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Subject: Etanercept (Enbrel®) Injection

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DESCRIPTION:

Etanercept (Enbrel) is one of five commercially available tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha inhibitors, not counting biosimilars as separate products, available in the United States, and was first approved in November 1998. Tumor necrosis factor, a proinflammatory cytokine, initiates the body's defense response to local injury by stimulating the production of inflammatory mediators and signaling immune cells. TNF may augment host defense mechanisms when in low concentration, but large amounts of TNF can lead to excessive inflammation and tissue deterioration. In rheumatoid arthritis, activated T-cells migrate into the synovial lining of the joint where TNF is released and joint destruction begins. The intestinal mucosa from patients with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis has been associated with high levels of TNF as compared to healthy individuals; a similar elevation in TNF has been demonstrated in patients with psoriasis.

Etanercept is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of the following conditions: ankylosing spondylitis (2003), polyarticular juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (1999), psoriatic arthritis (2002), chronic plaque psoriasis (2004), and rheumatoid arthritis (1998). In November 2016 the chronic moderate to severe plaque psoriasis indication was expanded to include pediatric patients as young as 4 years of age. In October 2023, the psoriatic arthritis indication was expanded to include pediatric patients as young as 2 years of age, with a new separate indication listing of juvenile psoriatic arthritis (JPsA). In August 2016 the first biosimilar to etanercept, etanercept-szzs (Erelzi), was FDA approved. A second biosimilar, etanercept-ykro (Eticovo), was approved by the FDA in April 2019. Biosimilar launches are not expected until 2029. The TNF-alpha inhibitors as a class are considered to have similar efficacy and safety for the majority of indications. Similar to other TNF-alpha inhibitors, the package labeling contains a Boxed Warning regarding potential increased risk of serious infections (e.g., tuberculosis) and certain malignancies during therapy. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network

(NCCN) guidelines on the Management of Immunotherapy-Related-Toxicities now include all TNF alpha inhibitors as options to be considered for the management of moderate or severe immunotherapy-related inflammatory arthritis if no improvement after holding immunotherapy and treating with oral corticosteroids, or if unable to taper corticosteroids, or no response to conventional synthetic (cs)DMARD. In addition, etanercept is also included as an option for the management of immunotherapy-related Stevens-Johnson syndrome or toxic epidermal necrolysis as additional immunosuppression. The NCCN Table guidelines on Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation include etanercept as an option for acute or chronic graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) as additional therapy in conjunction with systemic corticosteroids following no response (steroid-refractory disease) to first-line therapy options.

RHEUMATOID DISORDERS

Ankylosing spondylitis (AS)

Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a form of chronic inflammatory arthritis characterized by sacroiliitis, enthesitis, and a marked propensity for sacroiliac joint and spinal fusion. AS is distinguished by universal involvement with sacroiliac joint inflammation or fusion and more prevalent spinal ankylosis. Goals of treatment for AS are to reduce symptoms, maintain spinal flexibility and normal posture, reduce functional limitations, maintain work ability, and decrease disease complications. The mainstays of treatment have been NSAIDs and exercise, with the additional use of DMARDs in patients with peripheral arthritis. The American College of Rheumatology (ACR), Spondylitis Association of America (SAA), and Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network (SPARTAN) recommend the following pharmacological treatment for AS:

- Stable AS: First line therapy with on demand NSAIDs; there is also a conditional recommendation for continuation of TNF inhibitor as monotherapy
- Active AS:
    - First line therapy with continuous NSAIDs and physical therapy
    - TNF inhibitor recommended for patients with active AS despite an adequate trial with NSAIDs
        - Lack of response (or intolerance) to at least 2 different NSAIDs over 1 month or incomplete response to at least 2 different NSAIDs over 2 months would be an adequate NSAID trial to judge response
    - Recommendations for nonresponse to TNF therapy (all conditional):
        - Primary nonresponse: switch to secukinumab or ixekizumab over another TNF
        - Secondary nonresponse: switch to another TNF over a non-TNF biologic
        - Recommend against addition of sulfasalazine or MTX
        - Recommend against switching to a biosimilar of the failed TNF
    - TNF-inhibitors are conditionally recommended over secukinumab or ixekizumab
    - Secukinumab or ixekizumab are conditionally recommended over DMARDs in patients that have failed NSAIDs and have contraindications to TNF-inhibitors

- DMARDs (i.e., methotrexate [MTX], sulfasalazine) are only conditionally recommended in patients that have failed NSAIDs and have contraindications to TNF-inhibitors
- Methotrexate is not recommended as add on therapy to TNF inhibitors in stable and active AS
- If patient has concomitant inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) or recurrent uveitis, TNF-inhibitors are recommended over other biologics
- Glucocorticoids are not recommended

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is the most common inflammatory autoimmune arthritis in adults. The main goal of therapy is to achieve remission, but additional goals include decrease inflammation, relieve symptoms, prevent joint and organ damage, improve physical function/overall well-being, and reduce long term complications. The choice of therapy depends on several factors, including the severity of disease activity when therapy is initiated and the response of the patient to prior therapeutic interventions.

American College of Rheumatology (ACR) guidelines list the following guiding principles in the treatment of RA:

- RA requires early evaluation, diagnosis, and management
- Treatment decisions should follow a shared decision-making process
- Treatment decisions should be reevaluated within a minimum of 3 months based on efficacy and tolerability of the DMARD(s) chosen
- Recommendations are limited to DMARDs approved by the US FDA for treatment of RA:
  - csDMARDs: hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, methotrexate (MTX), leflunomide
  - bDMARDs: TNF inhibitors (etanercept, adalimumab, infliximab, golimumab, certolizumab pegol), T cell costimulatory inhibitor (abatacept), IL-6 receptor inhibitors (tocilizumab, sarilumab), anti-CD20 antibody (rituximab)
  - tsDMARDs: JAK inhibitors (tofacitinib, baricitinib, upadacitinib)
- Triple therapy refers to hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, and either methotrexate or leflunomide
- Biosimilars are considered equivalent to FDA-approved originator bDMARDs
- Recommendations referring to bDMARDs exclude rituximab unless patients have had an inadequate response to TNF inhibitors (in order to be consistent with FDA approval) or have a history of lymphoproliferative disorder for which rituximab is an approved therapy
- Treat-to-target refers to a systematic approach involving frequent monitoring of disease activity using validated instruments and modifications of treatment to minimize disease activity with the goal of reaching a predefined target (low disease activity or remission)

ACR guidelines are broken down by previous treatment and disease activity:

- DMARD-naïve patients with moderate-to-high disease activity initial treatment:

    - MTX monotherapy is strongly recommended over hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, bDMARDs monotherapy, tsDMARD monotherapy, or combination of MTX plus a non-TNF bDMARD or tsDMARD
    - MTX monotherapy is conditionally recommended over leflunomide, dual or triple csDMARD therapy, or combination MTX plus a TNF inhibitor
- DMARD-naïve patients with low disease activity initial treatment
    - Hydroxychloroquine is conditionally recommended over other csDMARDs
    - Sulfasalazine is conditionally recommended over MTX
    - MTX is conditionally recommended over leflunomide
- Initial therapy in csDMARD-treated patients, but MTX naïve, with moderate-to high disease activity:
    - MTX monotherapy is conditionally recommended over combination MTX and a bDMARD or tsDMARD
- Treatment Modifications in patients treated with DMARDs who are not at target:
    - Addition of a bDMARD or tsDMARD is conditionally recommended over triple therapy for patients taking maximally tolerated doses of MTX who are not at target
    - Switching to a bDMARD or tsDMARD of a different class is conditionally recommended over switching to a bDMARD or tsDMARD belonging to the same class for patients taking a bDMARD or tsDMARD who are not at target

Early use of DMARD, particularly MTX, is recommended as soon as possible following diagnosis of RA. Dosing of MTX for RA is once weekly dosing with starting doses at 7.5 mg or 15 mg once weekly. MTX dose is increased as tolerated and as needed to control symptoms and signs of RA disease. The usual target dose is at least 15 mg weekly and the usual maximum dose is 25 mg weekly. ACR defines optimal dosing for RA treatments as 1) dosing to achieve a therapeutic target derived from mutual patient-clinician consideration of patient priorities and 2) given for at least 3 months before therapy escalation or switching. For patients who are unable to take MTX, hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, or leflunomide are other DMARD options. In patients resistant to initial MTX treatment, combination DMARD (e.g., MTX plus sulfasalazine or hydroxychloroquine or a TNF-inhibitor) is recommended.

For patients who are resistant to MTX after 3 months of treatment at optimal doses (usually 25 mg per week), it is recommended to either use DMARD triple therapy with MTX plus sulfasalazine and hydroxychloroquine or combination of MTX with TNF inhibitor. Triple therapy regimen has been found to be of similar clinical efficacy to MTX with biologics in several randomized trials, including in patients with high level of disease activity or with adverse prognostic features. The use of triple therapy has been shown to be highly cost-effective compared with combining a biologic with MTX, providing comparable or near comparable clinical benefit. The use of biologic with MTX combination is preferred when patients have high disease activity and clinical benefit from a more rapid response is needed and when patients who do not achieve satisfactory response within 3 months with non-biologic triple therapy following an inadequate response to MTX therapy.

Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (PJIA)

Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is arthritis that begins before the 16th birthday and persists for at least 6 weeks with other known conditions excluded. Polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (PJIA) is a subset of JIA. The ACR defines PJIA as arthritis in more than 4 joints during their disease course and excludes systemic JIA. Treatment goals are aimed at achieving clinically inactive disease and to prevent long-term morbidities, including growth disturbances, joint contractures and destruction, functional limitations, and blindness or visual impairment from chronic uveitis.

The ACR 2019 guidelines recommend the following treatment approach for PJIA:

- NSAIDs are conditionally recommended as adjunct therapy
- DMARD therapy:
    - Methotrexate (MTX) is conditionally recommended over leflunomide and sulfasalazine
    - Subcutaneous MTX is conditionally recommended over oral MTX
- Intraarticular glucocorticoids are conditionally recommended as adjunct therapy and conditionally recommended for bridging only in patients with moderate to high disease activity
- Strongly recommend against chronic low-dose glucocorticoid use, irrespective of disease activity and/or risk factors
- Strongly recommend combination use of a DMARD and infliximab
- Initial therapy for all patients:
    - DMARD is strongly recommended over NSAID monotherapy
    - MTX monotherapy is conditionally recommended over triple DMARD therapy
    - DMARD is conditionally recommended over a biologic
    - Initial biologic therapy may be considered for patients with risk factors and involvement of high-risk joints (e.g., cervical spine, wrist, hip), high disease activity, and/or those judged by their physician to be at high risk of disabling joint damage
- Subsequent therapy:
    - Low disease activity:
        - Escalating therapy (e.g., intraarticular glucocorticoid injections, optimization of DMARD dose, trial of MTX if not already done, and adding or changing biologic agent)
    - Moderate to high disease activity:
        - Add a biologic to original DMARD over changing to a second DMARD or changing to triple DMARD therapy
        - Switch to a non-TNF biologic if currently treated with first TNF ± DMARD over switching to another TNF (unless the patient had good initial response to first TNF)
        - TNF, abatacept, or tocilizumab (depending on prior biologics received) over rituximab after trial of second biologic

Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA)

Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic inflammatory musculoskeletal disease associated with psoriasis, most commonly presenting with peripheral arthritis, dactylitis, enthesitis, and spondylitis. Treatment involves the use of a variety of interventions, including many agents used for the treatment of other inflammatory arthritis, particularly spondyloarthritis and RA, and other management strategies of the cutaneous manifestations of psoriasis.

The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) recommends initiating MTX in most patients with moderate to severe PsA. After 12 to 16 weeks of MTX therapy with appropriate dose escalation, the AAD recommends adding or switching to a TNF inhibitor if there is minimal improvement on MTX monotherapy.

The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and the National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) guidelines for PsA recommend a treat-to-target approach in therapy, regardless of disease activity, and the following:

- Active PsA is defined as symptoms at an unacceptably bothersome level as reported by the patient and health care provider to be due to PsA based on the presence of one of the following:
    - Actively inflamed joints
    - Dactylitis
    - Enthesitis
    - Axial disease
    - Active skin and/or nail involvement
    - Extraarticular manifestations such as uveitis or inflammatory bowel disease
- Disease severity includes level of disease activity at a given time point and the presence/absence of poor prognostic factors and long-term damage
- Severe PsA disease includes the presence of 1 or more of the following:
    - Erosive disease
    - Elevated markers of inflammation (ESR, CRP) attributable to PsA
    - Long-term damage that interferes with function (i.e., joint deformities)
    - Highly active disease that causes a major impairment in quality of life
    - Active PsA at many sites including dactylitis, enthesitis
    - Function limiting PsA at a few sites
    - Rapidly progressive disease
- Symptomatic treatments include nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), glucocorticoids, local glucocorticoid injections
- Treatment recommendations for active disease:
    - Treatment naïve patients first line options include oral small molecules (OSM), TNF biologics, IL-17 inhibitor, and IL-12/23 inhibitor
        - OSM (i.e., methotrexate [MTX], sulfasalazine, cyclosporine, leflunomide, apremilast) should be considered if the patient does not have severe PsA, does not have severe psoriasis,

prefers oral therapy, has concern over starting a biologic, or has contraindications to TNF inhibitor

- Biologics (i.e., TNF biologic, IL-17 inhibitor, IL-12/23 inhibitor) are recommended as a first line option in patients with severe PsA and/or severe psoriasis

- Previous treatment with OSM and continued active disease:
  - Switch to a different OSM (except apremilast) in patients without severe PsA or severe PS, contraindications to TNF biologics, prefers oral therapy OR add on apremilast to current OSM therapy
  - May add another OSM (except apremilast) to current OSM therapy for patients that have exhibited partial response to current OSM in patients without severe PsA or severe PS, contraindications to TNF biologics, or prefers oral therapy
  - Biologic (i.e., TNF biologic, IL-17 inhibitor, IL-12/23 inhibitor) monotherapy
- Previous treatment with a biologic (i.e., TNF biologic, IL-17 inhibitor, IL-12/23 inhibitor) and continued active disease:
  - Switch to another biologic (i.e., TNF biologic, IL-17 inhibitor, IL-12/23 inhibitor, abatacept, or tofacitinib) monotherapy or add MTX to the current TNF biologic

Juvenile Psoriatic Arthritis (JPsA)

Juvenile psoriatic arthritis (JPsA) is a relatively rare condition in childhood and represents approximately 5% of the whole JIA populations. JPsA is defined by the association of arthritis and psoriasis or, in the absence of typical psoriatic lesions, with at least two of the following:

- Dactylitis
- Nail Pitting
- Onycholysis
- Family history of psoriasis in a first-degree relative.

Recent studies however have shown that this classification system could conceal more homogeneous subgroups of patients differing by age of onset, clinical characteristics, and prognosis. Little is known about genetic factors and pathogenetic mechanisms which distinguish JPsA from other JIA subtypes or from isolated psoriasis without joint involvement, especially in the pediatric population.

Psoriatic arthritis of adulthood is a well-defined, although phenotypically heterogeneous, clinical condition. In the majority of cases, it is characterized by the onset of arthritis in patients with pre-existing psoriasis. An opposite scenario is seen in children: arthritis complicates only 2% of pediatrics psoriasis, whereas in JPsA skin disease typically occurs up to 10 years after the development of arthritis, making JPsA diagnosis often challenging. JPsA can be differentiated from adult PsA by several factors as follows:

Clinical feature	**Adult PsA**	**JPsA**
Timing of psoriasis and arthritis onset	Psoriasis prior to arthritis	Arthritis prior to psoriasis
Oligoarticular peripheral arthritis	20%-55%	45%-55%

Polyarticular peripheral arthritis	20%-60%	33%-55%
Oligo-Extended peripheral arthritis	NA	15%-38%
Axial arthritis	7%-40%	10%-30%
Radiological damage	47%	25%
Enthesitis	30%-50%	12%-45%
Dactylitis	40%-50%	17%-37%
Nail involvement	41%-93%	37%-57%
Uveitis	8%	8%-13%
Human Leukocyte antigen (HLA)-B27	40%-50%	10%-25%
Antinuclear antibodies (ANA)	16%	40%-46%

Psoriasis occurs in 40%-60% of patients with JPsA, usually the classic vulgaris form, although guttate psoriasis is also observed. Psoriasis in children tends to be subtle with thin, soft plaques that may be similar to atopic eczema. Onychopathy is reported in more than half of patients with JPsA, compared with 30% in childhood psoriasis in general. Onycholysis may also be observed but is much less common than in adults.

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and oral glucocorticoids, as well as intra-articular glucocorticoids, are indicated as initial steps for symptom relief and bridge therapies. Disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) represent the mainstay second line treatment of children with polyarthritis. The most used is methotrexate which is recommended over leflunomide or sulfasalazine. Biologic agents should be considered in case of DMARDs failure or intolerance, presence of risk factors, or high disease activities.

DERMATOLOGICAL DISORDERS

Psoriasis (PS)

Psoriasis (PS) is a chronic inflammatory skin condition that is often associated with systemic manifestations, especially arthritis. Diagnosis is usually clinical, based on the presence of typical erythematous scaly patches, papules, and plaques that are often pruritic and sometimes painful. Treatment goals for psoriasis include improvement of skin, nail, and joint lesions plus enhanced quality of life.

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) categorizes psoriasis severity into mild to moderate (less than 5% of body surface area [BSA]) and moderate to severe (5% or more of BSA). The AAFP psoriasis treatment guidelines recommend basing treatment on disease severity:

- Mild to moderate (less than 5% of BSA and sparing the genitals, hands, feet, and face):
    - Candidate for intermittent therapy: topical corticosteroids, vitamin D analogs (calcipotriene and calcitriol), or tazarotene (Tazorac)
    - Candidate for continuous therapy: calcineurin inhibitors (tacrolimus and pimecrolimus)
- Severe (5% or more of BSA or involving the genitals, hands, feet, and face):

- Less than 20% of BSA affected: vitamin D analogs (calcipotriene and calcitriol) with or without phototherapy. These agents have a slower onset of action but a longer disease-free interval than topical corticosteroids
- 20% or more of BSA affected: systemic therapy with MTX, cyclosporine, acitretin, or biologics. Biologics are recommended for those with concomitant PsA

- Less commonly used topical therapies include non-medicated moisturizers, salicylic acid, coal tar, and anthralin

The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) and National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) categorize psoriasis severity as limited or mild (less than 3% of BSA), moderate (3% to 10% of BSA), or severe (greater than 10% of BSA). The AAD/NPF guidelines also note that psoriasis can be considered severe irrespective of BSA when it occurs in select locations (e.g., hands, feet, scalp, face, or genital area) or when it causes intractable pruritus. The AAD psoriasis treatment guidelines recommend the following:

- Mild to moderate disease (less than 5% of BSA):
  - Topical corticosteroids (strength of recommendation A)
  - Off-label use of 0.1% tacrolimus for psoriasis involving the face as well as inverse psoriasis (strength of recommendation B)
  - Long-term use (up to 52 weeks) of topical vitamin D analogs including calcipotriene, calcitriol, tacalcitol, and maxacalcitol (strength of recommendation A)
  - Use of calcipotriene foam and calcipotriene plus betamethasone dipropionate gel for the treatment of mild to moderate scalp psoriasis (strength of recommendation A)
  - Use of tacalcitol ointment or calcipotriene combined with hydrocortisone for facial psoriasis (strength of recommendation B)
  - Vitamin D analogs in combination with topical corticosteroids (strength of recommendation A)
  - Topical tazarotene alone or in combination with narrowband ultraviolet B (NB-UVB) (strength of recommendation B), or topical corticosteroids (strength of recommendation A)
  - Topical salicylic acid alone or in combination with topical corticosteroids (strength of recommendation B)
  - Coal tar preparations (strength of evidence A)
- Moderate to severe disease without PsA (5% or more of BSA or psoriasis in vulnerable areas [e.g., face, genitals, hands, and feet] that adversely affects quality of life):
  - Methotrexate (adults) (strength of evidence A)
  - Methotrexate is less effective than TNF-inhibitors (strength of evidence B)
  - Combination therapy with methotrexate and NB-UVB (adult patients) (strength of evidence B)
  - Cyclosporine for patients with severe, recalcitrant (strength of recommendation A), erythrodermic, generalized pustular, and/or palmoplantar psoriasis (strength of recommendation B)
  - Acitretin as monotherapy or in combination with psoralen plus ultraviolet light (PUVA) or broad band ultraviolet light (BB-UVA [strength of evidence B])

- If UV-therapy is unavailable, first line therapies include MTX, cyclosporine, acitretin, and biologics
- Apremilast (strength of recommendation A)
- TNF-α inhibiters monotherapy (strength of evidence A) or in combination with topical corticosteroids with or without a vitamin D analogue (strength of evidence B) or in combination with acitretin (strength of evidence C)
- TNF-α inhibitors should be considered as a preferred treatment option for patients with concomitant PsA
- Infliximab (strength of evidence A)
- IL-12/IL-23 Inhibitors monotherapy (strength of evidence A) or in combination with topical corticosteroids with or without a vitamin D analogue (strength of evidence C) or in combination with acitretin or methotrexate (strength of evidence B)
- IL-12/IL-23 inhibitors in combination with apremilast or cyclosporine (strength of evidence C)
- IL-17 inhibitors monotherapy (strength of evidence A)
- IL-23 inhibitors monotherapy for moderate to severe plaque psoriasis or as monotherapy for generalized pustular psoriasis (strength of evidence B)

*Strength of recommendation and descriptions

Strength of recommendation	Description
A	Recommendation based on consistent and good-quality patient-oriented evidence
B	Recommendation based on inconsistent or limited-quantity patient-oriented evidence
C	Recommendation based on consensus, opinion, case studies, or disease-oriented evidence

Biologics are routinely used when one or more traditional systemic agents fail to produce adequate response, but are considered first line in patients with moderate to severe psoriasis with concomitant severe PsA. Primary failure is defined as initial nonresponse to treatment. Primary failure to a TNF-α inhibitor does not preclude successful response to a different TNF-α inhibitor. Failure of another biologic therapy does not preclude successful response to ustekinumab.

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) medical board recommend a treat-to-target approach to therapy for psoriasis that include the following:

- The preferred assessment instrument for determining disease severity is BSA
- Target response after treatment initiation should be BSA ≤1% after 3 months
- Acceptable response is either a BSA ≤3% or a BSA improvement ≥75% from baseline at 3 months after treatment initiation

POSITION STATEMENT:

Comparative Effectiveness

The Food and Drug Administration has deemed the drug(s) or biological product(s) in this coverage policy to be appropriate for self-administration or administration by a caregiver (i.e., not a healthcare professional). Therefore, coverage (i.e., administration) in a provider-administered setting such as an outpatient hospital, ambulatory surgical suite, physician office, or emergency facility is not considered medically necessary.

NOTE: The list of self-administered products with prerequisites for certain indications can be found at Preferred Agents and Drug List.

Initiation of etanercept (Enbrel) **meets the definition of medical necessity** when **ALL** of the following are met ("1" to "5"):

1. **ONE** of the following ("a", "b", or "c"):
    a. The member has been treated with etanercept (starting on samples is not approvable) within the past 90 days
    b. The prescriber states the member has been treated with etanercept (starting on samples is not approvable) within the past 90 days **AND** is at risk if therapy is changed
    c. **BOTH** of the following ('i" and "ii"):
        i. Etanercept will be used for the treatment of an indication listed in Table 1, and **ALL** of the indication-specific criteria are met
        ii. **EITHER** of the following if the member has an FDA-approved indication ("I" or "II")
            I. The member's age is within FDA labeling for the requested indication for etanercept
            II. The prescriber has provided information in support of using etanercept for the member's age for the requested indication
2. The prescriber is a specialist in the area of the member's diagnosis (e.g., rheumatologist for JIA, PsA, JPsA, RA; dermatologist for PS) or the prescriber has consulted with a specialist in the area of the member's diagnosis
3. Member does **NOT** have any FDA labeled contraindications to etanercept
4. Member will **NOT** be using etanercept in combination with another biologic immunomodulator agent (full list in "Other" section); Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor [Cibinqo (abrocitinib), Leqselvi (deuruxolitinib), Litfulo (ritlecitinib), Olumiant (baricitinib), Opzelura (ruxolitinib), Olumiant (baricitinib), Rinvoq (upadacitinib), Xeljanz (tofacitinib), and Xeljanz XR (tofacitinib extended release)]; Otezla (apremilast); Sotyktu (deucravacitinib); or sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) modulator [Velsipity (etrasimod) and Zeposia (ozanimod)]
5. **ANY** of the following ("a", "b", "c", or "d"):
    a. The dosage does not exceed:
        - Loading dose - 50 mg twice weekly for 3 months [for adult (≥18 years old) PS only]
        - Maintenance dose – 50 mg weekly
            - QL: 25 mg/0.5 mL single-use vial - 8 vials (4 mL)/28 days
            - QL: 25 mg multiple-dose vial kit - 8 vials/28 days

- QL: 50 mg/mL SureClick autoinjector - 4 pens (4 mL)/28 days
- QL: 50 mg/mL cartridge - 4 cartridges (4 mL)/28 days
- QL: 25 mg/0.5 mL syringe - 4 syringes (2.04) mL)/28 days
- QL: 50 mg/mL syringe - 4 syringes (4 mL)/28 days

b. The member has an FDA labeled indication for the requested agent, **AND EITHER** of the following ("i" or "ii"):
   i. The requested quantity (dose) does **NOT** exceed the maximum FDA labeled dose for the requested indication, **AND** the requested quantity (dose) cannot be achieved with a lower quantity of a higher strength and/or package size that does not exceed the program quantity limit
   ii. **ALL** of the following ("1", "2", and "3"):
      1. The requested quantity (dose) exceeds the FDA maximum labeled dose for the requested indication
      2. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to at least a 3-month trial of the maximum FDA labeled dose for the requested indication (medical records required)
      3. **EITHER** of the following ("a" or "b"):
         a. The requested quantity (dose) does **NOT** exceed the maximum compendia supported dose for the requested indication, AND the requested quantity (dose) cannot be achieved with a lower quantity of a higher strength/and or package size that does not exceed the program quantity limit
         b. The requested quantity (dose) exceeds the maximum FDA labeled dose **AND** the maximum compendia supported dose for the requested indication, AND there is support for therapy with a higher dose or shortened dosing interval for the requested indication (submitted copy of clinical trials, phase III studies, guidelines required)

c. The member has a compendia supported indication for the requested agent, **AND EITHER** of the following ("i" or "ii"):
   i. The requested quantity (dose) does **NOT** exceed the maximum compendia supported dose for the requested indication, AND the requested quantity (dose) cannot be achieved with a lower quantity of a higher strength/and or package size that does not exceed the program quantity limit
   ii. The requested quantity (dose) exceeds the maximum compendia supported dose for the requested indication, **AND** there is support for therapy with a higher dose or shortened dosing interval for the requested indication (submitted copy of clinical trials, phase III studies, guidelines required)

d. The member does NOT have an FDA labeled indication **NOR** a compendia supported indication for the requested agent, **AND BOTH** of the following ("i" and "ii"):
   i. The requested quantity (dose) cannot be achieved with a lower quantity of a higher strength and/or package size that does not exceed the program quantity limit
   ii. There is support for therapy with a higher dose or shortened dosing interval for the requested indication (submitted copy of clinical trials, phase III studies, guidelines required)

Compendia Allowed: AHFS, DrugDex 1 or 2a level of evidence, or NCCN 1 or 2a recommended use

Approval duration: 12 months [for adult PS only, loading dose for 3 months then maintenance dose for 9 months (12 months for total approval duration)]

Table 1

Diagnosis	Criteria
Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	**ONE** of the following: 1. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to maximally tolerated methotrexate (e.g., titrated to 25 mg weekly) after at least a 3-month duration of therapy **OR** 2. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to another conventional agent (i.e., hydroxychloroquine, leflunomide, sulfasalazine) used in the treatment of RA after at least a 3-month duration of therapy **OR** 3. The member has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to **ONE** of the following conventional agents (i.e., maximally tolerated methotrexate, hydroxychloroquine, leflunomide, sulfasalazine) used in the treatment of RA **OR** 4. The member has an FDA labeled contraindication to **ALL** of the following conventional agents (i.e., methotrexate, hydroxychloroquine, leflunomide, sulfasalazine) used in the treatment of RA **OR** 5. The member's medication history indicates use of another biologic immunomodulator agent that is FDA labeled or supported in DrugDex with 1 or 2a level of evidence or AHFS for the treatment of RA
Active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)	**ONE** of the following: 1. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to **ONE** conventional agent (i.e., cyclosporine, leflunomide, methotrexate, sulfasalazine) used in the treatment of PsA after at least a 3-month duration of therapy **OR** 2. The member has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to **ONE** of the conventional agents used in the treatment of PsA **OR** 3. The member has an FDA labeled contraindication to **ALL** of the conventional agents used in the treatment of PsA **OR**

	4. The member has severe active PsA (e.g., erosive disease, elevated markers of inflammation [e.g., ESR, CRP] attributable to PsA, long-term damage that interferes with function [i.e., joint deformities], rapidly progressive) **OR** 5. The member has concomitant severe psoriasis (PS) (e.g., greater than 10% body surface area involvement, occurring on select locations [i.e., hands, feet, scalp, face, or genitals], intractable pruritus, serious emotional consequences) **OR** 6. The member's medication history indicates use of another biologic immunomodulator agent **OR** Otezla that is FDA labeled or supported in DrugDex with 1 or 2a level of evidence or AHFS for the treatment of PsA
Moderate to severe plaque psoriasis (PS)	**ONE** of the following: 1. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to **ONE** conventional agent (i.e., acitretin, anthralin, calcipotriene, calcitriol, coal tar products, cyclosporine, methotrexate, pimecrolimus, PUVA [phototherapy], tacrolimus, tazarotene, topical corticosteroids) used in the treatment of PS after at least a 3-month duration of therapy **OR** 2. The member has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to **ONE** conventional agent used in the treatment of PS **OR** 3. The member has an FDA labeled contraindication to **ALL** conventional agents used in the treatment of PS **OR** 4. The member has severe active PS (e.g., greater than 10% body surface area involvement, occurring on select locations [i.e., hands, feet, scalp, face, or genitals], intractable pruritus, serious emotional consequences) **OR** 5. The member has concomitant severe psoriatic arthritis (PsA) (e.g., erosive disease, elevated markers of inflammation [e.g., ESR, CRP] attributable to PsA, long-term damage that interferes with function [i.e., joint deformities], rapidly progressive) **OR**

	6. The member's medication history indicates use of another biologic immunomodulator agent **OR** Otezla that is FDA labeled or supported in DrugDex with 1 or 2a level of evidence or AHFS for the treatment of PS
Active ankylosing spondylitis (AS)	**ONE** of the following: 1. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to **TWO** different NSAIDs used in the treatment of AS after at least a 4-week total trial **OR** 2. The member has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to **TWO** different NSAIDs used in the treatment of AS **OR** 3. The member has an FDA labeled contraindication to **ALL** NSAIDs used in the treatment of AS **OR** 4. The member's medication history indicates use of another biologic immunomodulator agent that is FDA labeled or supported in DrugDex with 1 or 2a level of evidence or AHFS for the treatment of AS
Moderately to severely active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (PJIA)	**ONE** of the following: 1. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to **ONE** conventional agent (i.e., methotrexate, leflunomide) used in the treatment of PJIA after at least a 3-month duration of therapy **OR** 2. The member has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to **ONE** conventional agent used in the treatment of PJIA **OR** 3. The member has an FDA labeled contraindication to **ALL** of the conventional agents used in the treatment of PJIA **OR** 4. The member's medication history indicates use of another biologic immunomodulator agent that is FDA labeled or supported in DrugDex with 1 or 2a level of evidence or AHFS for the treatment of PJIA
Juvenile psoriatic arthritis (JPsA)	**ONE** of the following: 1. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to **ONE** conventional agent (i.e., methotrexate, leflunomide, sulfasalazine) used in the treatment of JPsA after at least a 3-month duration of therapy

	OR 2. The member has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to **ONE** conventional agent used in the treatment of JPsA **OR** 3. The member has an FDA labeled contraindication to methotrexate **OR** 4. The member has severe active JPsA (e.g., erosive disease, elevated markers of inflammation [e.g., ESR, CRP] attributable to JPsA, long-term damage that interferes with function [i.e., joint deformities], rapidly progressive) **OR** 5. The member has concomitant severe psoriasis (PS) (e.g., greater than 10% body surface area involvement, occurring on select locations [i.e., hands, feet, scalp, face, or genitals], intractable pruritus, serious emotional consequences) **OR** 6. The member medication history indicates use of another biologic immunomodulator agent that is FDA labeled or supported in in DrugDex with 1 or 2a level of evidence or AHFS for the treatment of JPsA
Other indications	The member has another FDA labeled indication or an indication supported in DrugDex with 1 or 2a level of evidence, AHFS, or NCCN compendium recommended use 1 or 2a

Continuation of etanercept (Enbrel) **meets the definition of medical necessity** when **ALL** of the following are met ("1" to "6"):

1. An authorization or reauthorization for etanercept has been previously approved by Florida Blue [Note: members not previously approved for the requested agent will require initial evaluation review]
2. Member has had clinical benefit with etanercept therapy
3. The prescriber is a specialist in the area of the member's diagnosis (e.g., rheumatologist for JIA, PsA, JPsA, RA; dermatologist for PS) or the prescriber has consulted with a specialist in the area of the member's diagnosis
4. Member does **NOT** have any FDA labeled contraindications to etanercept
5. Member will **NOT** be using etanercept in combination with another biologic immunomodulator agent (full list in "Other" section); Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor [Cibinqo (abrocitinib), Leqselvi (deuruxolitinib), Litfulo (ritlecitinib), Olumiant (baricitinib), Opzelura (ruxolitinib), Olumiant (baricitinib), Rinvoq (upadacitinib), Xeljanz (tofacitinib), and Xeljanz XR (tofacitinib extended

release)]; Otezla (apremilast); Sotyktu (deucravacitinib); or sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) modulator [Velsipity (etrasimod) and Zeposia (ozanimod)]

6. **ANY** of the following ("a", "b", "c", or "d"):
    a. The dosage does not exceed 50 mg weekly
        - QL: 25 mg/0.5 mL single-use vial - 8 vials (4 mL)/28 days
        - QL: 25 mg multiple-dose vial kit - 8 vials/28 days
        - QL: 50 mg/mL SureClick autoinjector - 4 pens (4 mL)/28 days
        - QL: 50 mg/mL cartridge - 4 cartridges (4 mL)/28 days
        - QL: 25 mg/0.5 mL syringe - 4 syringes (2.04) mL)/28 days
        - QL: 50 mg/mL syringe - 4 syringes (4 mL)/28 days
    b. The member has an FDA labeled indication for the requested agent, **AND EITHER** of the following ("i" or "ii"):
        i. The requested quantity (dose) does **NOT** exceed the maximum FDA labeled dose for the requested indication, **AND** the requested quantity (dose) cannot be achieved with a lower quantity of a higher strength and/or package size that does not exceed the program quantity limit
        ii. **ALL** of the following ("1", "2", and "3"):
            1. The requested quantity (dose) exceeds the FDA maximum labeled dose for the requested indication
            2. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to at least a 3-month trial of the maximum FDA labeled dose for the requested indication (medical records required)
            3. **EITHER** of the following ("a" or "b"):
                a. The requested quantity (dose) does **NOT** exceed the maximum compendia supported dose for the requested indication, **AND** the requested quantity (dose) cannot be achieved with a lower quantity of a higher strength/and or package size that does not exceed the program quantity limit
                b. The requested quantity (dose) exceeds the maximum FDA labeled dose **AND** the maximum compendia supported dose for the requested indication, **AND** there is support for therapy with a higher dose or shortened dosing interval for the requested indication (submitted copy of clinical trials, phase III studies, guidelines required)
    c. The member has a compendia supported indication for the requested agent, **AND EITHER** of the following ("i" or "ii"):
        i. The requested quantity (dose) does **NOT** exceed the maximum compendia supported dose for the requested indication, **AND** the requested quantity (dose) cannot be achieved with a lower quantity of a higher strength/and or package size that does not exceed the program quantity limit
        ii. The requested quantity (dose) exceeds the maximum compendia supported dose for the requested indication, **AND** there is support for therapy with a higher dose or shortened dosing interval for the requested indication (submitted copy of clinical trials, phase III studies, guidelines required)
    d. The member does **NOT** have an FDA labeled indication **NOR** a compendia supported indication for the requested agent, **AND BOTH** of the following ("i" and "ii"):

i. The requested quantity (dose) cannot be achieved with a lower quantity of a higher strength and/or package size that does not exceed the program quantity limit

ii. There is support for therapy with a higher dose or shortened dosing interval for the requested indication (submitted copy of clinical trials, phase III studies, guidelines required)

Compendia Allowed: AHFS, DrugDex 1 or 2a level of evidence, or NCCN 1 or 2a recommended use

Approval duration: 12 months

DOSAGE/ADMINISTRATION:

THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A SOURCE FOR MAKING PRESCRIBING OR OTHER MEDICAL DETERMINATIONS. PROVIDERS SHOULD REFER TO THE MANUFACTURER'S FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION FOR DOSAGE GUIDELINES AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS MEDICATION BEFORE MAKING ANY CLINICAL DECISIONS REGARDING ITS USAGE.

Table 2:

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">FDA-approved indications and recommended dosing</th></tr>
<tr><th>Indication</th><th>Dosage</th></tr>
<tr><td>Plaque Psoriasis (adult, ≥18 years old)</td><td>• First 3 months: 50 mg twice weekly (given 3 to 4 days apart)
• • After 3 months: 50 mg once weekly</td></tr>
<tr><td>Plaque Psoriasis (pediatric, 4 to 17 years old)</td><td rowspan="3">• Less than 63 kg (138 lbs.): 0.8 mg/kg per week
• • 63 kg or more: 50 mg once weekly</td></tr>
<tr><td>Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (PJIA) (2 years and older)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Juvenile psoriatic arthritis (JPsA) (pediatric, 2 to 17 years old)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ankylosing Spondylitis</td><td rowspan="3">• 50 mg once weekly</td></tr>
<tr><td>Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) (adult, ≥18 years old)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)</td></tr>
</table>

Methotrexate, glucocorticoids, NSAIDs, or analgesics may be continued during treatment with etanercept.

Dose Adjustments: dosage adjustments are not required for members with hepatic or renal impairment.

Drug Availability:

Etanercept is supplied in the following dosage forms and strengths:

- 50 mg/mL single-use prefilled syringe
- 50 mg/mL single-use prefilled SureClick Autoinjector
- 50 mg/mL Enbrel Mini single-dose prefilled cartridge (used in the AutoTouch Reusable Autoinjector)

- 25 mg/0.5 mL single-use prefilled syringe
- 25 mg/0.5 mL single-use vial
- 25 mg multiple-use vial (lyophilized powder for reconstitution)

Store refrigerated at 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). **DO NOT SHAKE**. Store in the original carton to protect from light or physical damage. For convenience, storage of an individual dose tray containing Enbrel multi-use vial and diluent syringe at room temperature at 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C) for a maximum single period of 14 days is permissible, with protection from light, sources of heat, and humidity.

PRECAUTIONS:

Boxed Warning

- **Infections:** tuberculosis (TB), invasive fungal, and other opportunistic infections, some fatal, have occurred. Perform test for latent TB; if positive, start treatment for TB prior to starting therapy. Monitor all patients for active TB, even if initial tuberculin skin test is negative.
- **Malignancy:** lymphoma and other malignancies, some fatal have been reported in children and adolescent individuals treated with TNF blockers including etanercept.

Contraindications

- Enbrel is contraindicated in members with sepsis.

Precautions/Warnings

- **Serious Infections:** etanercept should not be initiated in members during an active infection. If an infection develops, monitor carefully, and discontinue etanercept if infection becomes serious.
- **Invasive fungal infections:** If a member develops a systemic infection while on etanercept therapy, consider empiric antifungal therapy for those who reside or travel to regions where mycoses are endemic
- **Anaphylaxis:** anaphylaxis or serious allergic reactions may occur.
- **Hepatitis B virus reactivation:** members who are HBV caries should be monitored during and several months after therapy. If reactivation occurs during therapy, discontinue etanercept and initiate anti-viral therapy.
- **Demyelinating disease:** exacerbation of new onset may occur
- **Cytopenia, pancytopenia:** advise members to seek immediate medical attention if symptoms develop and consider discontinuing etanercept.
- **Heart failure:** worsening or new onset heart failure may occur.
- **Lupus-like syndrome/Autoimmune hepatitis:** discontinue etanercept if either syndrome develops.
- **Drug Interactions:** avoid concomitant use with abatacept (Orencia®) and anakinra (Kineret®), due to increased risk of serious infection.
- **Live vaccines:** Avoid administration of live vaccines (e.g., varicella and MMR) in members taking etanercept.

- **Pregnancy and Lactation**
  - Etanercept is classified as pregnancy category B. Developmental toxicity studies performed in animals have revealed no evidence of harm to the fetus. Use during pregnancy should occur only if clearly needed.
  - Because many immunoglobulins are secreted in milk and the potential for serious adverse reactions exists, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

BILLING/CODING INFORMATION:

The following codes may be used to report Etanercept (Enbrel®).

HCPCS Coding:

J1438	injection, etanercept, 25 mg

ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes That Support Medical Necessity:

D89.810	Acute graft-versus-host disease
D89.811	Chronic graft-versus-host disease
D89.812	Acute on chronic graft-versus-host disease
D89.813	Graft-versus-host disease, unspecified
L40.0	Psoriasis vulgaris
L40.50 – L40.59	Arthropathic psoriasis
L51.1	Stevens-Johnson syndrome [for immunotherapy-related adverse effect ONLY]
L52.2	Toxic epidermal necrolysis [Lyell] [for immunotherapy-related adverse effect ONLY]
L73.2	Hidradenitis suppurativa
M05.00 – M05.09	Felty's syndrome
M05.10 – M05.19	Rheumatoid lung disease with rheumatoid arthritis
M05.20 – M05.29	Rheumatoid vasculitis with rheumatoid arthritis
M05.30 – M05.39	Rheumatoid heart disease with rheumatoid arthritis
M05.40 – M05.49	Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis
M05.50 – M05.59	Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with rheumatoid arthritis
M05.60 – M05.69	Rheumatoid arthritis with involvement of other organs and systems
M05.70 – M05.79	Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor without organ or systems involvement
M05.80 – M05.89	Other rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor
M05.9	Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor, unspecified
M06.00 – M06.09	Rheumatoid arthritis without rheumatoid factor
M06.20 – M06.29	Rheumatoid bursitis
M06.30 – M06.39	Rheumatoid nodule
M06.4	Inflammatory polyarthropathy [for immunotherapy-related inflammatory arthritis ONLY]
M06.80 – M06.89	Other specified rheumatoid arthritis

M06.9	Rheumatoid arthritis, unspecified
M08.09	Unspecified Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sites
M08.1	Juvenile ankylosing spondylitis
M08.3	Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (seronegative)
M08.89	Other juvenile arthritis, multiple sites
M 45.0 – M45.9	Ankylosing spondylitis
M46.81 – M46.89	Other specified inflammatory spondylopathies

REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION:

Refer to section entitled **POSITION STATEMENT**.

PROGRAM EXCEPTIONS:

Federal Employee Program (FEP): Follow FEP guidelines.

State Account Organization (SAO): Follow SAO guidelines.

Medicare Advantage Products: No National Coverage Determination (NCD) and/or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) were found at the time of the last guideline review date.

Medicare Part D: Florida Blue has delegated to Prime Therapeutics authority to make coverage determinations for the Medicare Part D services referenced in this guideline.

DEFINITIONS:

DMARDs: An acronym for disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs. These are drugs that modify the rheumatic disease processes, and slow or inhibit structural damage to cartilage and bone. These drugs are unlike symptomatic treatments such as NSAIDs that do not alter disease progression. DMARDs can be further subcategorized. With the release of biologic agents (e.g., anti-TNF drugs), DMARDs were divided into either: (1) conventional, traditional, synthetic, or non-biological DMARDs; or as (2) biological DMARDs. However, with the release of newer targeted non-biologic drugs and biosimilars, DMARDs are now best categorized as: (1) conventional synthetic DMARDs (csDMARD) (e.g., MTX, sulfasalazine), (2) targeted synthetic DMARDs (tsDMARD) (e.g., tofacitinib, apremilast), and (3) biological DMARDs (bDMARD), which can be either a biosimilar DMARD (bsDMARD) or biological originator DMARD (boDMARD).

Plaque psoriasis: It is the most common form of psoriasis. It affects 80 to 90% of people with psoriasis. Plaque psoriasis typically appears as raised areas of inflamed skin covered with silvery white scaly skin. These areas are called plaques.

Psoriatic arthritis (PsA): joint inflammation that occurs in about 5% to 10% of people with psoriasis (a common skin disorder). It is a severe form of arthritis accompanied by inflammation, psoriasis of the skin or nails, and a negative test for rheumatoid factor. Enthesitis refers to inflammation of entheses, the site where ligaments or tendons insert into the bones. It is a distinctive feature of PsA and does not occur with other forms of arthritis. Common locations for enthesitis include the bottoms of the feet, the Achilles' tendons, and the places where ligaments attach to the ribs, spine, and pelvis.

Rheumatoid arthritis: An inflammatory disease of the synovium, or lining of the joint which results in pain, stiffness, and swelling of multiple joints. The inflammation may extend to other joints and cause bone and cartilage erosion, joint deformities, movement problems, and activity limitations**.**

RELATED GUIDELINES:

Abatacept (Orencia), 09-J0000-67
Adalimumab Products, 09-J0000-46
Anakinra (Kineret), 09-J0000-45
Apremilast (Otezla) Tablet, 09-J2000-19
Baricitinib (Olumiant), 09-J3000-10
Bimekizumab (Bimzelx), 09-J4000-70
Brodalumab (Siliq) Injection, 09-J2000-74
Certolizumab Pegol (Cimzia), 09-J0000-77
Deucravacitinib (Sotyktu), 09-J4000-37
Golimumab (Simponi, Simponi Aria), 09-J1000-11
Guselkumab (Tremfya), 09-J2000-87
Infliximab Products, 09-J0000-39
Ixekizumab (Taltz), 09-J2000-62
Risankizumab (Skyrizi), 09-J3000-45
Rituximab Products, 09-J0000-59
Sarilumab (Kevzara), 09-J2000-87
Secukinumab (Cosentyx), 09-J2000-30
Tildrakizumab-asmn (Ilumya), 09-J3000-04
Tocilizumab Products (Actemra, Tofidence, Tyenne), 09-J1000-21
Tofacitinib (Xeljanz, Xeljanz XR) Oral Solution, Tablet and Extended-Release Tablet, 09-J1000-86
Upadacitinib (Rinvoq), 09-J3000-51
Ustekinumab (Stelara), 09-J1000-16
Vedolizumab (Entyvio), 09-J2000-18

OTHER:

NOTE: The list of biologic immunomodulator agents not permitted as concomitant therapy can be found at Biologic Immunomodulator Agents Not Permitted as Concomitant Therapy.

Table 3: Conventional Synthetic DMARDs

Generic Name	Brand Name
Auranofin (oral gold)	Ridaura
Azathioprine	Imuran
Cyclosporine	Neoral, Sandimmune
Hydroxychloroquine	Plaquenil
Leflunomide	Arava
Methotrexate	Rheumatrex, Trexall
Sulfasalazine	Azulfidine, Azulfidine EN-Tabs

Table 4: Grading of Severity of Rheumatoid Arthritis

Severity	Criteria
Mild	Joint pain Inflammation of at least 3 joints No inflammation in tissues other than the joints Usually, a negative result on a rheumatoid factor test An elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) or C reactive protein (CRP) level No evidence of bone or cartilage damage on x-rays
Moderate	Between 6 and 20 inflamed joints Usually no inflammation in tissues other than the joints An elevated ESR or CRP levels A positive rheumatoid factor test or anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (anti-CCP) antibodies Evidence of inflammation but no evidence of bone damage on x-rays
Severe	More than 20 persistently inflamed joints or a rapid loss of functional abilities Elevated ESR or CRP levels Anemia related to chronic illness Low blood albumin level A positive rheumatoid factor test, often with a high level Evidence of bone and cartilage damage on x-ray Inflammation in tissues other than joints

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COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

This Medical Coverage Guideline (MCG) was approved by the Florida Blue Pharmacy Policy Committee on 11/13/24.

GUIDELINE UPDATE INFORMATION:

04/15/01	New Medical Coverage Guideline.
05/15/03	Annual review.
10/15/03	Added active ankylosing spondylitis to the When Services Are Covered section.
01/01/05	Revised psoriasis language in the When Services Are Covered Section.
02/15/06	Updated when services are covered added statement: For reducing signs and symptoms, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function in patients with psoriatic arthritis. Deleted warnings and contraindications, added DMARD table under Other.
12/15/06	Reviewed; reformatted, added CPT-4 and ICD-9 coding, related guidelines, and updated links and references. MCG revised to include Medicare Part D as a program exception.
08/15/07	Reviewed: reformatted, maintained current coverage and limitations, updated related guidelines, updated internet links and updated references.
10/15/07	Revision; consisting of updating ICD-9 coding.
05/15/08	Revision; consisting of adding a black box warning under “PRECAUTIONS”.
10/15/08	Review and revision consisting of; updating description section, reformatted and updated references.
01/01/09	Annual HCPCS coding update: deleted code 90772; added code 96372.
10/15/09	Review and revision consisting of updating precautions, related guidelines and reference sections.
04/15/10	Revision; consisting of adding specific continuation criteria.
09/15/10	Review and revision; consisting of updating precautions and references.
01/15/11	Revision; consisting of adding ICD-10 codes.
04/01/11	Revision; consisting of adding dosage limitations.
09/15/11	Review and revision to guideline; consisting of updating references.
09/15/12	Review and revision to guideline; consisting of modifying continuation criteria, updating precautions, coding and references.
01/15/12	Revision to guideline; consisting of revising and reformatting the position statement and description, dosage/administration, and precautions sections; updating references.
04/15/13	Revision to guideline; consisting of revising position statement to include duration of approval and Orphan Drug indications.
09/15/13	Review and revision to guideline; consisting of revising position statement to include treatment of compendia supported off-label indications, updating references, program exceptions, and coding.
04/15/14	Revision to guideline; consisting of adding clarification statement and reformatting position statement.
09/15/14	Review and revision to guideline; consisting of reformatting position statement, updating references, coding and related guidelines.

09/15/15	Review and revision to guideline; consisting of updating description, position statement, dosage/administration, coding/billing, related guidelines, and references.
11/01/15	Revision: ICD-9 Codes deleted.
09/15/16	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating description, position statement, dosage/administration, coding/billing, definitions, related guidelines, and references.
01/15/17	Revision to guideline consisting of updating description, position statement, dosage/administration, and references based on new pediatric plaque psoriasis indication.
10/15/17	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating description, position statement, definitions, related guidelines, and references.
01/01/18	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the preferred self-administered biologic products according to indication for use.
07/01/18	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement.
10/15/18	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement, related guidelines, and references.
10/15/19	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating the description section, position statement, billing/coding, related guidelines, and references.
01/01/20	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement “Note” due to changes in preferred products.
07/01/20	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the description, position statement, billing/coding, and definitions.
01/01/21	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement and references.
03/15/21	Revision to guideline consisting of updating Table 1 in the position statement.
09/15/21	Update to Table 1 in Position Statement.
11/15/21	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement.
01/01/22	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating the description, position statement, related guidelines, other section, and references.
02/15/22	Update to Table 1 in Position Statement.
03/15/22	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement and other sections.
05/15/22	Update to Table 1 in Position Statement.
07/15/22	Update to Table 1 in Position Statement.
09/15/22	Update to Table 1 in Position Statement.
01/01/23	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement, other section, and references. New drugs were added to the list of drugs that are not permitted for use in combination.
04/15/23	Update to Table 1 in Position Statement. New drugs were added to the list of drugs that are not permitted for use in combination.
07/01/23	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement and other section. Amjevita and Hadlima added as Step 1a agents. Humira biosimilar products added to list of Biologic Immunomodulator Agents Not Permitted as Concomitant Therapy.
01/01/24	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating the description section (NCCN and FDA label info), position statement, dosage/administration, other section,

	billing/coding, and references. New indication of juvenile psoriatic arthritis (JPsA). Update to Table 1 in Position Statement. New drugs were added to the list of drugs that are not permitted for use in combination.
07/01/24	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the description section, position statement, related guidelines, and other section. New indication for juvenile psoriatic arthritis. Removal of latent TB testing requirement. New drugs added to the list of Biologic Immunomodulator Agents Not Permitted as Concomitant Therapy.
10/01/24	Updates to Table 1.
01/01/25	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating the description, position statement, other section, and references. Update to original Table 1 which is now a link out from the Position Statement. Table titles updated. Revised wording regarding maximum dosage exceptions. New drugs added to the list of drugs that are not permitted for use in combination.