

Update: We're changing how we manage Simponi Aria for most commercial members, starting Feb. 1

We added information about members who have active authorizations for Simponi Aria through their medical benefits and updated the "note" under the "How this will affect members" section. The original [provider alert](#) was posted on Oct. 30, 2025.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network will change how they manage **Simponi Aria® (golimumab)**, starting Feb. 1, 2026. This change will affect members on both pharmacy and medical benefits for most Blue Cross and BCN commercial members.

How this will affect members

- Members who have active authorizations for Simponi Aria for pediatric psoriatic arthritis, or PsA, and polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis, or pJIA, diagnosis won't be affected by this change and can continue with their therapy on medical benefits.
- Members who have active authorizations for Simponi Aria for **all** other diagnosis on medical benefits can continue with their therapy through Jan. 31, 2026. If members want to continue receiving Simponi Aria through their medical benefits, they can ask their health care providers to request approvals for exceptions.

Note: To avoid an interruption in therapy, new authorizations for Simponi SC (subcutaneous) will be proactively approved on pharmacy benefits from Feb. 1, 2026, to Jan. 31, 2027. This means the type of Simponi members receive starting Feb. 1 will need to be self-administered and their pharmacy benefits will pay for it rather than their medical benefits. Simponi SC can be safely and conveniently self-administered in the home and doesn't require administration by a health care professional.

- Proactive authorizations for Simponi SC under pharmacy benefits will be issued only for members who have their pharmacy benefits through Blue Cross or BCN.
- Members who don't have prescription coverage through Blue Cross or BCN and are currently filling their prescriptions through their medical benefits will need new prescriptions with prior authorizations through their pharmacy providers.
- New members who want to start treatment with Simponi Aria will be subject to the new utilization management requirements on medical benefits, which are detailed in the [Changes to medical necessity criteria for prior authorizations for medical benefit drugs](#) document.

Filling prescriptions

We'll only pay for Simponi SC when filled through Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy, an independent company that provides specialty pharmacy services to Blue Cross and BCN.

If members are currently filling Simponi SC through Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy:

- Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy will obtain new prescriptions for Simponi SC from their doctors, if needed.
- Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy will be able to fill prescriptions for Simponi SC starting Feb 1.

If members are currently filling their prescriptions through pharmacies other than Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy:

- Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy will send affected members welcome letters. The letters will include the pharmacy phone number.
- A representative from Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy will call members to set up their profiles.
- Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy will obtain new prescriptions for Simponi SC from their doctors.
- Prescribers can send new prescriptions for Simponi SC by the following methods:

Pharmacy	Methods
Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy Table text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fax: 1-866-515-1356 • E-prescribing name: Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy - MICHIGAN • Phone number: 1-866-515-1355

This change doesn't apply to Medicare Advantage members.

To determine whether a group participates in the prior authorization program, see the [Specialty Pharmacy Prior Authorization Master Opt-in/out Group list](#).

How to submit prior authorization requests

Submit prior authorization requests through the Medical and Pharmacy Drug PA Portal. It offers real-time status checks and immediate approvals for certain medications.

To access the Medical and Pharmacy Drug PA Portal, log in to our provider portal (availability.com),* click *Payer Spaces* in the menu bar, and then click the BCBSM and

BCN logo. Click the *Medical and Pharmacy Benefit Drug Prior Auth* tile in the *Applications* tab.

You can also submit pharmacy benefit drugs prior authorization requests using CoverMyMeds®

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Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy is an independent company that provides specialty pharmacy services covered under the pharmacy benefit for various Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network members with commercial plans.

Availity® is an independent company that contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network to offer provider portal and electronic data interchange services.