

SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT

TREMFYA (guselkumab)

POLICY

I. INDICATIONS

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered a covered benefit provided that all the approval criteria are met and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

FDA-Approved Indication

Treatment of adult patients with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and are not a covered benefit.

II. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

Moderate to severe plaque psoriasis

- A. Authorization of 24 months may be granted for members who are 18 years of age or older who have previously received Tremfya, Otezla, or any other biologic DMARD indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.
- B. Authorization of 24 months may be granted for treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis for members who are 18 years of age or older when all of the following criteria are met:
 1. At least 5% of body surface area (BSA) is affected OR crucial body areas (e.g., hands, feet, face, neck, scalp, genitals/groin, intertriginous areas) are affected.
 2. Member meets any of the following criteria:
 - a. Member has had an inadequate response or intolerance to either phototherapy (e.g., UVB, PUVA) or pharmacologic treatment with methotrexate, cyclosporine or acitretin.
 - b. Member has a clinical reason to avoid pharmacologic treatment with methotrexate, cyclosporine or acitretin (see Appendix).
 - c. Member has severe psoriasis that warrants a biologic DMARD as first-line therapy.

III. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY

Authorization of 24 months may be granted for all members (including new members) who meet all initial authorization criteria and achieve or maintain positive clinical response after at least 4 months of therapy with Tremfya as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition.

IV. OTHER

Member has a pretreatment tuberculosis (TB) screening with a TB skin test or an interferon gamma release assay (e.g., QFT-GIT, T-SPOT.TB).

Note: Members who have received Tremfya or any other biologic DMARD or targeted synthetic DMARD (e.g., Xeljanz) are exempt from requirements related to TB screening in this Policy.

Reference number
2156-A

V. APPENDIX

Examples of Clinical Reasons to Avoid Pharmacologic Treatment with Methotrexate, Cyclosporine or Acitretin

1. Alcoholism, alcoholic liver disease or other chronic liver disease
2. Breastfeeding
3. Cannot be used due to risk of treatment-related toxicity
4. Drug interaction
5. Pregnancy or planning pregnancy
6. Significant comorbidity prohibits use of systemic agents (examples include liver or kidney disease, blood dyscrasias, uncontrolled hypertension)

VI. REFERENCES

1. Tremfya [package insert]. Horsham, PA: Janssen Biotech, Inc.; October 2017.
2. Menter A, Korman NJ, Elmets CA, et al. Guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Section 4: Guidelines of care for the management and treatment of psoriasis with traditional systemic agents. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2009;61:451-485.
3. Menter A, Korman NJ, Elmets CA, et al. Guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Section 6: Guidelines of care for the treatment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis: case-based presentations and evidence-based conclusions. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2011;65(1):137-174.
4. Reich K, Armstrong, AW, Foley P, et al. Efficacy and safety of guselkumab, an anti-interleukin-23 monoclonal antibody, compared with adalimumab for the treatment of patients with moderate to severe psoriasis with randomized withdrawal and retreatment: Results from the phase III, double-blind, placebo- and active comparator-controlled VOYAGE 2 trial. *Am J Clin Dermatol*. 2017;76(3):418-431.
5. Blauvelt A, Papp KA, Griffiths, CEM, et al. Efficacy and safety of guselkumab, an anti-interleukin-23 monoclonal antibody, compared with adalimumab for the continuous treatment of patients with moderate to severe psoriasis: Results from the phase III, double-blinded, placebo- and active comparator-controlled VOYAGE 1 trial. *Am J Clin Dermatol*. 2017;76(3):405-417.