Enquiries to Ministry of Health
0800 855 066

APPLICATION FOR SUBSIDY BY SPECIAL AUTHORITY

Form SA1976
July 2025

APPLICANT (stamp or sticker acceptable)	**PATIENT** NHI:	**REFERRER** Reg No: .....
Reg No:	First Names:	First Names: .....
Name:	Surname:	Surname: .....
Address:	DOB:	Address: .....
.....	Address:	.....
.....	.....	.....
Fax Number:	.....	Fax Number: .....

Rituximab (Mabthera)

Initial application — rheumatoid arthritis - TNF inhibitors contraindicated
Applications only from a rheumatologist or Practitioner on the recommendation of a rheumatologist. Approvals valid for 4 months.
Prerequisites(tick boxes where appropriate)

- ☐ Treatment with a Tumour Necrosis Factor alpha inhibitor is contraindicated

and

- ☐ Patient has had severe and active erosive rheumatoid arthritis (either confirmed by radiology imaging, or the patient is cyclic citrullinated peptide (CCP) antibody positive) for six months duration or longer

and

- ☐ Patient has tried and not responded to at least three months of oral or parenteral methotrexate at a dose of at least 20 mg weekly or a maximum tolerated dose

and

- ☐ Patient has tried and not responded to at least three months of oral or parenteral methotrexate in combination with sulfasalazine and hydroxychloroquine sulphate (at maximum tolerated doses)

and

- ☐ Patient has tried and not responded to at least three months of oral or parenteral methotrexate in combination with the maximum tolerated dose of ciclosporin

or

- ☐ Patient has tried and not responded to at least three months of oral or parenteral methotrexate in combination with intramuscular gold

or

- ☐ Patient has tried and not responded to at least three months of therapy at the maximum tolerated dose of leflunomide alone or in combination with oral or parenteral methotrexate

and

- ☐ Patient has persistent symptoms of poorly controlled and active disease in at least 20 swollen, tender joints

or

- ☐ Patient has persistent symptoms of poorly controlled and active disease in at least four joints from the following: wrist, elbow, knee, ankle, and either shoulder or hip

and

- ☐ Patient has a C-reactive protein level greater than 15 mg/L measured no more than one month prior to the date of this application

or

- ☐ C-reactive protein levels not measured as patient is currently receiving prednisone therapy at a dose of greater than 5 mg per day and has done so for more than three months

and

- ☐ Rituximab to be used as an adjunct to methotrexate or leflunomide therapy

or

- ☐ Patient is contraindicated to both methotrexate and leflunomide, requiring rituximab monotherapy to be used

and

- ☐ Maximum of two 1,000 mg infusions of rituximab given two weeks apart

I confirm the above details are correct and that in signing this form I understand I may be audited.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Post application to Ministry of Health, Private Bag 3015, Wanganui – email: customerservice@health.govt.nz

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Rituximab (Mabthera) - *continued*

Initial application — rheumatoid arthritis - prior TNF inhibitor use

Applications only from a rheumatologist or Practitioner on the recommendation of a rheumatologist. Approvals valid for 4 months.

Prerequisites(tick boxes where appropriate)

- ☐ The patient has had an initial community Special Authority approval for at least one of etanercept and/or adalimumab for rheumatoid arthritis

and

- ☐ The patient has experienced intolerable side effects from a reasonable trial of adalimumab and/or etanercept

or

- ☐ Following at least a four month trial of adalimumab and/or etanercept, the patient did not meet the renewal criteria for adalimumab and/or etanercept for rheumatoid arthritis

and

- ☐ Rituximab to be used as an adjunct to methotrexate or leflunomide therapy

or

- ☐ Patient is contraindicated to both methotrexate and leflunomide, requiring rituximab monotherapy to be used

and

- ☐ Maximum of two 1,000 mg infusions of rituximab given two weeks apart

Renewal — rheumatoid arthritis - re-treatment in 'partial responders' to rituximab

Current approval Number (if known):.....

Applications only from a rheumatologist or Practitioner on the recommendation of a rheumatologist. Approvals valid for 4 months.

Prerequisites(tick boxes where appropriate)

- ☐ At 4 months following the initial course of rituximab infusions the patient had between a 30% and 50% decrease in active joint count from baseline and a clinically significant response to treatment in the opinion of the physician

or

- ☐ At 4 months following the second course of rituximab infusions the patient had at least a 50% decrease in active joint count from baseline and a clinically significant response to treatment in the opinion of the physician

or

- ☐ At 4 months following the third and subsequent courses of rituximab infusions, the patient demonstrates at least a continuing 30% improvement in active joint count from baseline and a clinically significant response to treatment in the opinion of the physician

and

- ☐ Rituximab re-treatment not to be given within 6 months of the previous course of treatment

and

- ☐ Rituximab to be used as an adjunct to methotrexate or leflunomide therapy

or

- ☐ Patient is contraindicated to both methotrexate and leflunomide, requiring rituximab monotherapy to be used

and

- ☐ Maximum of two 1,000 mg infusions of rituximab given two weeks apart

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Fax Number:	.....	Fax Number: .....

Rituximab (Mabthera) - *continued*

Renewal — rheumatoid arthritis - re-treatment in 'responders' to rituximab

Current approval Number (if known):.....

Applications only from a rheumatologist or Practitioner on the recommendation of a rheumatologist. Approvals valid for 4 months.

Prerequisites(tick boxes where appropriate)

☐ At 4 months following the initial course of rituximab infusions the patient had at least a 50% decrease in active joint count from baseline and a clinically significant response to treatment in the opinion of the physician

or

☐ At 4 months following the second and subsequent courses of rituximab infusions, the patient demonstrates at least a continuing 30% improvement in active joint count from baseline and a clinically significant response to treatment in the opinion of the physician

and

☐ Rituximab re-treatment not to be given within 6 months of the previous course of treatment

and

☐ Rituximab to be used as an adjunct to methotrexate or leflunomide therapy

or

☐ Patient is contraindicated to both methotrexate and leflunomide, requiring rituximab monotherapy to be used

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☐ Maximum of two 1,000 mg infusions of rituximab given two weeks apart

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