Trastuzumab

Essential medicine status ✓

ATC codes: L01FD01

Indication	Carcinoma of breast, specialised type ICD11 code: 2C60
INN	Trastuzumab
Medicine type	Biological agent
List type	Complementary
Additional notes	Including quality-assured biosimilars
Formulations	**Parenteral > General injections > IV:** 60 mg in vial powder for injection ; 150 mg in vial powder for injection ; 440 mg in vial powder for injection
EML status history	First added in 2015 (TRS 994) Changed in 2019 (TRS 1021)
Sex	All
Age	Adolescents and adults
Therapeutic alternatives	The recommendation is for this specific medicine
Patent information	Main patents have expired but secondary patents might remain active in some jurisdictions. For more information on specific patents and license status for developing countries visit www.MedsPal.org Read more about patents.
Tags	Cancer Biological
Wikipedia	Trastuzumab
DrugBank	Trastuzumab

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

The Committee noted the correspondence from the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) requesting recognition of biosimilars of rituximab and trastuzumab on the EML. The Committee agreed that quality-assured biosimilars of these monoclonal antibodies represent an opportunity for expanding affordable access to cancer medicines for health systems. To help improve access, the Committee recommended the current listing for intravenous rituximab on the EML should indicate that quality-assured biosimilars of rituximab should also be considered as essential medicines. In addition, the Expert Committee recommended that WHO continue to facilitate access to biosimilars through the Prequalification programme and WHO Collaborative Registration Procedure.