

Expensive Drug Support Scheme (EDSS)

The aim of the Expensive Drug Support Scheme is to make recommendations to pharmaceutical companies to provide discounts to patients who require certain expensive drugs but cannot afford to pay the full cost of these medications. The applicant must be a resident of Hong Kong and must have a diagnosis of any arthritis disease certified by a physician. The Foundation will verify the application based on the applicant's financial condition and needs.

There are 4 medications covered under the scheme:

Adalimumab (Humira®)

Certolizumab (Cimizia®)

Ixekizumab (Taltz®)

Upadacitinib (RINVOQ®)

Who can apply EDSS?

Rheumatic patients who need to use one of the above-mentioned expensive drugs, prescribed under the scheme, in a public hospital and who have received a referral from a specialist can apply.

How to apply EDSS?

The patient must undergo a financial assessment by a Medical Social Worker from the Medical Social Welfare Department in a public hospital after obtaining a referral from their doctor.

Apply Procedure:



1. Obtain a referral letter from a specialist in a public hospital.



2. Undergo a financial assessment by a Medical Social Worker in a public hospital.



3. Approval assessment by Hong Kong Arthritis & Rheumatism Foundation (HKARF).