treatment under this restriction. Patient must be aged 18 years or older. Must be treated by a dermatologist. Where treatment with methotrexate, cyclosporin or acitretin is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA‑approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, details must be provided at the time of application. Where intolerance to treatment with phototherapy, methotrexate, cyclosporin or acitretin developed during the relevant period of use, which was of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, details of the degree of this toxicity must be provided at the time of application. Regardless of if a patient has a contraindication to treatment with either methotrexate, cyclosporin, acitretin or phototherapy, the patient is still required to trial 2 of these prior therapies until a failure to achieve an adequate response is met. The following criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response to prior treatment and must be demonstrated in the patient at the time of the application: (a) A current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score of greater than 15, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment. (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment. (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application. At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide for infusions at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised. The authority application must be made in writing and must include: (a) a completed authority prescription form(s); and (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application ‑ Supporting Information Form which includes the following: (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient’s condition; and (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]. It is recommended that an assessment of a patient’s response is conducted following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and no later than 4 weeks from the completion of the most recent course of treatment. To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied with the assessment of response from the most recent course of biological medicine therapy following a minimum of 12 weeks in therapy. It is recommended that an application for the continuing treatment is submitted to the Department of Human Services no later than 1 month from the date of completion of the most recent course of treatment. This is to ensure continuity of treatment for those who meet the continuing restriction for PBS‑subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition. Demonstration of response should be provided within this timeframe. Where a response assessment is not conducted within the required timeframe, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug, unless the patient has experienced a serious adverse reaction of a severity resulting in the necessity for permanent withdrawal of treatment. If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS‑subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition within this treatment cycle. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |

1. *insert in numerical order after existing text:*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | C11094 |  | Severe chronic plaque psoriasis Initial treatment - Initial 1, Face, hand, foot (new patient) Patient must have severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot where the plaque or plaques have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; AND Patient must not have received PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological medicine for this condition; AND Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 2 of the following 5 treatments: (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; (iii) ciclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; (v) apremilast at a dose of 30 mg twice a day for at least 6 weeks; AND The treatment must be as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate); AND Patient must not receive more than 22 weeks of treatment under this restriction. Patient must be aged 18 years or older. Must be treated by a dermatologist. Where treatment with methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast or acitretin is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, details must be provided at the time of application. Where intolerance to treatment with phototherapy, methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast or acitretin developed during the relevant period of use, which was of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, details of the degree of this toxicity must be provided at the time of application. Regardless of if a patient has a contraindication to treatment with either methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast, acitretin or phototherapy, the patient is still required to trial 2 of these prior therapies until a failure to achieve an adequate response is met. The following criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response to prior treatment and must be demonstrated in the patient at the time of the application: (a) Chronic plaque psoriasis classified as severe due to a plaque or plaques on the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot where: (i) at least 2 of the 3 Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for erythema, thickness and scaling are rated as severe or very severe, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 4 weeks following cessation of the most recent prior treatment; or (ii) the skin area affected is 30% or more of the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 4 weeks following cessation of the most recent prior treatment; (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 4 weeks following cessation of each course of treatment. (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 4 weeks old at the time of application. At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide for infusions at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised. The authority application must be made in writing and must include: (a) a completed authority prescription form(s); and (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following: (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition; and (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]. To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied with the assessment of response, conducted following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and no later than 4 weeks from cessation of the most recent course of biological medicine. It is recommended that an application for the continuing treatment be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date of completion of the most recent course of treatment. This is to ensure treatment continuity for those who meet the continuing restriction. The PASI assessment for first continuing or subsequent continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline. Where a response assessment is not conducted within the required timeframe, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug, unless the patient has experienced a serious adverse reaction of a severity resulting in the necessity for permanent withdrawal of treatment. If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition within this treatment cycle. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |
|  | C11095 |  | Severe chronic plaque psoriasis Initial treatment - Initial 2, Face, hand, foot (change or re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years) Patient must have received prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological medicine for this condition in this treatment cycle; AND Patient must not have already failed, or ceased to respond to, PBS-subsidised treatment with 3 biological medicines for this condition within this treatment cycle; AND Patient must not have already failed, or ceased to respond to, PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition during the current treatment cycle; AND The treatment must be as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate); AND Patient must not receive more than 22 weeks of treatment under this restriction. Patient must be aged 18 years or older. Must be treated by a dermatologist. An adequate response to treatment is defined as the plaque or plaques assessed prior to biological treatment showing: (i) a reduction in the Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for all 3 of erythema, thickness and scaling, to slight or better, or sustained at this level, as compared to the baseline values; or (ii) a reduction by 75% or more in the skin area affected, or sustained at this level, as compared to the baseline value for this treatment cycle. An application for a patient who has received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug and who wishes to re-commence therapy with this drug, must be accompanied by evidence of a response to the patient's most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug, within the timeframes specified below. To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied with the assessment of response, conducted following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and no later than 4 weeks from cessation of the most recent course of biological medicine. It is recommended that an application for the continuing treatment be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date of completion of the most recent course of treatment. This is to ensure treatment continuity for those who meet the continuing restriction. The PASI assessment for first continuing or subsequent continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline. Where a response assessment is not conducted within the required timeframe, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug, unless the patient has experienced a serious adverse reaction of a severity resulting in the necessity for permanent withdrawal of treatment. At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide for infusions at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised. The authority application must be made in writing and must include: (a) a completed authority prescription form(s); and (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following: (i) the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition; and (ii) details of prior biological treatment, including dosage, date and duration of treatment. If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition within this treatment cycle. A patient may re-trial this drug after a minimum of 5 years have elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological medicine was approved in this cycle and the date of the first application under a new cycle under the Initial 3 treatment restriction. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |
|  | C11111 |  | Severe chronic plaque psoriasis Initial treatment - Initial 3, Whole body (re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years) Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological medicine for this condition; AND Patient must have a break in treatment of 5 years or more from the most recently approved PBS-subsidised biological medicine for this condition; AND The condition must have a current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score of greater than 15; AND The treatment must be as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate); AND Patient must not receive more than 22 weeks of treatment under this restriction. Patient must be aged 18 years or older. Must be treated by a dermatologist. The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 4 weeks old at the time of application. At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide for infusions at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised. The authority application must be made in writing and must include: (a) a completed authority prescription form(s); and (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition. To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied with the assessment of response, conducted following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and no later than 4 weeks from cessation of the most recent course of biological medicine. It is recommended that an application for the continuing treatment be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date of completion of the most recent course of treatment. This is to ensure treatment continuity for those who meet the continuing restriction. Where a response assessment is not conducted within the required timeframe, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug, unless the patient has experienced a serious adverse reaction of a severity resulting in the necessity for permanent withdrawal of treatment. If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition within this treatment cycle. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |
|  | C11112 |  | Severe chronic plaque psoriasis Initial treatment - Initial 1, Face, hand, foot (new patient) Patient must have severe chronic plaque psoriasis of the face, or palm of a hand or sole of a foot where the plaque or plaques have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; AND Patient must not have received PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological medicine for this condition; AND Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 2 of the following 5 treatments: (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; (iii) ciclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; (v) apremilast at a dose of 30 mg twice a day for at least 6 weeks; AND The treatment must be as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate); AND Patient must not receive more than 22 weeks of treatment under this restriction. Patient must be aged 18 years or older. Must be treated by a dermatologist. Where treatment with methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast or acitretin is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, details must be provided at the time of application. Where intolerance to treatment with phototherapy, methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast or acitretin developed during the relevant period of use, which was of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, details of the degree of this toxicity must be provided at the time of application. Regardless of if a patient has a contraindication to treatment with either methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast, acitretin or phototherapy, the patient is still required to trial 2 of these prior therapies until a failure to achieve an adequate response is met. The following criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response to prior treatment and must be demonstrated in the patient at the time of the application: (a) Chronic plaque psoriasis classified as severe due to a plaque or plaques on the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot where: (i) at least 2 of the 3 Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for erythema, thickness and scaling are rated as severe or very severe, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment; or (ii) the skin area affected is 30% or more of the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment; (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment. (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application. At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide for infusions at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised. The authority application must be made in writing and must include: (a) a completed authority prescription form(s); and (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following: (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition; and (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]. It is recommended that an assessment of a patient's response is conducted following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and no later than 4 weeks from the completion of the most recent course of treatment. To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied with the assessment of response from the most recent course of biological medicine therapy following a minimum of 12 weeks in therapy. It is recommended that an application for the continuing treatment is submitted to Services Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of the most recent course of treatment. This is to ensure continuity of treatment for those who meet the continuing restriction for PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition. Demonstration of response should be provided within this timeframe. The PASI assessment for first continuing or subsequent continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline. Where a response assessment is not conducted within the required timeframe, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug, unless the patient has experienced a serious adverse reaction of a severity resulting in the necessity for permanent withdrawal of treatment. If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition within this treatment cycle. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |
|  | C11127 |  | Severe chronic plaque psoriasis Initial treatment - Initial 1, Whole body (new patient) Patient must have severe chronic plaque psoriasis where lesions have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; AND Patient must not have received PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological medicine for this condition; AND Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 2 of the following 5 treatments: (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; (iii) ciclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; (v) apremilast at a dose of 30 mg twice a day for at least 6 weeks; AND The treatment must be as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate); AND Patient must not receive more than 22 weeks of treatment under this restriction. Patient must be aged 18 years or older. Must be treated by a dermatologist. Where treatment with methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast or acitretin is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, details must be provided at the time of application. Where intolerance to treatment with phototherapy, methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast or acitretin developed during the relevant period of use, which was of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, details of the degree of this toxicity must be provided at the time of application. Regardless of if a patient has a contraindication to treatment with either methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast, acitretin or phototherapy, the patient is still required to trial 2 of these prior therapies until a failure to achieve an adequate response is met. The following criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response to prior treatment and must be demonstrated in the patient at the time of the application: (a) A current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score of greater than 15, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 4 weeks following cessation of the most recent prior treatment. (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 4 weeks following cessation of each course of treatment. (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 4 weeks old at the time of application. At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide for infusions at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised. The authority application must be made in writing and must include: (a) a completed authority prescription form(s); and (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following: (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition; and (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]. To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied with the assessment of response, conducted following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and no later than 4 weeks from cessation of the most recent course of biological medicine. It is recommended that an application for the continuing treatment be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date of completion of the most recent course of treatment. This is to ensure treatment continuity for those who meet the continuing restriction. Where a response assessment is not conducted within the required timeframe, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug, unless the patient has experienced a serious adverse reaction of a severity resulting in the necessity for permanent withdrawal of treatment. If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition within this treatment cycle. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |
|  | C11128 |  | Severe chronic plaque psoriasis Initial treatment - Initial 2, Whole body (change or re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years) Patient must have received prior PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological medicine for this condition in this treatment cycle; AND Patient must not have already failed, or ceased to respond to, PBS-subsidised treatment with 3 biological medicines for this condition within this treatment cycle; AND Patient must not have already failed, or ceased to respond to, PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition during the current treatment cycle; AND The treatment must be as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate); AND Patient must not receive more than 22 weeks of treatment under this restriction. Patient must be aged 18 years or older. Must be treated by a dermatologist. An adequate response to treatment is defined as: A Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score which is reduced by 75% or more, or is sustained at this level, when compared with the baseline value for this treatment cycle. An application for a patient who has received PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug and who wishes to re-commence therapy with this drug, must be accompanied by evidence of a response to the patient's most recent course of PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug, within the timeframes specified below. To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied with the assessment of response, conducted following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and no later than 4 weeks from cessation of the most recent course of biological medicine. It is recommended that an application for the continuing treatment be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date of completion of the most recent course of treatment. This is to ensure treatment continuity for those who meet the continuing restriction. Where a response assessment is not conducted within the required timeframe, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug, unless the patient has experienced a serious adverse reaction of a severity resulting in the necessity for permanent withdrawal of treatment. At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide for infusions at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised. The authority application must be made in writing and must include: (a) a completed authority prescription form(s); and (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following: (i) the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition; and (ii) details of prior biological treatment, including dosage, date and duration of treatment. If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition within this treatment cycle. A patient may re-trial this drug after a minimum of 5 years have elapsed between the date the last prescription for a PBS-subsidised biological medicine was approved in this cycle and the date of the first application under a new cycle under the Initial 3 treatment restriction. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |
|  | C11129 |  | Severe chronic plaque psoriasis Initial treatment - Initial 3, Face, hand, foot (re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years) Patient must have previously received PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological medicine for this condition; AND Patient must have a break in treatment of 5 years or more from the most recently approved PBS-subsidised biological medicine for this condition; AND The condition must be classified as severe due to a plaque or plaques on the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot where: (i) at least 2 of the 3 Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) symptom subscores for erythema, thickness and scaling are rated as severe or very severe; or (ii) the skin area affected is 30% or more of the face, palm of a hand or sole of a foot; AND The treatment must be as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate); AND Patient must not receive more than 22 weeks of treatment under this restriction. Patient must be aged 18 years or older. Must be treated by a dermatologist. The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 4 weeks old at the time of application. At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide for infusions at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised. The authority application must be made in writing and must include: (a) a completed authority prescription form(s); and (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the completed current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets and face, hand, foot area diagrams including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition. To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied with the assessment of response, conducted following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and no later than 4 weeks from cessation of the most recent course of biological medicine. It is recommended that an application for the continuing treatment be submitted no later than 4 weeks from the date of completion of the most recent course of treatment. This is to ensure treatment continuity for those who meet the continuing restriction. The PASI assessment for first continuing or subsequent continuing treatment must be performed on the same affected area as assessed at baseline. Where a response assessment is not conducted within the required timeframe, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug, unless the patient has experienced a serious adverse reaction of a severity resulting in the necessity for permanent withdrawal of treatment. If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition within this treatment cycle. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |
|  | C11158 |  | Severe chronic plaque psoriasis Initial treatment - Initial 1, Whole body or Face, hand, foot (new patient) or Initial 2, Whole body or Face, hand, foot (change or re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years) or Initial 3, Whole body or Face, hand, foot (re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years) - balance of supply Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug for this condition under the Initial 1, Whole body (new patient) restriction to complete 22 weeks treatment; OR Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug for this condition under the Initial 2, Whole body (change or recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years ) restriction to complete 22 weeks treatment; OR Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug for this condition under the Initial 3, Whole body (re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years) restriction to complete 22 weeks treatment; OR Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug for this condition under the Initial 1, Face, hand, foot (new patient) restriction to complete 22 weeks treatment; OR Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug for this condition under the Initial 2, Face, hand, foot (change or recommencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of less than 5 years) restriction to complete 22 weeks treatment; OR Patient must have received insufficient therapy with this drug for this condition under the Initial 3, Face, hand, foot (re-commencement of treatment after a break in biological medicine of more than 5 years) restriction to complete 22 weeks treatment; AND The treatment must be as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate); AND The treatment must provide no more than the balance of up to 22 weeks treatment available under the above restrictions. Must be treated by a dermatologist. | Compliance with Authority Required procedures |
|  | C11159 |  | Severe chronic plaque psoriasis Initial 1 - Whole body (new patient) Patient must have severe chronic plaque psoriasis where lesions have been present for at least 6 months from the time of initial diagnosis; AND Patient must not have received PBS-subsidised treatment with a biological medicine for this condition; AND Patient must have failed to achieve an adequate response, as demonstrated by a Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) assessment, to at least 2 of the following 5 treatments: (i) phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for 3 treatments per week for at least 6 weeks; (ii) methotrexate at a dose of at least 10 mg weekly for at least 6 weeks; (iii) ciclosporin at a dose of at least 2 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; (iv) acitretin at a dose of at least 0.4 mg per kg per day for at least 6 weeks; (v) apremilast at a dose of 30 mg twice a day for at least 6 weeks; AND The treatment must be as systemic monotherapy (other than methotrexate); AND Patient must not receive more than 22 weeks of treatment under this restriction. Patient must be aged 18 years or older. Must be treated by a dermatologist. Where treatment with methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast or acitretin is contraindicated according to the relevant TGA-approved Product Information, or where phototherapy is contraindicated, details must be provided at the time of application. Where intolerance to treatment with phototherapy, methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast or acitretin developed during the relevant period of use, which was of a severity to necessitate permanent treatment withdrawal, details of the degree of this toxicity must be provided at the time of application. Regardless of if a patient has a contraindication to treatment with either methotrexate, ciclosporin, apremilast, acitretin or phototherapy, the patient is still required to trial 2 of these prior therapies until a failure to achieve an adequate response is met. The following criterion indicates failure to achieve an adequate response to prior treatment and must be demonstrated in the patient at the time of the application: (a) A current Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) score of greater than 15, as assessed, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of the most recent prior treatment. (b) A PASI assessment must be completed for each prior treatment course, preferably whilst still on treatment, but no longer than 1 month following cessation of each course of treatment. (c) The most recent PASI assessment must be no more than 1 month old at the time of application. At the time of the authority application, medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials, based on the weight of the patient, to provide for infusions at a dose of 5 mg per kg. Up to a maximum of 3 repeats will be authorised. The authority application must be made in writing and must include: (a) a completed authority prescription form(s); and (b) a completed Severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis PBS Authority Application - Supporting Information Form which includes the following: (i) the completed current and previous Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) calculation sheets including the dates of assessment of the patient's condition; and (ii) details of previous phototherapy and systemic drug therapy [dosage (where applicable), date of commencement and duration of therapy]. It is recommended that an assessment of a patient's response is conducted following a minimum of 12 weeks of therapy and no later than 4 weeks from the completion of the most recent course of treatment. To demonstrate a response to treatment the application must be accompanied with the assessment of response from the most recent course of biological medicine therapy following a minimum of 12 weeks in therapy. It is recommended that an application for the continuing treatment is submitted to Services Australia no later than 1 month from the date of completion of the most recent course of treatment. This is to ensure continuity of treatment for those who meet the continuing restriction for PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition. Demonstration of response should be provided within this timeframe. Where a response assessment is not conducted within the required timeframe, the patient will be deemed to have failed to respond to treatment with this drug, unless the patient has experienced a serious adverse reaction of a severity resulting in the necessity for permanent withdrawal of treatment. If a patient fails to demonstrate a response to treatment with this drug under this restriction they will not be eligible to receive further PBS-subsidised treatment with this drug for this condition within this treatment cycle. | Compliance with Written Authority Required procedures |

1. Schedule 3, omit entry for Sofosbuvir