

## **Notice from the Executive Officer: Funding of Adalimumab under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program**

**March 25, 2021**

Effective **March 29, 2021**, Amgevita<sup>®</sup> (adalimumab), Hadlima<sup>®</sup> (adalimumab), Hulio<sup>®</sup> (adalimumab), Hyrimoz<sup>®</sup> (adalimumab) and Idacio<sup>®</sup> (adalimumab) will be funded under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program for eligible ODB recipients.

Amgevita<sup>®</sup>, Hulio<sup>®</sup>, Idacio<sup>®</sup>, Hadlima<sup>®</sup>, and Hyrimoz<sup>®</sup> will be listed on the ODB Formulary/Comparative Drug Index (Formulary) as Limited Use (LU) benefits for the following indications:

- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis
- Psoriatic Arthritis
- Ankylosing Spondylitis
- Crohn's Disease
- Ulcerative Colitis
- Hidradenitis Suppurativa
- Plaque Psoriasis
- Uveitis

Details of the LU criteria will be also be posted in the March 2021 Formulary update which can be found on the ministry's website at:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/edition\\_43.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/edition_43.aspx)

Amgevita<sup>®</sup>, Hadlima<sup>®</sup>, Hulio<sup>®</sup>, Hyrimoz<sup>®</sup> and Idacio<sup>®</sup> were approved by Health Canada as biosimilar versions of the biologic drug adalimumab. The originator version of adalimumab is Humira<sup>®</sup> (adalimumab). Biosimilars are not identical to originator biologics. However, Health Canada conducts rigorous testing to ensure that biosimilars have a highly similar structure, are equally as safe, and have the same therapeutic effect as an originator biologic. Biosimilars also present an opportunity to achieve better value for money for biologic drugs that will help to support the long-term sustainability of Ontario's public drug programs.

To further inform healthcare providers and patients, we have also included a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document for reference purposes.

**Additional information:**

**For pharmacies:**

Please call ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

**For all other health care providers and the public:**

Please call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282.