

Provider Frequently Asked Questions

2025 Commercial Plan Formulary Changes: Humira and Halima removal and adalimumab-aacf (Humira biosimilar) addition November 2024

1. Will I need to submit a new prior authorization for adalimumab-aacf for my patient?

No. If you have previously requested and received an authorization for Humira® or Hadlima™, you do not need to submit a new authorization request for adalimumab-aacf for your patient(s). You only need to write a new prescription for adalimumab-aacf.

2. What if I determine that it is not clinically appropriate for my patient to switch to adalimumab-aacf from Humira or Hadlima?

We strongly encourage you to consider switching your patient to the preferred biosimilar, adalimumab-aacf. At this time, however, if you do not think a change to the biosimilar is appropriate for your patient who is currently taking Humira, Hadlima, or other adalimumab biosimilars, you do not need to take further action.

3. What is the difference between Idacio® and adalimumab-aacf?

While Idacio and adalimumab-aacf have the same active ingredient, they are not the same product. Idacio is the brand name version of the adalimumab-aacf product. Idacio has a much higher list price than adalimumab-aacf. Adalimumab-aacf is the preferred biosimilar on Blue Shield's formulary while Idacio is non-preferred.

4. In what strengths and forms is adalimumab-aacf available?

Adalimumab-aacf is available exclusively as a 40 mg/0.8 mL injection in a pre-filled syringe or autoinjector form. Additionally, all adalimumab-aacf products are citrate-free and feature a smaller 29-gauge needle to help minimize pain at the injection site. For members starting adalimumab-aacf that require loading doses, there are starter kits with the adequate quantity of syringes and auto-injectors to meet the loading dose.

5. How will this change affect patients on the routine maintenance dose?

Dosing (i.e., the number of milligrams per treatment) should remain the same when converting your members to adalimumab-aacf. Members switching from Humira or Hadlima 40 mg dose to adalimumab-aacf can be switched to the 40 mg adalimumab-aacf injection. If members are using an 80 mg dose, the adalimumab-aacf dose will be two of the 40 mg injectors/pens.

6. How should I write prescriptions for adalimumab-aacf?

When prescribing, it is important to specify “adalimumab-aacf” on the prescription. There are multiple adalimumab biosimilars available in the marketplace with a unique four-letter suffix that identifies each biosimilar. Blue Shield’s preferred biosimilar is “adalimumab-aacf” (the unique four-letter suffix is highlighted in bold). Writing “Humira okay to substitute” is not sufficient due to non-interchangeability status. Below are some examples on how to write the new prescription for adalimumab-aacf. Please refer to the adalimumab-aacf prescribing information for more details.

- Standard maintenance dosing: Adalimumab-aacf 40 mg every other week (Quantity two pens = one box)
- Adult Crohn’s disease/ulcerative colitis starter pack: Adalimumab-aacf 160 mg on day one (given in one day or split over two consecutive days), followed by 80 mg two weeks later (day 15) (Quantity six pens = one starter package)
- Adult plaque psoriasis starter pack: Adalimumab-aacf 80 mg day one, followed by 40 mg every other week starting one week after the initial dose of 80 mg (Quantity four pens = one starter package)

7. To what pharmacy do I need to send the new prescriptions?

You will need to send the new prescription for adalimumab to CVS Specialty®, the Blue Shield preferred network specialty pharmacy. Prescriptions can be e-prescribed, faxed to (800) 323-2445 or called in to (800) 237-2767. You can also visit www.CVSpecialty.com for more information.

8. What programs are available from the manufacturer of adalimumab-aacf to support this transition?

Fresenius Kabi offers several support programs to assist Blue Shield members, including a 30-day sample program and comprehensive patient support to ensure a smooth transition. Visit www.kabicare.us/hcp/program/idacio-adalimumab-aacf/ or call (833) KABCARE (522-4227) for more information.

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