

# TOCILIZUMAB (ACTEMRA)

## Shortage of Actemra (tocilizumab)



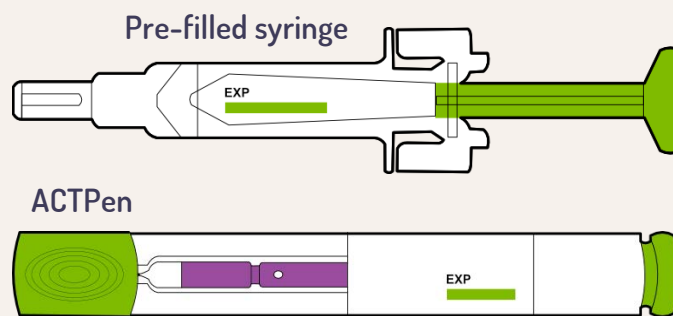
There is a severe global shortage of Actemra (tocilizumab) due to its use in critically ill COVID-19 patients.

## Until early 2022



The shortage is expected to continue till early 2022.

## Supply is limited but stock of either will be available



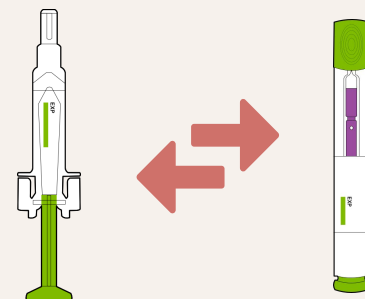
For patients who take Actemra (tocilizumab) ACTPen and pre-filled syringe, the supply is limited but there will be stock of either the ACTPen or prefilled syringe till the end of the shortage.

## Pharmacists need to call wholesalers



Your pharmacist will need to call their wholesalers to enquire or order Actemra ACTPen or pre-filled syringe. It is likely that wholesaler portals are displaying zero stock even if stock is available. They may need to try multiple wholesalers.

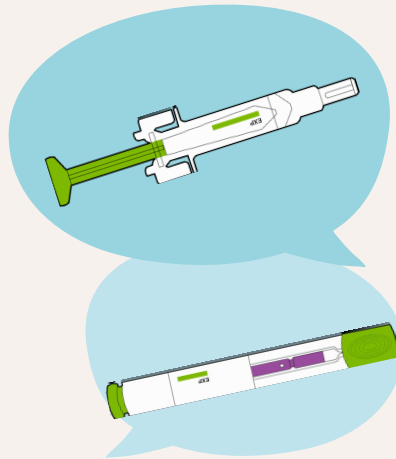
## The pharmacist can swap



For adult patients, your pharmacist can swap between Actemra ACTPen and Actemra pre-filled syringe under certain conditions. So if your usual medicine is not available, your pharmacist can dispense the alternate one without the need for a new prescription.

## Learn to use both ACTPen and pre-filled syringe

ACTPen® video



Pre-filled syringe video



You should familiarise yourself with how to use both ACTPen and pre-filled syringe in case you have difficulty accessing your usual medicine device. We would encourage you to speak to your specialist, rheumatology nurse or GP for instructions on how to use both medicines.

### Consumer Medicine Information



Your pharmacist can also provide written instructions for Actemra ACTPen and pre-filled syringe, also known as consumer medicine information (CMI).

### Talk to your rheumatologist



For patients that use Actemra (tocilizumab) IV for infusion, you should talk to your rheumatologist as soon as possible for further guidance on managing treatment during the shortage.

### Useful links and information:

TGA Actemra (tocilizumab) shortage webpage

<https://www.tga.gov.au/alert/shortages-tocilizumab-actemra-medicines>

More information about switching medicines is found on the TGA website:

<https://www.tga.gov.au/alert/tocilizumab-actemra-serious-scarcity-substitution-instrument>

Arthritis Australia - Information about the Tocilizumab (Actemra) Shortage - Frequently Asked Questions

<https://arthritisaustralia.com.au/managing-arthritis/covid19/consumer-webinar-tocilizumab-actemra-shortage/>