



australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

23 January 2025

Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)
Department of Health and Ageing
GPO Box 9848 Canberra ACT 2601
Email: pbac@health.gov.au

Dear PBAC Chair,

Re: New PBS listing of Ixifi® (infliximab)

On behalf of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) we are writing in support of the request by Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of Ixifi® (infliximab), as outlined in the table below, for review at the March 2025 PBAC meeting.

Table with 3 columns: Product details (INFLIXIMAB, Powder for I.V. infusion 100 mg, Ixifi®, PFIZER AUSTRALIA PTY LTD, (New PBS listing)), Indications (Severe active rheumatoid arthritis, Ankylosing spondylitis, Severe psoriatic arthritis, Severe chronic plaque psoriasis, Severe Crohn disease, Complex refractory fistulising Crohn Disease, Moderate to severe ulcerative colitis), and Request details (To request Section 100 (Highly Specialised Drugs Program) Authority Required listings of a new infliximab biosimilar under the same conditions as other biosimilar brands of infliximab).

The ASCIA membership includes clinical immunologists with expertise in managing rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune conditions.

ASCIA supports the ARA Rheumatoid Arthritis Clinical Care Standard which states that:

- Early diagnosis and treatment lead to better long-term clinical outcomes and a better quality of life for people with rheumatoid arthritis.
• Treatment with biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (biological DMARDs) such as infliximab should be started as soon as rheumatoid arthritis is diagnosed.

Furthermore, having multiple brands available of infliximab mitigates against the risk of supply issues.

Therefore, ASCIA supports the PBS listing of Ixifi® (infliximab) to facilitate early treatment of severe active rheumatoid arthritis and other relevant autoimmune conditions with biological DMARDs.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Michael O'Sullivan
ASCIA President

Jill Smith
ASCIA CEO

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