# Actemra (Tocilizumab) – January 2022 Update

As you may know, Actemra (Tocilizumab TCZ) continues to be a favoured therapy in the ICU for treating patients with severe COVID-19. This useage continues to impact the global supply of TCZ. So far in Canada we have experienced limited impact on access for legacy (rheumatology) patients, in part due to your efforts in switching your patients from IV to SC formulation. That said, the increase in global case load of COVID-19 cases continues to put pressure on the supply of this medication.

Roche is experiencing a shortage of the 80mg vial, however they have adequate supplies of TCZ 200mg and 400mg vials, as a replacement. In Canada there is now an anticipated 25% shortage for TCZ 80mg. With current supplies of TCZ 200mg & 400mg vials Roche is able to meet the current legacy patients requirements for TCZ, albeit with a degree of anticipated 'wastage'.

Roche is working with payers, both private and public to ensure that these changes have no impact on patients or prescribers. Many will be aware that Ontario utilizes 70% of the Canadian supply for legacy patients, and in order to simplify these discussions/negotiations, the 200mg & 400mg doses will be used only in Ontario, and rest of Canada will continue to be provided with 80mg vials.  In summary, patients, providers and payers will not be impacted by this this shortage of the 80mg vial, because infusion clinics will have access to the alternative dosage vials and patients will receive their treatments as prescribed at no additional cost to patients (or payers).

We will continue to work with all stakeholders to keep our members informed, so you in turn can continue focusing on delivering excellent care to your patients. In the meantime, please remain vigilant for any disruption in access and report any concerns to info@rheum.ca.