SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT

REMICADE (infliximab)
INFLECTRA (infliximab-dyyb)
RENFLEXIS (infliximab-abda)

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.

A. FDA-Approved Indications
1. Moderately to severely active Crohn's disease
2. Moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis
3. Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis in combination with methotrexate
4. Active ankylosing spondylitis
5. Active psoriatic arthritis
6. Chronic severe plaque psoriasis

B. Compendial Uses
1. Axial spondyloarthritis
2. Hidradenitis suppurativa
3. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis
4. Uveitis

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

II. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

A. Moderately to severely active Crohn's disease (CD)
1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members who have previously received Remicade, Inflectra, Renflexis, or any other biologic indicated for the treatment of Crohn's disease.

2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of moderately to severely active CD when any of the following criteria is met:
   a. Member has fistulizing disease.
   b. Member has an inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to at least one conventional therapy option (see Appendix A).

B. Moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC)
1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members who have previously received Remicade, Inflectra, Renflexis, or any other biologic indicated for moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis.

2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of moderately to severely active UC when the member has an inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to at least ONE conventional therapy option (see Appendix B).

C. Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members who have previously received Remicade, Inflectra, Renflexis, or any other biologic DMARD or targeted synthetic DMARD (e.g., Xeljanz) indicated for moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis. Remicade, Inflectra, or Renflexis must be prescribed in combination with methotrexate or leflunomide unless the member has a clinical reason not to use methotrexate or leflunomide.

2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of moderately to severely active RA when all of the following criteria are met:
   a. Member is prescribed Remicade, Inflectra, or Renflexis in combination with methotrexate or leflunomide, or has a clinical reason not to use methotrexate or leflunomide.
   b. Member has any of the following:
      i. Inadequate response to at least a 3-month trial of methotrexate despite adequate dosing (i.e., titrated to 20 mg/week)
      ii. Intolerance or contraindication to methotrexate (see Appendix C)

D. Active ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and axial spondyloarthritis

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members who have previously received Remicade, Inflectra, Renflexis, or any other biologic DMARD indicated for active ankylosing spondylitis.

2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of active ankylosing spondylitis and axial spondyloarthritis when any of the following criteria is met:
   a. Member has experienced an inadequate response to at least two non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).
   b. Member has an intolerance or contraindication to two or more NSAIDs.

E. Chronic severe plaque psoriasis

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members who have previously received Remicade, Inflectra, Renflexis, Otezla, or any other biologic DMARD indicated for the treatment of severe psoriasis.

2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of chronic severe plaque psoriasis when all of the following criteria are met:
   a. 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.
   b. Member has an inadequate response or intolerance to a self-injectable tumor necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitor (e.g., adalimumab).

F. Hidradenitis suppurativa

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of severe, refractory hidradenitis suppurativa.

G. Juvenile Idiopathic arthritis (JIA)

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members who have previously received Remicade, Inflectra, or Renflexis.

2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of JIA when any of the following criteria is met:
   a. Member has experienced an inadequate response to at least a 3-month trial of a self-injectable TNF inhibitor indicated for JIA (e.g., Enbrel or Humira).

b. Member has experienced an intolerable adverse event (e.g., hypersensitivity reaction) to a self-injectable TNF inhibitor indicated for JIA.

H. Uveitis

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of uveitis in members who have experienced an inadequate response or intolerance or have a contraindication to a trial of immunosuppressive therapy for uveitis (e.g., methotrexate, azathioprine, or mycophenolate mofetil).

III. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY

Authorization of 12 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 3 months of therapy with Remicade or Inflectra as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition.

IV. OTHER

For all indications: 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 Remicade, Inflectra, Renflexis or any other biologic DMARD or targeted synthetic DMARD (e.g., Xeljanz) are exempt from requirements related to TB screening in this Policy.

V. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Examples of Conventional Therapy Options for CD

1. Mild to moderate disease – induction of remission:
   a. Oral budesonide, oral mesalamine
   b. Alternatives: metronidazole, ciprofloxacin, rifaximin
2. Mild to moderate disease – maintenance of remission:
   a. Azathioprine, mercaptopurine
   b. Alternatives: oral budesonide, methotrexate intramuscularly (IM)
3. Moderate to severe disease – induction of remission:
   a. Prednisone, methylprednisolone intravenously (IV)
   b. Alternatives: methotrexate IM
4. Moderate to severe disease – maintenance of remission:
   a. Azathioprine, mercaptopurine
   b. Alternative: methotrexate IM
5. Perianal and fistulizing disease – induction of remission
   a. Metronidazole ± ciprofloxacin
6. Perianal and fistulizing disease – maintenance of remission
   a. Azathioprine, mercaptopurine
   b. Alternative: methotrexate IM

Appendix B: Examples of Conventional Therapy Options for UC

1. Mild to moderate disease – induction of remission:
   a. Oral mesalamine (e.g., Asacol, Asacol HD, Lialda, Pentasa), balsalazide, olsalazine
   b. Rectal mesalamine (e.g., Canasa, Rowasa)
   c. Rectal hydrocortisone (e.g., Colocort, Cortifoam)
   d. Alternatives: prednisone, azathioprine, mercaptopurine, sulfasalazine

2. Mild to moderate disease – maintenance of remission:
   a. Oral mesalamine, balsalazide, olsalazine, rectal mesalamine
   b. Alternatives: azathioprine, mercaptopurine, sulfasalazine
3. Severe disease – induction of remission:
   a. Prednisone, hydrocortisone IV, methylprednisolone IV
   b. Alternatives: cyclosporine IV, tacrolimus, sulfasalazine
4. Severe disease – maintenance of remission:
   a. Azathioprine, mercaptopurine
   b. Alternative: sulfasalazine
5. Pouchitis: Metronidazole, ciprofloxacin
   a. Alternative: rectal mesalamine

Appendix C: Examples of Contraindications to Methotrexate

1. Alcoholism, alcoholic liver disease or other chronic liver disease
2. Breastfeeding
3. Blood dyscrasias (e.g., thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, significant anemia)
4. Elevated liver transaminases
5. History of intolerance or adverse event
6. Hypersensitivity
7. Interstitial pneumonitis or clinically significant pulmonary fibrosis
8. Myelodysplasia
9. Pregnancy or planning pregnancy (male or female)
10. Renal impairment
11. Significant drug interaction

Appendix D: 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. Drug interaction
4. Cannot be used due to risk of treatment-related toxicity
5. Pregnancy or planning pregnancy (male or female)
6. Significant comorbidity prohibits use of systemic agents (examples include liver or kidney disease, blood dyscrasias, uncontrolled hypertension)

VI. REFERENCES

1. Remicade [package insert]. Horsham, PA: Janssen Biotech, Inc.; October 2015.
2. Inflectra [package insert]. Lake Forest, IL: Hospira, a Pfizer Company; August 2016.
3. Renflexis [package insert]. Kenilworth, NJ. Merck &Co., Inc; April 2017.
4. van der Heijde D, Ramiro S, Landewe R, et al. 2016 Update of the international ASAS-EULAR management recommendations for axial spondyloarthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2017;0:1-14.
5. DRUGDEX® System [Internet database]. Ann Arbor, MI: Truven Health Analytics. Updated periodically. Accessed August 30, 2017.
6. Talley NJ, Abreu MT, Achkar J, et al. An evidence-based systematic review on medical therapies for inflammatory bowel disease. Am J Gastroenterol. 2011;106(Suppl 1):S2-S25.
7. Saag KG, Teng GG, Patkar NM, et al. American College of Rheumatology 2008 recommendations for the use of nonbiologic and biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs in rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2008;59(6):762-784.
8. Smolen JS, Landewé R, Billsma J, et al. EULAR recommendations for the management of rheumatoid arthritis with synthetic and biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: 2016 update. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2017*;0*:1-18.

9. Singh JA, Saag KG, Bridges SL Jr, et al. 2015 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2016;68(1)1-26.
10. 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.
11. Gossec L, Smolen JS, Ramiro S, et al. European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) recommendations for the management of psoriatic arthritis with pharmacological therapies; 2015 update. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2016;75(3):499-510.
12. Gladman DD, Antoni C, P Mease, et al. Psoriatic arthritis: epidemiology, clinical features, course, and outcome. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2005;64(Suppl II):ii14–ii17.
13. Peluso R, Lervolino S, Vitiello M, et al. Extra-articular manifestations in psoriatic arthritis patients. Clin Rheumatol. 2014 May 8. [Epub ahead of print].
14. Braun J, van den Berg R, Baraliakos X, et al. 2010 update of the ASAS/EULAR recommendations for the management of ankylosing spondylitis. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2011;70:896–904.
15. Beukelman T, Patkar NM, Saag KG, et al. 2011 American College of Rheumatology recommendations for the treatment of juvenile idiopathic arthritis: initiation and safety monitoring of therapeutic agents for the treatment of arthritis and systemic features. *Arthritis Care Res*. 2011;63(4):465-482.
16. Ringold S, Weiss PF, Beukelman T, et al. 2013 Update of the 2011 American College of Rheumatology Recommendations for the Treatment of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: Recommendations for the Medical Therapy of Children With Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis and Tuberculosis Screening Among Children Receiving Biologic Medications. *Arthritis & Rheumatism.* 2013;65:2499-2512.
17. Ward MM, Deodhar A, Akl EA, et al. American College of Rheumatology/Spondylitis Association of America/Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network 2015 recommendations for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis and nonradiographic axial spondyloarthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2015: 10.1002/art.39298. [Epub ahead of print].