

## Reimbursement of Medicinal Products containing Tocilizumab: Questions and Answers for Healthcare Professionals May 2026

### Introduction

As of 1 May 2026, there are three medicinal products containing tocilizumab on the HSE Reimbursement List, for prescribing and supply on the High Tech Arrangement:

- Avtozma<sup>®</sup> solution for injection (Celltrion Healthcare Ireland Limited)
- RoActemra<sup>®</sup> solution for injection (Roche Products Ireland Limited)
- Tyenne<sup>®</sup> solution for injection (Fresenius Kabi Ireland).

RoActemra<sup>®</sup> is the reference biological medicine; Avtozma<sup>®</sup> and Tyenne<sup>®</sup> are biosimilar medicines of RoActemra<sup>®</sup>.

All three medicinal products are available in pre-filled pen and pre-filled syringe presentations, containing 162 mg of tocilizumab per pre-filled pen or syringe.

In November 2025, following a review of medicinal products containing tocilizumab on the HSE Reimbursement List, the HSE-Medicines Management Programme (MMP) identified a best-value biological medicine (BVB) for tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement:

- **Tyenne<sup>®</sup>** solution for injection pre-filled pen / pre-filled syringe 162 mg (Fresenius Kabi Ireland).

In April 2026, the MMP identified an additional BVB medicine for tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement:

- **Avtozma<sup>®</sup>** solution for injection pre-filled pen / pre-filled syringe 162 mg (Celltrion Healthcare Ireland Limited).

Evaluation reports, which include information on the process followed to identify the BVB medicines, are available on the website of the MMP under *Best-value medicines*:

[www.hse.ie/mmp](http://www.hse.ie/mmp).

The MMP may recommend additional BVB medicines for tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement in 2026.

Avtozma<sup>®</sup>, RoActemra<sup>®</sup> and Tyenne<sup>®</sup> are also available in concentrate for solution for infusion vial presentations. These presentations are supplied and administered in the hospital setting, and fell outside the scope of the BVB medicine evaluation process undertaken by the MMP.

### **I am initiating a patient on tocilizumab for supply on the High Tech Arrangement; what should I do in light of the BVB medicine recommendations?**

The MMP recommends that all new patients being initiated on treatment with tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement should be prescribed a BVB medicine, Avtozma<sup>®</sup> or Tyenne<sup>®</sup>.

Celltrion Healthcare Ireland Limited and Fresenius Kabi Ireland have confirmed that sufficient stock of Avtozma<sup>®</sup> and Tyenne<sup>®</sup> are available to support an uplift in demand arising from the MMP BVB medicine recommendations.

### **What is the situation for patients currently in receipt of a medicinal product containing tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement?**

There is currently no change for existing patients. They will continue to receive their medicine on the High Tech Arrangement from their community pharmacy.

At this point in time, all valid High Tech prescriptions for medicinal products containing tocilizumab on the HSE Reimbursement List remain eligible for reimbursement on the High Tech Arrangement.

The MMP recommends that patients currently established on treatment with tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement should be considered for switching to a BVB medicine at the earliest possible opportunity.

In recognition of the efficiencies that result from the prescribing of the BVB medicines, a gainshare arrangement is available to consultant-led teams in public hospitals who switch patients established on treatment with tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement, to a BVB medicine for

tocilizumab. Gainshare funds will be used to fund service delivery and enhancements in areas that are responsible for generating the savings.

### **Are changes being introduced in relation to the reimbursement of tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement?**

At present, no changes are being introduced in relation to the reimbursement of tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement.

The HSE-MMP has identified BVB medicines for tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement, **Avtozma**<sup>®</sup> and **Tyenne**<sup>®</sup>. The MMP recommends that:

- all new patients being initiated on treatment with tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement should be prescribed a recommended BVB medicine
- patients currently established on treatment with tocilizumab on the High Tech Arrangement should be considered for switching to a BVB medicine at the earliest possible opportunity.

The MMP will monitor uptake of the recommended BVB medicines; the introduction of additional measures to support prescribing of the BVB medicines may be considered to ensure uptake is optimised.

### **What are the benefits of prescribing the BVB medicines for tocilizumab?**

The BVB medicines for tocilizumab are provided to the HSE at a much lower cost than other medicinal products containing tocilizumab that are available for prescribing on the High Tech Arrangement. This provides an opportunity to reduce the cost to the HSE of providing these medicines to patients.

Funding to facilitate access to new medicines for patients in 2026 is dependent on the delivery of savings from within the medicines budget. Prescribing of BVB medicines reduces the financial burden on the HSE arising out of the funding of reimbursed medicines, and therefore can assist in securing ongoing access for patients to new, innovative medicines.

## Where can I get information on the best-value biological medicines for tocilizumab?

Information on the BVB medicines are available on the website of the MMP under *Best-value medicines*: [www.hse.ie/mmp](http://www.hse.ie/mmp).

This includes support materials for clinical teams who are initiating patients on, or switching them to the BVB medicines:

- Reimbursement of Medicinal Products containing Tocilizumab: Questions and Answers for Healthcare Professionals
- BVB Tocilizumab – Questions and Answers for Healthcare Professionals
- Information for Patients about Medicines containing Tocilizumab
- MMP product information sheets for Avtozma<sup>®</sup> and Tyenne<sup>®</sup>
- Information on patient support services for Avtozma<sup>®</sup> and Tyenne<sup>®</sup>
- Template switching letter for clinics.

## Who should I contact if I have any questions?

The MMP are available to engage with consultants and clinical teams to support prescribing of the BVB medicines via the High Tech Hub. This includes the provision of information sessions, in conjunction with the High Tech Co-ordination Unit, on the BVB medicines and the High Tech Hub. Please contact the MMP ([mmp@hse.ie](mailto:mmp@hse.ie)) if you wish to avail of this support.

## Avtozma<sup>®</sup> and Tyenne<sup>®</sup> are biosimilar medicines containing tocilizumab; where can I get more information on biosimilar medicines?

Further information for both healthcare professionals and patients on biosimilar medicines is available on the following websites:

**Health Products Regulatory Authority:** [www.hpra.ie/regulation/human-medicine/patients-and-healthcare-professionals/biosimilar-medicines](http://www.hpra.ie/regulation/human-medicine/patients-and-healthcare-professionals/biosimilar-medicines)

**European Medicines Agency:** [www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/biosimilar-medicines-overview#information-for-patients-and-healthcare-professionals-section](http://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/biosimilar-medicines-overview#information-for-patients-and-healthcare-professionals-section)

The HSE-Access & Integration Drug Management Programme (AIDMP) has published guidance for biological and biosimilar medicine use in acute hospitals (version 2, May 2024). The guidance states that for a biological medicine with a biosimilar available for the same licensed indication, the medicine offering the better value should be prescribed. It also recommends that all treatment-naïve patients should be initiated on the better-value medicine (whether biosimilar or reference medicine).

### **The European Medicines Agency issued a joint statement with the Heads of Medicines Agencies on interchangeability of biosimilar medicines in September 2022. What did this say?**

This statement confirmed that biosimilar medicines approved in the European Union are interchangeable with their reference medicine or with an equivalent biosimilar medicine.

Interchangeability in this context means that a prescriber can replace the reference medicine with a biosimilar medicine without a patient experiencing any changes in the clinical effect.

The EMA highlighted that the experience obtained from clinical practice has shown that in terms of efficacy, safety and immunogenicity, biosimilar medicines are comparable to their reference medicine and therefore can be prescribed interchangeably.

## Can medicinal products containing tocilizumab be prescribed on the High Tech Hub?

Yes, prescriptions for medicinal products containing tocilizumab can be generated on the High Tech Hub.

Since August 2020, the High Tech Hub has been approved as a national electronic prescription transfer system.

Queries in relation to registration for the High Tech Hub should be directed to the HSE-Primary Care Reimbursement Service High Tech Co-ordination Unit at [PCRS.HiTech@hse.ie](mailto:PCRS.HiTech@hse.ie).

When switching a patient to a BVB medicine for tocilizumab (Avtozma<sup>®</sup> or Tyenne<sup>®</sup>), the prescription must be generated on the High Tech Hub in order to be eligible for the gainshare arrangement.