

## Adalimumab for treating inflammatory conditions

### WHAT DOES THE GUIDANCE SAY?

Adalimumab biosimilar (Amgevita) is recommended for listing on the MOH Standard Drug List (SDL) for government subsidy for treating certain inflammatory conditions.

Adalimumab reference biologic (Humira) will be removed from the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF).

### WHAT IS ADALIMUMAB?

You may know adalimumab as Humira® or Amgevita®, a drug that belongs to a group of medicines called biologics. It suppresses the immune system and reduces inflammation.

### WHAT IS A BIOSIMILAR?

**Biologics** are medicines that contain active ingredients extracted from living organisms. **Biosimilars** are also biologics. They are highly similar, but not identical to, their reference biologics (i.e. the first biologic developed). Biosimilars have similar effectiveness, safety and quality records compared to their reference biologics and are used to treat the same diseases.

### WHY WAS AMGEVITA RECOMMENDED FOR SDL?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Amgevita (adalimumab biosimilar) was recommended because its benefit in relieving symptoms and improving quality of life for patients with certain inflammatory conditions justifies its cost.

Humira (adalimumab reference biologic) will no longer be subsidised because its benefits do not justify its cost compared to Amgevita. Patients will have six months to switch from Humira to Amgevita or an alternative subsidised treatment before Humira is no longer subsidised.

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### WHO CAN HAVE AMGEVITA?

Adults and children may be prescribed Amgevita for treating inflammatory conditions such as:

- rheumatoid arthritis,
- ankylosing spondylitis,
- psoriatic arthritis,
- chronic plaque psoriasis,
- polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis or enthesitis-related arthritis,
- Crohn's disease,
- ulcerative colitis,
- hidradenitis suppurativa; and
- non-infectious uveitis.

Your doctor will advise if it is a suitable treatment for you.

### HOW MUCH AMGEVITA CAN I TAKE?

Amgevita is given as an injection. Your doctor will usually prescribe one 40 mg injection every two weeks if you are an adult. For children, the dose will be adjusted according to their body weight. Your doctor will advise how long you have to take adalimumab for depending on your condition.

### WHAT DOES LISTING ON THE SDL MEAN FOR ME?

Drugs on the Standard Drug List (SDL) represent therapies essential for managing common diseases affecting the majority of patients in Singapore.

They are subsidised at 50% for all Singaporean citizens who are treated in a public healthcare institution. Patients from lower to middle income households may receive a higher subsidy of up to 75%.

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ACE is the national health technology assessment agency under the Ministry of Health (Singapore). It publishes guidances on diagnosing, treating, and preventing different medical conditions based on the latest research information available worldwide.

This summary is not, and should not be regarded as, a substitute for professional or medical advice. Please seek the advice of a qualified healthcare professional about any medical condition.

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