Reference number(s)
2011-A

SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT

XELJANZ (tofacitinib)
XELJANZ XR (tofacitinib extended release tablets)

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 Indications
A. Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis
B. Active psoriatic arthritis
C. Moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis

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

II. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

A. Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)

1. Authorization of 24 months may be granted to members who have previously received Xeljanz, Xeljanz XR or any biologic DMARD indicated for the treatment of moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis.

2. Authorization of 24 months may be granted for treatment of moderately to severely active RA when any of the following criteria is met:
   a. Member has experienced an inadequate response to at least a 3-month trial of methotrexate despite adequate dosing (i.e., titrated to 20 mg/week).
   b. Member has an intolerance or contraindication to methotrexate (see Appendix).

B. Active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)

1. Authorization of 24 months may be granted to members who have previously received Xeljanz, Xeljanz XR or any biologic DMARD indicated for the treatment of active psoriatic arthritis. Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR must be used in combination with a nonbiologic DMARD (e.g., methotrexate, leflunomide, sulfasalazine, etc.)

2. Authorization of 24 months may be granted for treatment of active PsA when all of the following criteria are met:
   a. Member has experienced an inadequate response to at least a 3-month trial of methotrexate (MTX) or other nonbiologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) (e.g., leflunomide, sulfasalazine, etc.)
   b. Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR is used in combination with a nonbiologic DMARD (e.g., methotrexate, leflunomide, sulfasalazine, etc.)

C. Moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC)

1. Authorization of 24 months may be granted for members who have previously received Xeljanz, Xeljanz XR or any biologic DMARD indicated for the treatment of moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis.

2. Authorization of 24 months may be granted for treatment of moderately to severely active UC if the member has had an inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to EITHER of the following:
   a. At least ONE conventional therapy option (see Appendix B)
   b. At least ONE biologic DMARD indicated for UC

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 3 months of therapy with Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR 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 Xeljanz, Xeljanz XR or any other biologic DMARD are exempt from requirements related to TB screening in this Policy.

V. APPENDICES

Appendix A: 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 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

VI. REFERENCES

1. Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR [package insert]. New York, NY: Pfizer, Inc.; May 2018.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
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.