



Provider Frequently Asked Questions
2026 Commercial Formulary Changes:
Yesintek (Stelara biosimilar) Added; Stelara Removed
November 2025

1. Will I need to submit a new prior authorization for Yesintek™ for my patient?

Changes affect ustekinumab products that are patient self-administered (pharmacy benefit) and those infused by a healthcare provider (medical benefit).

- For patients currently using Stelara® or other non-preferred ustekinumab products via self-administration at home and who have an active Blue Shield of California (Blue Shield) authorization, a new prior authorization **will not** be required.
- For patients refilling Stelara, CVS Specialty Pharmacy® will substitute with Yesintek since it is an interchangeable biosimilar, as authorized. They will provide instructions for administration to your patient along with documentation to you about the change.
- All new prescriptions for Stelara or other non-preferred ustekinumab products will require prior authorization. The patient's response to a trial of Yesintek will be assessed when considering coverage of any non-preferred ustekinumab product. To avoid delays, please order Yesintek rather than Stelara.
 - For HMO patients newly starting ustekinumab by infusion, prior authorizations are administered by the medical group or IPA using Blue Shield's medication policies. Ordering and submitting prior authorization information for Yesintek will avoid delays in starting therapy.

2. I sent a prescription for Yesintek subcutaneous (SC) maintenance therapy to CVS Specialty Pharmacy before January 1, 2025. Will Blue Shield cover it?

Yes. Blue Shield will cover Yesintek and Stelara until December 31, 2025. However, effective January 1, 2026, Blue Shield's preferred drug, Yesintek, will be the formulary SC ustekinumab product and Stelara will be non-formulary.

3. In what strengths and forms is Yesintek available?

Yesintek is available in all the same strengths and dosage forms as Stelara.

- SC injection
 - Prefilled syringes: 45 mg/0.5 mL or 90 mg/mL
 - Single-dose vial: 45 mg/0.5 mL
- Intravenous (IV) injection: Single-dose vial: 130 mg/26 mL (5 mg/mL)

4. Where do I send the new outpatient prescriptions for my Blue Shield patient's home use?

For members currently using Stelara, a new prescription is not needed. Since Yesintek is an interchangeable biosimilar, CVS Specialty Pharmacy will substitute Yesintek for Stelara as authorized. They will provide instructions for administration to your patient along with documentation to you about the change. When renewing prescriptions, however, please order Yesintek to avoid delays.

For members newly starting therapy, please send new e-prescriptions for Yesintek to CVS Specialty Pharmacy. Prescriptions can also be faxed to (800) 323-2445 or called in to (800) 237-2767. You may also visit www.CVSSpecialty.com for more information.

5. What programs are available from the manufacturer of Yesintek to support this transition?

Biocon offers several support programs to assist Blue Shield members. Please visit <https://yesintekhcp.com/treatment-support> for more information.

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