

**DEPARTMENT OF WAR
PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
VIRTUAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 16, 2026**

**INFORMATION FOR THE UNIFORM FORMULARY
BENEFICIARY ADVISORY PANEL MEETING Day #2 PM - refer to the posted Agenda
for meetings dates and times at [https://health.mil/About-MHS/Federal-Advisory-
Committees/BAP](https://health.mil/About-MHS/Federal-Advisory-Committees/BAP)**

I. UNIFORM FORMULARY REVIEW PROCESS

In accordance with Section 1074 g of Title 10, United States Code (USC), as implemented by Section 199.21 of Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), the Department of Defense (DoD) Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee is responsible for developing the Uniform Formulary (UF). Recommendations to the Director, Defense Health Agency (DHA) or their designee, on formulary or complete exclusion status, prior authorizations (PAs), pre-authorizations, and the effective date for a pharmaceutical agent's change from formulary to nonformulary (NF) or to complete exclusion status are received from the Uniform Formulary Beneficiary Advisory Panel (UF BAP), which must be reviewed by the Director or their designee before making a final decision.

II. TARGETED IMMUNOMODULATORY BIOLOGICS (TIBS): INTERLEUKIN (IL)-23 INHIBITORS—USTEKINUMAB FORMULATIONS FORMULARY STATUS, PA CRITERIA AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

P&T Comments

TIBs: IL-23 Inhibitors

Background: A virtual P&T Committee meeting was held on January 16, 2026, to further discuss and clarify the processes for implementing the anticipated upcoming ustekinumab Joint National Contract (JNC), as originally outlined in the November 2024 P&T Committee meeting minutes.

Following the virtual meeting held July 10, 2025 (Addendum to the May 2025 P&T Committee minutes), the JNC for ustekinumab was delayed. A new JNC opportunity is now available in collaboration with the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA). JNC selection determines the sole step-preferred product on the TRICARE Uniform Formulary (UF). Other agents not selected will occupy a non-step-preferred status.

The purpose of this meeting is to clarify the process to implement the recommended formulary status, step-therapy and Prior Authorization (PA) criteria, and implementation period if a JNC is awarded.

The recommendations from this virtual meeting replace the recommendations from the Addendum to the May 2025 P&T Committee meeting, held virtually on July 10, 2025.

- For several years, branded ustekinumab (Stelara) has been designated as UF, non-step-preferred, requiring a trial of adalimumab (Humira) first. Note that at the time of the November 2024 P&T Committee meeting, ustekinumab biosimilars had not yet entered the market. Market entrance of ustekinumab biosimilars first occurred in January 2025 and these biosimilars were subsequently reviewed as new drugs at the February 2025, May 2025 and August 2025 quarterly P&T Committee meetings.
- In collaboration, the DoW and VA are soliciting for a JNC for ustekinumab. At the November 2024 P&T Committee meeting, the JNC-awarded ustekinumab product was selected as UF, step-preferred. Stelara was recommended for UF non-step-preferred placement at the meeting.
- After the November 2024 P&T Committee meeting, the expected JNC was delayed and the UF step-preferred position remained open for future selection. The second solicitation is ongoing, with an award date expected later in 2026.
- If a JNC is awarded, the committee reaffirms that the JNC-selected ustekinumab product will be step-preferred over the other IL-23 inhibitor subclass agents and that all new patients must try the JNC-selected ustekinumab product.
- Other formulary management actions of these classes and the PA changes will be reviewed at the February 2026 P&T meeting.

Relative Clinical Effectiveness: Previous clinical conclusions for biosimilar products support that FDA approved biosimilar products, whether officially designated as interchangeable or not, are equally safe and efficacious when compared to the reference product.

Relative Cost Effectiveness Conclusion: Based on JNC, ustekinumab-aaaz (Otulfi) is the most cost-effective option for the TRICARE UF formulary.

The Committee recommended (19 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent) the following for the JNC-awarded scenario for the formulary status, PA criteria, and implementation period.

- JNC-awarded scenario:
 - The JNC-awarded ustekinumab product will be UF and step-preferred.
 - The non-selected agents will be designated non-step-preferred.
 - The formulary status of the non-step-preferred/completely excluded agents will not change unless reviewed by the P&T Committee and the UF BAP.

- Step therapy will require a trial of the JNC-awarded step-preferred product in all new users for all non-step-preferred IL-23 inhibitor agents (ustekinumab and non-ustekinumab products) and the PAs will be updated to implement this step as voted on at the November 2024 P&T meeting.
 - The non-ustekinumab products are guselkumab (Tremfya), mirikizumab (Omvoh), risankizumab (Skyrizi), and tildrakizumab (Ilumya).
- Implementation
 - For new users prescribed an IL-23 inhibitor (ustekinumab or non-ustekinumab), implementation of the JNC step-preferred requirement will occur on the JNC award date or no later than 2 weeks following the JNC award date.
 - For current users of a non-step-preferred ustekinumab product, the required trial of the JNC step-preferred agent will be implemented 30 days after the JNC effective date, to allow for updating the PA forms and notifying affected beneficiaries with letters.
 - For current users of a non-ustekinumab IL-23 inhibitor (Skyrizi, Tremfya, Ilumya, Omvoh), patients will be grandfathered, and not subject to the requirement to try the JNC-awarded ustekinumab.

III. TIBS: IL-23 INHIBITORS—USTEKINUMAB FORMULATIONS FORMULARY STATUS, PA CRITERIA AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

UF BAP Comments

TIBS: IL-23 Inhibitors—Formulary Status, Manual PA Criteria and Implementation Plan

The P&T Committee recommended the PA criteria and the implementation plan for the IL-23 inhibitors as outlined above.

UF BAP Comments

Concur: Non-Concur: Abstain: Absent: