



Australian Government

Department of Health

Therapeutic Goods Administration

Actemra shortage – Instructions for pharmacies

Actemra vials for infusion (IV)

Availability is extremely limited



Direct all patients to their prescriber for advice

Actemra ACTPen autoinjector and pre-filled syringe for subcutaneous injection (SC)

Available for existing patients – supply may vary throughout shortage



Patients may need to swap between the ACTPen and pre-filled syringe depending on availability. Call wholesaler to order.

How to order Actemra ACTPen autoinjector and pre-filled syringe

Supply of Actemra ACTPen autoinjector and pre-filled syringe will fluctuate during the shortage. Wholesaler portals will likely show zero stock quantity for both medicines, even if they are available.

To order:

1. Call your usual wholesaler for availability of both devices and to confirm how to order stock.
2. If your wholesaler does not have stock, ask when the next allocation is arriving.

Call your wholesaler directly to order stock

Substituting Actemra ACTPen and pre-filled syringe

Pharmacists can offer adult patients whichever subcutaneous device of Actemra is available, without prior contact with the prescriber, under the [Tocilizumab Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument \(SSSI\)](#). Review the SSSI for the rules for substitution.

For more information visit the TGA website at www.tga.gov.au and search for 'Serious Scarcity Substitution Instruments'. Medicines dispensed under the SSSI will be covered by the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS).

Refer Actemra patients to their specialist, GP or rheumatology nurse for instructions on how to use the alternate device. The sponsor of these medicines, Roche Australia, also has leaflets with links to instructional videos for patients. For more information contact Roche Australia on 1800 233 950.



This shortage is expected to continue until early 2022.

Information including prescribing changes and stock allocation is available at: www.tga.gov.au/alert/shortages-tocilizumab-actemra-medicines