

Bio similar denosumab: Does your patient need to switch?

In August 2024, Sandoz launched Jubbonti (denosumab 60 mg six monthly) and Wyost (denosumab 120 mg monthly). BC PharmaCare promptly followed with a schema for expedient conversion of PharmaCare funded denosumab patients to the bio similar preparations. All patients will require a prescription either written as “denosumab”, “Jubbonti”, or “Wyost” in order to proceed with a switch. Pharmacists will not be permitted to make this switch in the absence of a prescription written in this way.

PharmaCare funded patients only

- PharmaCare funding will provide as a approved denosumab patients brand Prolia or Brand Xgeva until March 3, 2025 to allow a six-month crossover.
- After March 3, 2025, Prolia and Xgeva will no longer be PharmaCare benefits. Patients will have the option of obtaining a prescription for Jubbonti or Wyost and converting, or paying out-of-pocket for the brand medications.
- If patients remain on brand Prolia or Xgeva, the cost of these medications will not be a contributor to the PharmaCare “threshold”.
- Physicians will be permitted to bill a one time \$50 “counselling fee” to MSP (fee code 97018) for all PharmaCare SA patients where bio similar has been discussed. This does not require the patient to switch to bio similar. Pharmacists also have a \$15 fee for patient counselling.

Patients with extended health benefit coverage

- It is anticipated that extended health benefit coverage will eventually mirror PharmaCare, but until that time brand Prolia and Xgeva remain covered.
- If patients opt to switch to bio similar, their co-pay may be reduced. The brand manufacturer will obviously not contribute to price reductions for by a similar product.
- The PharmaCare “patient counselling” MSP fee item does not apply to patients without PharmaCare SA coverage.

Patients paying out-of-pocket

- Prolia patients should ask their pharmacist for a Pharmacy Card which will provide brand Prolia at the same cost as Jubbonti.