

Guide to prescribing biological agents

Initial/change applications

MOA		Presentation		Rheumatoid arthritis	Ank spond	Psoriatic arthritis	JIA < 18	JIA > 18
T-cell co-stimulation modulator	Abatacept Orencia® 250mg	Powder per vial	Qty	< 60 kg 2 vials	Not available			
				60 - 100 kg 3 vials				
			Rpt	4				
			Freq	Weeks 0,2, 4, then every 4 weeks with mtx				
TNF α antagonist	Adalimumab Humira® 20 mg in 0.4 mL	Prefilled syringe	Qty	Not available			(< 30 Kg) 2 inj	Not available
			Rpt				3	
			Freq				once fortnightly	
	Adalimumab Humira® 40mg in 0.8 mL	Prefilled syringe	Qty	2 inj	(≥ 30 Kg) 2 inj	2 inj		
			Rpt	3	3	3		
			Freq	Once fortnightly	Once fortnightly	once fortnightly		
	Adalimumab Humira® 40mg in 0.8 mL	Prefilled pen	Qty	2 pens	(≥ 30 Kg) 2 pens	2 pens		
			Rpt	3	3	3		
			Freq	Once fortnightly	Once fortnightly	once fortnightly		
TNF α antagonist	Certolizumab Cimzia® 200 mg	Prefilled syringe	Qty	2	Not available			
			Rpt	5				
			Freq	2 inj weeks 0,2,4, then 1 inj every 2 weeks or 2 inj every 4 weeks				
TNF α antagonist	Etanercept Enbrel® 25 mg	Injection set	Qty	2 sets				
			Rpt	3				
			Freq	Twice weekly				
	Etanercept Enbrel® 50 mg	4 prefilled syringes	Qty	1 pack			Not avail	1 pack
			Rpt	3				3
			Freq	Once weekly				Once weekly
	Etanercept Enbrel® 50 mg	4 prefilled autoinjectors	Qty	1 pack			Not avail	1 pack
			Rpt	3				3
			Freq	Once weekly				Once weekly
TNF α antagonist	Golimumab Simponi® 50mg	Prefilled syringe	Qty	1				
			Rpt	3				
			Freq	Every 4 weeks with mtx	Every 4 weeks			
		Prefilled pen	Qty	1				
			Rpt	3				
			Freq	Every 4 weeks with mtx	Every 4 weeks			
TNF α antagonist	Infliximab Remicade® 100 mg	Powder per vial	Qty	x vials @ 3 mg/kg	x vials @ 5 mg/kg	x vials @ 5 mg/kg	Not available	
			Rpt	3	3	3		
			Freq	Weeks 0,2,6,14 with mtx	Weeks 0,2,6,12	Weeks 0,2,6,14		
Chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody	Rituximab Mabthera®	I.V. solution 500 mg in 50 mL	Qty	2				
			Rpt	1				
			Freq	Weeks 0,2 with mtx				
Interleukin-6 inhibitor	Tocilizumab Actemra®**	I.V. solution 80 mg/4mL 200mg/10mL 400mg/20mL	Qty	** (see below)				
			Rpt	3				
			Freq	8 mg/kg every 4 weeks				

** Medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials of the appropriate strength(s), based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single infusion at a dose of 8 mg per kg. A separate prescription for each strength vial is required.

Continuing applications

MOA		Presentation		Rheumatoid arthritis	Ankylosing spondylitis	Psoriatic arthritis	JIA < 18	JIA > 18
T-cell co-stimulation modulator	Abatacept Orencia® 250mg	Powder per vial	Qty	< 60 kg 2 vials	Not available			
				60 - 100 kg 3 vials				
			Rpt	5				
			Freq	Every 4 weeks with mtx				
TNF α antagonist	Adalimumab Humira® 20mg in 0.4 mL	Prefilled syringe	Qty	Not available			< 30 Kg 2 inj	Not available
			Rpt				5	
			Freq				once fortnightly	
	Adalimumab Humira® 40mg in 0.8 mL	Prefilled syringe	Qty	2 inj	(\geq 30 Kg) 2 inj	2 inj		
			Rpt	5	5	5		
			Freq	Once fortnightly	Once fortnightly	once fortnightly		
	Adalimumab Humira® 40mg in 0.8 mL	Prefilled pen	Qty	2 pens	(\geq 30 Kg) 2 pens	2 pens		
			Rpt	5	5	5		
			Freq	Once fortnightly	Once fortnightly	once fortnightly		
TNF α antagonist	Certolizumab Cimzia® 200 mg	Prefilled syringe	Qty	2	Not available			
			Rpt	5				
			Freq	1 inj every 2 weeks or 2 inj every 4 weeks				
TNF α antagonist	Etanercept Enbrel® 25 mg	Injection set	Qty	2 sets				
			Rpt	5				
			Freq	Twice weekly				
	Etanercept Enbrel® 50 mg	4 prefilled syringes	Qty	1 pack			Not avail	1 pack
			Rpt	5				5
			Freq	Once weekly				Once weekly
	Etanercept Enbrel® 50 mg	4 prefilled autoinjectors	Qty	1 pack			Not avail	1 pack
			Rpt	5				5
			Freq	Once weekly				Once weekly
TNF α antagonist	Golimumab Simponi® 50mg	Prefilled syringe	Qty	1			Not available	
			Rpt	5				
			Freq	Every 4 weeks with mtx	Every 4 weeks			
		Prefilled pen	Qty	1				
			Rpt	5				
			Freq	Every 4 weeks with mtx	Every 4 weeks			
TNF α antagonist	Infliximab Remicade® 100mg	Powder per vial	Qty	x vials @ 3 mg/kg	x vials @ 5 mg/kg	x vials @ 5 mg/kg	Not available	
			Rpt	2	3	2		
			Freq	8 weekly with mtx	6 weekly	8 weekly		
Chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody	Rituximab Mabthera®	I.V. solution 500 mg in 50 mL	Qty	2			Not available	
			Rpt	1				
			Freq	Weeks 0,2 with mtx				
Interleukin-6 inhibitor	Tocilizumab Actemra®**	I.V. solution 80 mg/4mL 200mg/10mL 400mg/20mL	Qty	**(see below)			Not available	
			Rpt	5				
			Freq	8 mg/kg every 4 weeks				
** Medical practitioners should request the appropriate quantity of vials of the appropriate strength(s), based on the weight of the patient, to provide sufficient for a single infusion at a dose of 8 mg per kg. A separate prescription for each strength vial is required.								