

- Effective July 1, 2025, Optum Rx will implement a new formulary strategy which excludes Humira and Stelara from commercial and exchange formularies and presents biosimilars as the preferred alternatives.

Optum Rx offers providers additional support to help guide patients through these coverage changes.

MATERIALS ARE READY FOR DOWNLOADING:

Optum Rx®

Biosimilars Formulary Strategy - Effective July 1, 2025
Prescriber FAQs
Updated May 30, 2025

As part of our commitment to making health care more affordable, Optum Rx continuously evaluates our commercial and exchange formularies* as market dynamics evolve and make changes as appropriate. The FAQs below reflect the new formulary strategy from Optum Rx which introduces biosimilars as preferred alternatives, excluding coverage for brands Humira and Stelara. These changes are effective starting July 1, 2025.

*While the FAQs below apply to patients who follow Optum Rx's preferred and exchange formularies, some Optum Rx patients' coverage may deviate from this approach as their specific plan may differ. In this case, Optum Rx will provide transitional support for impacted patients prior to these changes taking effect, including patient outreach and provider prior authorization for preferred biosimilars at the client's request.

Optum Rx Formulary – Humira and Stelara Biosimilars Strategy

1. Why did Optum Rx choose to move to biosimilars as a benefit preferred alternative?

Optum Rx has embraced the value of biosimilars growth from the beginning. The adalimumab biosimilar market has matured since the launch of the first Humira biosimilar in February 2023. This growth has resulted in the availability of numerous lower cost biosimilars that closely resemble product attributes of Humira and Stelara. This enables Optum Rx to deliver a biosimilars strategy effective July 1, 2025 that focuses on patients and reduces costs.

Our strategy meets the Optum Rx patient-first guiding principles:

- Quality of care for patients.
- FDA-approved interchangeability.
- Ensure stable supply.
- Availability of formulations and drug strengths to provide continuity of therapy.
- Affordability for patients, including manufacturer copay assistance programs.

2. What is Optum Rx's formulary strategy related to biosimilars for 7/1/2025?

- **Humira:** In our continuing evaluation of the market, Optum Rx will implement a new formulary strategy as of July 1, 2025, which includes moving Humira for commercial and exchange formularies to an excluded benefit status and adding biosimilars manufactured by Amgen, Amgen and the private label adalimumab biosimilar from Nuvelo as preferred alternatives.

For Humira patients, Humira will be excluded from their formulary. Continuation of therapy will be discontinued as of the effective date. With FDA-approved interchangeability, Humira is now approved for allowing pharmacies to switch without requiring a new prescription.

Information is subject to change as more Biosimilars become approved and biosimilars are added.
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July 1, 2025 Humira biosimilar only strategy

As the adalimumab biosimilar market has matured, we continue to advance biosimilars. Providers and patients have gained familiarity and costs have decreased. Amjevita (our preferred biosimilar alternative) has recently been FDA-approved for interchangeability.

Biosimilars for Humira will be preferred

Continuation of Therapy will be discontinued for brand Humira® only.

Members using brand Humira will be notified and supported through their transition to a biosimilar.

Premium Formulary

Current	July 1, 2025 strategy
Tier 2 with PA Amjevita® for Nuvela® (LW) ¹ Amjevita for Amgen (HW) ²	Tier 2 with PA Amjevita for Nuvela (LW) ¹ Amjevita for Amgen (HW) ²
Excluded Humira for new patients and all other branded and unbranded Humira biosimilars	Excluded Humira for all patients and all other branded and unbranded Humira biosimilars

Amjevita's interchangeability status requires no new prescription or prior authorization.

1. LW = Low WAC
2. HW = High WAC

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Optum Rx®

Provider notifications are on their way. Check your EHR message inbox.

Get ready for biosimilars formulary strategy change

Biosimilars for Humira and Stelara will move to preferred status beginning July 1, 2025

Why this strategy update?

Optum Rx supports the value of biosimilars to provide patients with safe and effective lower-cost alternatives. Our new formulary strategy reflects the robust adalimumab biosimilar market since the launch of the first Humira biosimilar in 2023. The increase in lower-cost biosimilars for Humira and Stelara enable us to deliver a strategy focused on lowering patient prescription costs.

Important July 1 formulary cycle change updates

Optum Rx provides extra support and stability for Humira and Stelara changes due to the broad use of these medications. Below is an overview of the changes and planned support:

Who's impacted?

- Existing Humira and Stelara patients on Optum Rx commercial and exchange formularies
- Low-to-therapy patients who will start with preferred biosimilars beginning July 1, 2025

What's changing?

- **Humira** will move to an excluded status for commercial and exchange formularies. Optum Rx will prefer Amjevita biosimilars by Amgen and the private label adalimumab biosimilar from Nuvelo as preferred alternatives.
- **Stelara** will move to an excluded status for Optum Rx commercial and exchange formularies. Wexlat, the first ustekinumab biosimilar offered as a Nuvelo private label product, will be preferred.

Optum Rx formulary guiding principles

- Continued quality of care for patients
- FDA-approved interchangeability
- Ensure stable supply
- Availability of formulations and drug strengths
- Patient affordability, including manufacturer copay assistance programs

How interchangeable medications work

Interchangeable biosimilars must meet strict legal requirements for FDA approval. Optum Rx supports these biosimilars for preferred status since they can be substituted for the original product without consulting the prescriber. It's similar to how generic medications are substituted for brand name drugs. This enables an easier, less disruptive and safe transition to lower-cost alternatives.

View change specifics

Are new prescriptions and/or prior authorizations required when moving patients to the preferred biosimilar?

- After consulting with the patient and a preferred biosimilar is selected**
- **Humira:** Until interchangeability is approved, providers will be required to submit a new prescription. (Interchangeability approvals expected mid 2025) Providers will not be required to submit a prior authorization.
- **Stelara:** Providers will not be required to request a new prescription nor submit a prior authorization (PA). Wexlat is interchangeable to Stelara.

See back for additional details

Optum Rx®

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<PROVIDER FIRST NAME> <PROVIDER LAST NAME>
<PROVIDER ADDRESS 1>
<PROVIDER ADDRESS 2>
<CITY>, <STATE> <ZIP CODE>

[State]

Re: Humira has been excluded from coverage on this patient's plan beginning 7/1/25

Dear <PROVIDER FIRST NAME> <PROVIDER LAST NAME>:

We regularly review our prescription drug list (PDL) and accompanying pharmacy management programs to help give Optum Rx members access to affordable medications that safely and effectively treat their conditions. As a result of this review, we're evaluating coverage of Humira and moving to a biosimilar as our preferred covered alternative. This becomes effective on <COVERAGE CHANGE EFFECTIVE DATE>.

You have a patient who is affected by this update. We've notified the patient of this change and suggested alternatives and included additional guidance due to this important change. We've also recommended that the patient follow up with their doctor.

Summary of coverage change - MEDICATION DISRUPTION TYPE*

Effective date of coverage change:	<COVERAGE CHANGE EFFECTIVE DATE>
Patient name:	<MEMBER FIRST NAME> <MEMBER LAST NAME>
Patient's date of birth:	<MEMBER DATE OF BIRTH>
Coverage change:	<MEDICATION DISRUPTION TYPE>
Affected medication:	<ORIG. NAME>
Preferred alternative:	<ALTERNATIVE MED>

Action needed: What you can do to help

- You may hear from your patient(s), as those who may be affected by this change have been contacted and advised to talk to their doctor.
- Please evaluate the preferred covered alternative medications listed above for your patient's condition to determine if they may be appropriate. If a preferred biosimilar is selected, a new script is not required. You will not be required to submit a new prior authorization.
- If it's determined the patient should remain on their current medication, a review is

Provider Biosimilars FAQs

Answers key questions providers may have regarding upcoming formulary changes.

Biosimilars ‘Cheat Sheet’

Provides an ‘at-a-glance’ guide to the Optum Rx 7/1/2025 biosimilars strategy for both Humira and Stelara.

Biosimilars Support Article

Provides additional information about the change, including notification strategy and timing.

Notification Examples

Includes copies of both patient and provider notifications regarding these updates.

Provider Notification
Patient Notification

* Optum Rx also supports clients with custom formulary strategies which may deviate from our standard patient coverage approach. Please remember to verify patient coverage before you submit or renew a prescription.