

Please Note – New Information on the Biosimilar Initiative

On December 12, 2019, the Alberta government introduced the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative. This Initiative requires adult patients that are currently on an originator biologic drug to switch to a biosimilar version, if there is one available for their medical condition, in order to maintain coverage for that drug through an Alberta government sponsored drug plan. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the switching requirement date for the Biosimilar Initiative has been **postponed from July 1, 2020 to January 15, 2021**.

At this time:

- If you have not yet been in contact with your physician about switching to a biosimilar, please continue taking your biologic drug. Contact your physician once the demand for COVID-19 related care has decreased.
- If you have not yet switched to a biosimilar medication, but have scheduled an appointment with your physician, please continue taking your biologic drug until meeting with your physician. Please attend your appointment as scheduled or as otherwise instructed by your physician.
- If you have begun taking a biosimilar medication, please continue taking the biosimilar.
- If you have a new prescription for a biosimilar but have not yet started the new medication, please continue working with the patient support program or your pharmacy to start your biosimilar.
- If you have a new prescription for a biosimilar administered intravenously (IV), please contact the patient support program to arrange your infusion. If you have an appointment scheduled with an infusion clinic, please attend your appointment as scheduled or as otherwise instructed by the clinic.
- Switching does not apply to pregnant patients. If applicable, please speak with your health care professional regarding an exception request for the duration of your pregnancy.
- Switching does not apply to other coverage such as employer group coverage.

For more information please visit <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/government-plan/biosimilar-initiative.php> or call us at 1-800-661-6995. You can also speak with your health care professional.