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Subject: Tofacitinib (Xeljanz[®], Xeljanz[®] XR) Tablet and Extended-Release Tablet

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DESCRIPTION:

Tofacitinib (Xeljanz) is a novel oral Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor that was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in November 2012 for the treatment of adults with moderately to severely active RA who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to methotrexate. An extended-release formulation of tofacitinib (Xeljanz XR) was approved by the FDA in February 2016 for the same indication. In December 2017 both Xeljanz and Xeljanz XR were FDA-approved for the treatment of adults with active psoriatic arthritis who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to methotrexate or other DMARDs. The efficacy of tofacitinib as monotherapy in psoriatic arthritis was not studied. In May 2018, Xeljanz (but not Xeljanz XR) was FDA-approved for the treatment of adult patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC). In July 2019, the UC indication was modified to only include patients who have had an inadequate response or who are intolerant to TNF blockers. This change was based on new safety data and boxed warning regarding a higher rate of all-cause mortality and thrombosis observed with the use of 10 mg twice daily in a post-marking study of RA patient with CV risk factors. In December 2019, Xeljanz XR was approved for use in UC (with the same indication as the IR version) and at the same time a new 22 mg dosage strength was introduced for the UC indication. The JAK family of kinases plays an important role in cytokine induced signal transduction. Tofacitinib preferentially inhibits JAK1 and JAK3, which ultimately blocks signaling for several cytokines that are integral to lymphocyte activation, proliferation, and function. It is hypothesized that this inhibition results in the modulation of multiple aspects of immune response that play a role in the pathophysiology of RA.

RHEUMATOID DISORDERS

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 recommend a treat-to-target approach in therapy, regardless of disease activity. ACR guidelines categorize therapy for those with early RA (disease duration <6 months) or established RA (disease duration ≥6 months) as follows:

- In general, MTX is the preferred initial DMARD therapy for most patients with RA with active disease.
- For early RA patients, the ACR recommends the following:
 - Naïve to therapy: DMARDs, methotrexate (MTX) preferred, as initial, monotherapy therapy unless contraindicated. Other DMARD monotherapy options include sulfasalazine, hydroxychloroquine, and leflunomide.
 - Moderate or high disease activity despite DMARD monotherapy: treatment with combination DMARDs or a TNF-inhibitor (e.g., adalimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, or infliximab) or a non-TNF inhibitor (abatacept, rituximab, or tocilizumab [excludes anakinra]), with or without MTX.
 - Moderate or high disease activity despite the previous DMARD or biologic therapy: addition of low-dose glucocorticoid (≤10 mg/day of prednisone or equivalent) to bridge therapy until therapeutic effects of DMARD is reached. ACR also recommends short-term (<3 months) with lowest dose of glucocorticoids for flares.
- For established RA patients, the ACR recommends the following:
 - Low disease activity and is DMARD naïve: DMARD monotherapy, MTX preferred, is recommended over a TNF-inhibitor.
 - Moderate or high disease and is DMARD naïve: DMARD monotherapy, MTX preferred, is recommended over double or triple DMARD therapy and tofacitinib.
 - Moderate-high disease activity despite DMARD monotherapy: combination DMARD therapy OR the addition of TNF inhibitor, non-TNF biologic, or tofacitinib with or without MTX is recommended rather than continuing DMARD monotherapy. Combination biologic therapy and MTX is recommended over biologic monotherapy.
 - Moderate or high disease despite TNF-inhibitor and not on DMARD: addition of one or two DMARD, rather than TNF-inhibitor monotherapy

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.²⁶⁻²⁸

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.^{27,28} 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.

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

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

Ulcerative Colitis (UC)

Ulcerative colitis (UC) is a chronic immune-mediated inflammatory condition affecting the large intestine associated with inflammation of the rectum, but that can extend to involve additional areas of the colon. The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) recommends a treat-to-target approach and recommend therapeutic management should be guided by diagnosis (i.e., Montreal classification), assessment of disease activity (i.e., mild, moderate, and severe), and disease prognosis. The ACG treatment recommendations are further broken down into induction therapies and maintenance of remission. The 2019 ACG treatment guidelines recommend the following for therapeutic management of UC³⁷:

Induction of remission:

- Mildly active disease:
 - Rectal 5-ASA at a dose of 1 g/day with or without oral 5-ASA at a dose of at least 2 g/day for left-sided UC
 - Rectal 5-ASA at a dose of 1 g/day for ulcerative proctitis
 - Oral 5-ASA at a dose of at least 2 g/day for extensive UC
 - Add oral budesonide multi-matrix (MMX) 9 mg/day for patients that are intolerant or non-responsive to oral and/or rectal and oral 5-ASA at appropriate doses

- Moderately active disease:
 - Oral budesonide multi-matrix (MMX) 9 mg/day for induction of remission
- Moderately to severely active disease:
 - Oral systemic corticosteroids, TNF inhibitors (i.e., adalimumab, golimumab, or infliximab), tofacitinib, or vedolizumab to induce remission
 - Combination of infliximab with thiopurine therapy when using infliximab for induction
 - Switch to tofacitinib or vedolizumab for induction in patients that have failed TNF inhibitors
 - Patients with initial response to TNF inhibitors that lose response should have antibody levels and serum drug levels tested to assess reason for loss of response. If serum levels are adequate, use of another TNF inhibitor is not likely to be of benefit.

Maintenance of remission:

- Previously mildly active disease:
 - Rectal 5-ASA at a dose of 1 g/day in patients with ulcerative proctitis
 - Oral 5-ASA at a dose of at least 2 g/day in patients with left-sided or extensive UC
- Previously moderately to severely active disease:
 - Thiopurines in patients that achieved remission due to corticosteroid induction
 - Continue TNF inhibitors (i.e., adalimumab, golimumab, or infliximab) for remission due to TNF induction
 - Continue vedolizumab for remission due to vedolizumab induction
 - Continue tofacitinib for remission due to tofacitinib induction

The American Gastroenterology Association (AGA) published recommendations for the management of mild to moderate UC:

- Use either standard-dose mesalamine (2-3 g/day) or diazo-bonded 5-ASA for patients with extensive UC for induction of remission and maintenance of remission
- May add rectal mesalamine to oral 5-ASA in patients with extensive or left-sided UC for induction of remission and maintenance of remission
- Use high dose mesalamine (>3 g/day) with rectal mesalamine in patients with suboptimal response to standard-dose mesalamine, diazo-bonded 5-ASA, or with moderate disease activity for induction of remission and maintenance of remission
- Add either oral prednisone or budesonide MMX in patients that are refractory to optimized oral and rectal 5-ASA regardless of disease extent

The American Gastroenterology Association (AGA) published recommendations for the management of moderate to severe UC.

- Standard of care is to continue agents initiated for induction therapy as maintenance therapy, if they are effective (excluding corticosteroids and cyclosporine)
- Adult outpatients with moderate to severe UC:
 - Infliximab, adalimumab, golimumab, vedolizumab, tofacitinib or ustekinumab are strongly recommended over no treatment
 - Biologic naïve patients:

- infliximab or vedolizumab are conditionally recommended over adalimumab for induction of remission
- Recommend tofacitinib only be used in the setting of a clinical or registry study
- Previous exposure to infliximab, particularly those with primary non-response, ustekinumab or tofacitinib are conditionally recommended over vedolizumab or adalimumab for induction of remission
- Conditionally recommend against use of thiopurine monotherapy for induction, but may be used for maintenance of remission over no treatment

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 preferred and non-preferred, self-administered products for certain indications are as follows:

Table 1

Disease State	Step 1 (Preferred)	Step 2 (Non-preferred directed to ONE step 1 agent)	Step 3a (Non- preferred directed to TWO step 1 agents)	Step 3b (Non-preferred directed to TWO agents from step 1 and/or step 2)	Step 3c (Non-preferred directed to THREE step 1 agents)
Rheumatoid Disorders					
Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS)	SQ: Cosentyx, Enbrel, Humira	N/A	SQ: Cimzia, Simponi, Taltz	N/A	N/A
Nonradiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA)	SQ: Cimzia, Cosentyx	N/A	SQ: Taltz	N/A	N/A
Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (PJIA)	SQ: Enbrel, Humira	SQ: Actemra (Humira is required Step 1 agent)	N/A	SQ: Orencia	N/A
Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA)	SQ: Cosentyx, Enbrel, Humira, Stelara, Tremfya Oral: Otezla, Xeljanz , Xeljanz XR	N/A	SQ: Cimzia, Orencia, Simponi, Taltz	N/A	N/A
Rheumatoid Arthritis	SQ: Enbrel, Humira, Oral: Rinvoq, Xeljanz , Xeljanz XR	SQ: Actemra (Humira is required Step 1 agent)	Oral: Olumiant SQ: Cimzia, Kevzara, Kineret, Orencia, Simponi	N/A	N/A
Dermatological Disorders					

Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS)	SQ: Humira	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Psoriasis (PS)	SQ: Cosentyx, Enbrel, Humira, Skyrizi, Stelara, Tremfya Oral: Otezla	N/A	SQ: Cimzia, Ilumya, Siliq	N/A	SQ: Taltz
Inflammatory Bowel Disease					
Crohn's Disease	SQ: Humira, Stelara	SQ: Cimzia (Humira is required Step 1 agent)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ulcerative Colitis	SQ: Humira, Stelara	SQ: Simponi Oral: Xeljanz , Xeljanz XR	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other					
Uveitis	SQ: Humira	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indications Without Preferred Agents Required					
Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Neonatal-Onset Multisystem Inflammatory Disease (NOMID)					
Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (SJIA)					

*Note: A trial of either or both Xeljanz products (Xeljanz and Xeljanz XR) collectively counts as **ONE** product

Initiation of tofacitinib (Xeljanz) or tofacitinib extended release (Xeljanz XR) **meets the definition of medical necessity** when **ALL** of the following are met (“1” to “6”):

1. **ONE** of the following (“a”, “b”, or “c”):
 - a. Information has been provided that indicates the member has been treated with tofacitinib or tofacitinib ER (starting on samples is not approvable) within the past 90 days
 - b. The prescriber states the member has been treated with tofacitinib or tofacitinib ER (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. Tofacitinib or tofacitinib ER will be used for the treatment of an indication listed in Table 2, and **ALL** of the indication-specific criteria are met
 - ii. **EITHER** of the following (“I” or “II”)
 - I. The member’s age is within FDA labeling for the requested indication for tofacitinib or tofacitinib ER
 - II. The prescriber has provided information in support of using tofacitinib or tofacitinib ER for the member’s age
2. The prescriber is a specialist in the area of the member’s diagnosis (e.g., rheumatologist for PsA, RA; gastroenterologist for UC) 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 tofacitinib or tofacitinib ER

4. Member has been tested for latent tuberculosis (TB) **AND**, if positive, the member has begun therapy for latent TB
5. Member will **NOT** be using tofacitinib or tofacitinib ER in combination with another biologic immunomodulator agent or Otezla
6. **ANY** of the following (“a”, “b”, or “c”):
 - a. The dosage does not exceed 10 mg twice daily for a maximum of 16 weeks (112 days) then 5 mg twice daily (Xeljanz), or 22 mg once daily for a maximum of 16 weeks (112 days) then 11 mg once daily (Xeljanz XR)
 - QL (Xeljanz): 5 mg tablet - 2 tablets/day
 - QL (Xeljanz): 10 mg tablet - 224 tablets/365 days
 - QL (Xeljanz XR): 11 mg tablet - 1 tablet/day
 - QL (Xeljanz XR): 22 mg tablet - 112 tablets/365 days
 - b. The requested quantity (dose) is greater than program’s quantity limit but does **NOT** exceed the maximum FDA labeled dose **OR** the maximum compendia-supported dose (i.e., DrugDex with 1 or 2a level of evidence, AHFS, or NCCN compendium recommended use 1 or 2a) 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
 - c. The requested quantity (dose) is greater than the program’s quantity limit and greater than the maximum FDA labeled dose **AND** the maximum compendia-supported dose (i.e., DrugDex with 1 or 2a level of evidence, AHFS, or NCCN compendium recommended use 1 or 2a) for the requested indication, **AND** the prescriber has provided information in support of therapy with a higher dose for the requested indication (submitted copy required; e.g., clinical trials, phase III studies, guidelines required)

Approval duration:

- Ulcerative colitis – 16 weeks
- All other indications – 12 months

Table 2

Diagnosis	Criteria
Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	<p>ONE of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to maximally tolerated methotrexate (e.g., titrated to 25 mg weekly) for at least 3 months <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 for at least 3-months <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

	<p>RA</p> <p>OR</p> <p>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</p> <p>OR</p> <p>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, AHFS, or NCCN compendium recommended use 1 or 2a for the treatment of RA</p>
<p>Active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)</p>	<p>ONE of the following:</p> <p>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 for at least 3 months</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2. The member has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to ONE of the conventional agents used in the treatment of PsA</p> <p>OR</p> <p>3. The member has an FDA labeled contraindication to ALL of the conventional agents used in the treatment of PsA</p> <p>OR</p> <p>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)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>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)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>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, AHFS, or NCCN compendium recommended use 1 or 2a for the treatment of PsA</p>
<p>Moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC)</p>	<p>BOTH of the following:</p> <p>1. ONE of the following:</p> <p>a. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to ONE conventional agent (i.e., 6-mercaptopurine, azathioprine,</p>

	<p>balsalazide, corticosteroids, cyclosporine, mesalamine, steroid suppositories, sulfasalazine) used in the treatment of UC for at least 3 months</p> <p>OR</p> <p>b. The member has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to ONE of the conventional agents used in the treatment of UC</p> <p>OR</p> <p>c. The member has an FDA labeled contraindication to ALL of the conventional agents used in the treatment of UC</p> <p>OR</p> <p>d. 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, AHFS, or NCCN compendium recommended use 1 or 2a for the treatment of UC</p> <p>2. ANY of the following:</p> <p>a. The member has tried and had an inadequate response to BOTH Humira (adalimumab) AND Stelara (ustekinumab) for at least 3 months</p> <p>OR</p> <p>b. The member has an intolerance (defined as an intolerance to the drug or its excipients, not to the route of administration), FDA labeled contraindication, or hypersensitivity to BOTH Humira (adalimumab) AND Stelara (ustekinumab)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>c. The prescriber has provided information indicating why Humira (adalimumab) AND Stelara (ustekinumab) are not clinically appropriate for the member, AND the prescriber has provided a complete list of previously tried agents for the requested indication</p>
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 tofacitinib (Xeljanz) and tofacitinib extended release (Xeljanz XR) **meets the definition of medical necessity** when **ALL** of the following are met (“1” to “6”):

1. An authorization or reauthorization for tofacitinib or tofacitinib ER has been previously approved by Florida Blue
2. Member has had clinical benefit with tofacitinib or tofacitinib ER therapy
3. The prescriber is a specialist in the area of the member's diagnosis (e.g., rheumatologist for PsA, RA; gastroenterologist for UC) 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 tofacitinib or tofacitinib ER
5. Member will **NOT** be using tofacitinib or tofacitinib ER in combination with another biologic immunomodulator agent or Otezla
6. **ANY** of the following (“a”, “b”, or “c”):
 - a. The dosage does not exceed 10 mg twice daily for a maximum of 16 weeks (112 days) then 5 mg twice daily (Xeljanz), or 22 mg once daily for a maximum of 16 weeks (112 days) then 11 mg once daily (Xeljanz XR)
 - QL (Xeljanz): 5 mg tablet - 2 tablets/day
 - QL (Xeljanz): 10 mg tablet - 224 tablets/365 days
 - QL (Xeljanz XR): 11 mg tablet - 1 tablet/day
 - QL (Xeljanz XR): 22 mg tablet - 112 tablets/365 days
 - b. The requested quantity (dose) is greater than program’s quantity limit but does **NOT** exceed the maximum FDA labeled dose **OR** the maximum compendia-supported dose (i.e., DrugDex with 1 or 2a level of evidence, AHFS, or NCCN compendium recommended use 1 or 2a) 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
 - c. The requested quantity (dose) is greater than the program’s quantity limit and greater than the maximum FDA labeled dose **AND** the maximum compendia-supported dose (i.e., DrugDex with 1 or 2a level of evidence, AHFS, or NCCN compendium recommended use 1 or 2a) for the requested indication, **AND** the prescriber has provided information in support of therapy with a higher dose for the requested indication (submitted copy required; e.g., clinical trials, phase III studies, guidelines required)

Approval duration: 12 months

DOSAGE/ADMINISTRATION:

FDA-approved:

- Tofacitinib is indicated for: (1) the treatment of adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to methotrexate. It may be used as monotherapy or in combination with methotrexate or other non-biologic DMARDs (both Xeljanz and Xeljanz XR); (2) the treatment of adults with active psoriatic arthritis who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to methotrexate or other DMARDs (both Xeljanz and Xeljanz XR), and (3) the treatment of adult patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis, who have had an inadequate response or who are intolerant to TNF blockers (both Xeljanz and Xeljanz XR). The efficacy of tofacitinib as a monotherapy has not been studied in psoriatic arthritis. For psoriatic arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis the recommended dose is 5 mg orally twice daily for the immediate-release (IR) tablet (Xeljanz) and 11 mg orally once daily for the extended–release (ER) tablet (Xeljanz XR). For ulcerative colitis the recommended induction dose is 10 mg twice daily of the IR tablet and 22 mg once daily for the ER tablet for at least 8 weeks; evaluate patients and transition to maintenance therapy depending on therapeutic response. If needed, continue 10 mg IR tablet twice daily or 22 mg ER tablet once daily for a maximum of 16 weeks. Discontinue after 16 weeks of treatment, if adequate therapeutic benefit is not achieved. The recommended maintenance dose is 5 mg IR tablet twice daily or 11 mg ER tablet once daily. Use of the 10 mg IR tablet twice daily or 22 mg ER tablet once daily beyond induction should be limited to those with loss of response and used for the shortest duration, with careful consideration of the benefits and risks for the individual patient. Use the lowest effective dose needed to maintain response.
- Tofacitinib should not be used in combination with biologic DMARDs (e.g. tumor necrosis factor alpha inhibitors) or potent immunosuppressants such as azathioprine and cyclosporine. Tofacitinib should

not be initiated in members with a lymphocyte count less than 500 cells/mm³, an absolute neutrophil count less than 1000 cell/mm³, or a hemoglobin level less than 9 g/dL.

Dose Adjustments

- **Renal Impairment**

- Mild renal impairment: no dosage adjustment required
- Moderate to severe renal impairment: If taking 5 mg BID reduce dose to 5 mg once daily, if taking 10 mg BID reduce to 5 mg BID (IR tablet), if taking 22 mg once daily reduce to 11 mg once daily, if taking 11 mg once daily (XR tablet) switch to 5 mg once daily (IR tablet). For patients undergoing hemodialysis, dose should be administered after the dialysis session on dialysis days.

- **Hepatic Impairment**

- Mild impairment (Child-Pugh class A, total score of 5 or 6): no dosage adjustment required
- Moderate impairment (Child-Pugh class B, total score of 7-9): If taking 5 mg BID reduce dose to 5 mg once daily, if taking 10 mg BID reduce to 5 mg BID (IR tablet), if taking 22 mg once daily reduce to 11 mg once daily, if taking 11 mg once daily (XR tablet) switch to 5 mg once daily (IR tablet)
- Severe impairment (Child-Pugh class C, total score greater than 10): not recommended

- **Drug Interactions**

- Strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., ketoconazole): If taking 5 mg BID reduce dose to 5 mg once daily, if taking 10 mg BID reduce to 5 mg BID (IR tablet), if taking 22 mg once daily reduce to 11 mg once daily, if taking 11 mg once daily (XR tablet) switch to 5 mg once daily (IR tablet)
- Concomitant moderate CYP3A4 inhibitor AND potent CYP2C19 (e.g., fluconazole): If taking 5 mg BID reduce dose to 5 mg once daily, if taking 10 mg BID reduce to 5 mg BID (IR tablet), if taking 22 mg once daily reduce to 11 mg once daily, if taking 11 mg once daily (XR tablet) switch to 5 mg once daily (IR tablet)

- **Therapeutic Drug Monitoring:** recommended dose adjustments for adverse effects are located in table 2.

Table 2:

Dose adjustments	
Lab Value	Recommendation
Lymphopenia	
Lymphocyte count 500 cells/mm ³ or greater	Maintain dose
Lymphocyte count less than 500 cells/mm ³	Discontinue tofacitinib
Neutropenia	
ANC greater than 1000 cells/mm ³	Maintain dose
ANC 500 to 1000 cells/mm ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If taking 5 mg BID (IR) or 11 mg once daily (ER): interrupt dosing until ANC is greater than 1000 cells/mm³ then reinstate tofacitinib at 5 mg twice daily (IR) or 11 mg once daily (ER) • If taking 10 mg BID (IR): reduce to 5 mg twice daily. When ANC is greater than 1000, increase to 10 mg twice daily based on clinical response. • If taking 22 mg once daily (ER): reduce to 11 mg once daily. When ANC is greater than 1000, increase to 22 mg once daily based on

	clinical response.
ANC less than 500 cells/mm ³	Discontinue tofacitinib
Anemia	
Hgb less than or equal to 2 g/dL decrease and greater than or equal to 9 g/dL	Maintain dose
Greater than 2 g/dL decrease or less than 8 g/dL	Interrupt until Hgb values have normalized
ANC, absolute neutrophil count; Hgb, hemoglobin	

Drug Availability:

- Xeljanz - available as white 5-mg and blue 10-mg immediate-release, film-coated tablets
- Xeljanz XR – available as a pink 11-mg and beige 22-mg extended-release tablet

PRECAUTIONS:

Boxed Warning

WARNING: SERIOUS INFECTIONS, MORTALITY, MALIGNANCY AND THROMBOSIS

- Serious Infections - Patients treated with Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR are at increased risk for developing serious infections that may lead to hospitalization or death. Most patients who developed these infections were taking concomitant immunosuppressants such as methotrexate or corticosteroids. If a serious infection develops, interrupt Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR until the infection is controlled. Reported infections include:
 - Active tuberculosis, which may present with pulmonary or extrapulmonary disease. Patients should be tested for latent tuberculosis before Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR use and during therapy. Treatment for latent infection should be initiated prior to Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR use.
 - Invasive fungal infections, including cryptococcosis and pneumocystosis. Patients with invasive fungal infections may present with disseminated, rather than localized, disease.
 - Bacterial, viral, including herpes zoster, and other infections due to opportunistic pathogens.

The risks and benefits of treatment with Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR should be carefully considered prior to initiating therapy in patients with chronic or recurrent infection. Patients should be closely monitored for the development of signs and symptoms of infection during and after treatment with Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR, including the possible development of tuberculosis in patients who tested negative for latent tuberculosis infection prior to initiating therapy.

- Mortality - Rheumatoid arthritis patients 50 years of age and older with at least one cardiovascular (CV) risk factor treated with Xeljanz 10 mg twice a day had a higher rate of all-cause mortality, including sudden CV death, compared to those treated with Xeljanz 5 mg given twice daily or TNF blockers in a large, ongoing, postmarketing safety study. A dosage of Xeljanz 10 mg twice daily or Xeljanz XR 22 mg once daily is not recommended for the treatment of RA or psoriasis. For patients with UC, use Xeljanz at the lowest effective dose and for the shortest duration needed to achieve/maintain therapeutic response.
- Malignancies - Lymphoma and other malignancies have been observed in patients treated with Xeljanz. Epstein Barr Virus-associated post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder has been

observed at an increased rate in renal transplant patients treated with Xeljanz and concomitant immunosuppressive medications.

- Thrombosis - Thrombosis, including pulmonary embolism, deep venous thrombosis, and arterial thrombosis, has been observed at an increased incidence in rheumatoid arthritis patients who were 50 years of age and older with at least one CV risk factor treated with Xeljanz 10 mg twice daily compared to Xeljanz 5 mg twice daily or TNF blockers in a large, ongoing postmarketing safety study. Many of these events were serious and some resulted in death. Avoid Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR in patients at risk. A dosage of Xeljanz 10 mg twice daily or Xeljanz XR 22 mg once daily is not recommended for the treatment of RA or psoriasis. Discontinue Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR and promptly evaluate patients with symptoms of thrombosis. For patients with UC, use Xeljanz at the lowest effective dose and for the shortest duration needed to achieve/maintain therapeutic response.

Contraindications

- None

Precautions/Warnings

- **Serious Infections:** see Boxed Warning
- **Mortality:** see Boxed Warning
- **Malignancy and Lymphoproliferative Disorders:** see Boxed Warning
- **Thrombosis:** see Boxed Warning
- **Gastrointestinal perforations:** use with caution in members that may be at an increased risk.
- **Hypersensitivity:** reactions such as angioedema and urticaria that may reflect drug hypersensitivity have been observed in patients receiving treatment. Some events were serious.
- **Laboratory Monitoring:** recommended due to potential changes in lymphocytes, neutrophils, hemoglobin, liver enzymes and lipids.
- **Immunizations:** live vaccines should not be given concurrently with tofacitinib
- **Severe hepatic impairment:** not recommended for use in persons with severe hepatic impairment; refer to dosage and administration section for additional information.

BILLING/CODING INFORMATION:

The following codes may be used to describe:

HCPSC Coding:

J8499	Prescription drug, oral, non-chemotherapeutic, Not otherwise specified
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ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes That Support Medical Necessity:

K51.00 – K51.919	Ulcerative colitis
L40.50	Arthropathic psoriasis, unspecified
L40.51	Distal interphalangeal psoriatic arthropathy
L40.52	Psoriatic arthritis mutilans
L40.53	Psoriatic spondylitis
L40.59	Other psoriatic arthropathy
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
M06.80 – M06.89	Other specified rheumatoid arthritis
M06.9	Rheumatoid arthritis, unspecified

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., baricitinib, tofacitinib, apremilast), and (3) biological DMARDs (bDMARD), which can be either a biosimilar DMARD (bsDMARD) or biological originator DMARD

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: usually strikes between ages 20 and 50. Inflammation begins in a joint, usually those of the fingers and hands, resulting in pain, swelling, redness, and eventually joint deformity. It is considered an autoimmune disease, which can affect the entire body, causing fatigue, weight loss, weakness, fever, and loss of appetite. It affects each person differently, with symptoms ranging from mild to debilitating. In many cases, it is difficult to control. In about one in six cases, rheumatoid arthritis becomes severely debilitating and can shorten the life of the person affected.

Ulcerative colitis: a chronic inflammatory disease of the colon that is of unknown cause and is characterized by diarrhea with discharge of mucus and blood, cramping abdominal pain, and inflammation and edema of the mucous membrane with patches of ulceration.

RELATED GUIDELINES:

[Abatacept \(Orencia\), 09-J0000-67](#)

[Adalimumab \(Humira\), 09-J0000-46](#)

[Anakinra \(Kineret\), 09-J0000-45](#)

[Apremilast \(Otezla\) Tablet, 09-J2000-19](#)

[Baricitinib \(Olumiant\), 09-J3000-10](#)

[Certolizumab Pegol \(Cimzia\), 09-J0000-77](#)

[Etanercept \(Enbrel\), 09-J0000-38](#)

[Golimumab \(Simponi, Simponi Aria\), 09-J1000-11](#)

[Infliximab Products \[infliximab \(Remicade\), infliximab-dyyb \(Inflectra\), and infliximab-abda \(Renflexis\)\], 09-J0000-39](#)

[Ixekizumab \(Taltz\), 09-J2000-62](#)

[Rituximab \(Rituxan\), 09-J0000-59](#)

[Sarilumab \(Kevzara\), 09-J2000-87](#)

[Secukinumab \(Cosentyx\), 09-J2000-30](#)

[Tildrakizumab-asmn \(Ilumya\), 09-J3000-04](#)

[Tocilizumab \(Actemra\) Injection, 09-J1000-21](#)

[Ustekinumab \(Stelara\), 09-J1000-16](#)

OTHER:

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

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

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COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

This Medical Coverage Guideline (MCG) was approved by the Florida Blue Pharmacy Coverage Committee on 10/14/20.

GUIDELINE UPDATE INFORMATION:

01/15/13	New Medical Coverage Guideline.
09/15/13	Review and revision to guideline; consisting of revising position statement, updating precautions, related guidelines, program exceptions, and references.
01/01/14	Revision to guideline; consisting of revising position statement
04/15/14	Revision to guideline; consisting of revising position statement.
09/15/14	Review and revision to guideline; consisting of revising the position statement, updating coding and references.

09/15/15	Review and revision to guideline; consisting of updating position statement, warnings/precautions, billing/coding, and references.
11/01/15	Revision: ICD-9 Codes deleted.
04/15/16	Revision to guidelines consisting of updates to the description, position statement, dosage/administration, and references (new extended-release formulation)
09/15/16	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating description, position statement, billing/coding, and references.
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.
02/15/18	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the description, position statement, dosage/administration, billing/coding, definitions, related guidelines, and references sections based on the new FDA-approved indication of active psoriatic arthritis.
07/01/18	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement.
07/15/18	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the description section, position statement, dosage/administration, warnings/precautions, billing/coding, related guidelines, definitions, and references based on a new FDA-approved indication of ulcerative colitis.
10/15/18	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement, definitions, related guidelines, and references.
10/01/19	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement, definitions, related guidelines, and references.
10/15/19	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating the description, position statement, related guidelines, and references.
01/01/20	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement due to changes in preferred and non-preferred products.
04/01/20	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the description section, position statement, dosage/administration section, precautions section, and references due to the approval of Xeljanz XR for the treatment of UC and release of a new Xeljanz XR 22 mg tablet.
07/01/20	Revision to guideline consisting of updating the description, position statement, and definitions.
01/01/21	Review and revision to guideline consisting of updating the position statement and references.