

# Immunosuppressive Medication List

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised at the time of any of their primary series doses receive an extended primary series. The extended primary series equates to the authorized primary series plus one additional dose. The recommended schedule for the extended primary series is listed in the [Nova Scotia COVID-19 Vaccine Program – Information for Health Care Professionals](#) document. Criteria to be considered moderately to severely immunocompromised for the purposes of an extended COVID-19 vaccine primary series is found [here](#).

This Table provides guidance on immunosuppressive therapies that make a patient eligible for an extended primary series of COVID-19 vaccine in Nova Scotia. Individuals receiving one or more of the medications outlined in the table, **for any indication**, are eligible for an extended primary series of COVID-19 vaccine.

<b><u>Treatment Category</u></b>	<b><u>Generic Medication Names</u></b>	<b><u>Brand/Biosimilar Medication Names</u></b>
<b>Anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22)<sup>1</sup></b>	obinutuzumab	Gazyva
	ocrelizumab	Ocrevus
	ofatumumab	Kesimpta
	rituximab	Rituxan, Rituxan SC, Ruxience*, Riabni*, Riximyo*, Truxima*
<b>High-dose systemic corticosteroids <sup>2</sup></b>	prednisone ≥ 20 mg for ≥ 14 days [for pediatric patients, prednisone ≥ 2 mg/kg/day (if weight < 10 kg) for ≥ 14 days]	Winpred, Deltasone
	<u>Steroid Equivalencies for Prednisone 20mg:<sup>3</sup></u>	
	betamethasone 2.4mg	Betnesol
	budesonide 1.5mg	Jorveza, Entocort
	cortisone acetate 100mg	Cortone
	dexamethasone 3mg	Decadron
	hydrocortisone (cortisol) 80mg	Cortef, Solu-Cortef

<b><u>Treatment Category</u></b>	<b><u>Generic Medication Names</u></b>	<b><u>Brand/Biosimilar Medication Names</u></b>
	methylprednisolone 16mg	Solu-Medrol, Depo-Medrol, Medrol
	prednisolone 20mg	
	triamcinolone 16mg	Aristocort
<b>Alkylating agents</b>	busulfan (alkyl sulfonate)	
	chlorambucil (nitrogen mustard)	Leukeran
	cyclophosphamide (nitrogen mustard)	Procytox
	hydroxyurea	Hydrea
	melphalan (nitrogen mustard)	Alkeran
	treosulfan	Trecondvy
<b>Antimetabolites</b>	azathioprine (purine antimetabolite)	Imuran
	cladribine (adenosine analogue)	Mavenclad
	leflunomide (pyrimidine antimetabolite)	Arava
	mercaptopurine (purine analogue)	Purinethol (also called 6-MP)
	methotrexate (folate analogue)	Rheumatrex, Metoject
	teriflunomide (pyrimidine antimetabolite)	Aubagio
<b>Tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors</b>	adalimumab	Humira, Abridada*, Amgevita*, Hadlima*, Hulio*, Hyrimoz*, Idacio*
	certolizumab pegol	Cimzia
	etanercept	Enbrel, Brenzys*, Erelzi*
	golimumab	Simponi
	infliximab	Remicade, Avsola*, Inflectra*, Omyvence*, Remsima SC*, Renflexis*

<u>Treatment Category</u>	<u>Generic Medication Names</u>	<u>Brand/Biosimilar Medication Names</u>
<b>Other Immunosuppressive Biologic Agents</b>		
IL-1 inhibitor	anakinra	Kineret
	canakinumab	Ilaris
IL-6 inhibitor	sarilumab	Kevzara
	siltuximab	Sylvant
	tocilizumab	Actemra
IL-17 inhibitor	brodalumab	Siliq
	ixekizumab	Taltz
	secukinumab	Cosentyx
IL 12/23 inhibitor	ustekinumab	Stelara
IL 23 inhibitor	guselkumab	Tremfya, Tremfya One-Press
	risankizumab	Skyrizi
Anti-integrin	natalizumab	Tysabri
	vedolizumab	Entyvio
<b>Additional Eligible Immunosuppressive Drug Categories</b>		
Anti B-cell	belimumab	Benlysta
Anti-CD52 monoclonal antibody	alemtuzumab	Lemtrada
Calcineurin inhibitor	cyclosporine <sup>3</sup>	Neoral
	tacrolimus <sup>3</sup>	Prograf, Advagraf, Envarsus
Inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase inhibitor	mycophenolate (mycophenolate mofetil, mycophenolic acid)	CellCept, Myfortic
JAK inhibitor	baricitinib	Oluminant
	ruxolitinib	Jakavi

<u>Treatment Category</u>	<u>Generic Medication Names</u>	<u>Brand/Biosimilar Medication Names</u>
	tofacitinib	Xeljanz, Xeljanz XR
	upadacitinib	Rinvoq
mTOR kinase inhibitor	sirolimus	Rapamune
	everolimus	Afinitor, Afinitor Disperz, Certican
Nrf2 pathway activator	dimethyl fumarate	Tecfidera
S1P antagonist	fingolimod	Gilenya
	ozanimod	Zeposia
	siponimod	Mayzent
T-cell co-stimulation modulator	abatacept	Orencia
<p>*Biosimilar product</p> <p><b>1</b> Active treatment for patients receiving B-cell depleting therapy includes patients who have completed treatment within 12 months</p> <p><b>2</b> In patients on lower dose corticosteroids, check to see if they meet criteria in another category (ie: immunocompromised due to solid tumor or hematologic malignancies, receipt of CAR-T, HSCT or solid organ transplant or on another immunosuppressive agent)</p> <p><b>3</b> Only systemic administration qualifies for extended primary series of mRNA vaccine (ie: topical, ophthalmic/otic, and intraarticular administration do not qualify)</p>		