POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NAME: Omalizumab (Xolair)	**POLICY ID:** TX.PHAR.97
BUSINESS UNIT: Superior HealthPlan	**FUNCTIONAL AREA:** Pharmacy, Medical Directors, Claims
EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/2/2021	**PRODUCT(S):** STAR, STAR PLUS, STAR HEALTH, STAR KIDS, CHIP, CHIP Perinate
REVIEWED/REVISED DATE: 11/30/2021, 2/16/2022, 8/10/2022, 11/14/2022, 8/1/2023	
REGULATOR MOST RECENT APPROVAL DATE(S): N/A	

POLICY STATEMENT:
The purpose of this Clinical Policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity reviews for omalizumab (Xolair).

PURPOSE:
It is the policy of Superior HealthPlan and Centene Pharmacy Services to follow state guidance for medical necessity review omalizumab (Xolair).

Consistent with the regulation at 42 CFR Section 438.210 and 42 CFR Section 457.1230(d), services covered under managed care contracts, including clinician-administered drugs, must be furnished in an amount, duration, and scope that is no less than the amount, duration, and scope for the same services specified in the state plan. While MCOs may place appropriate limits on drugs, MCOs may not use a standard for determining medical necessity that is more restrictive than what is used in the state plan, i.e., developed by the Vendor Drug Program. For example, if a member is denied a clinician administered drug in managed care because of the MCO's prior authorization criteria but would have received the drug under the criteria specified in the state plan, then the MCO's prior authorization criteria would violate the amount, duration, and scope requirements cited above. HHSC intends to amend the Managed Care Contracts at the next opportunity to include this requirement. This same standard applies to CHIP formulary and CAD coverage.

Refer to the Outpatient Drug Services Handbook of the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedure Manual for more details on the clinical policy and prior authorization requirements.

SCOPE:
This policy applies to Centene Pharmacy Services, Pharmacy Department, Medical Directors, Claims.

DEFINITIONS:
N/A

POLICY:
It is the policy of Superior HealthPlan and Centene Pharmacy Services to follow state guidance for medical necessity review omalizumab (Xolair).

Description:
Omalizumab (Xolair®) is an anti-IgE antibody

FDA Approved Indication(s)
Xolair is indicated for treatment of the following:
• Clients 6 years of age and older with moderate to severe persistent asthma as defined by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's Guidelines for the Diagnosis and management of Asthma
• Clients who are 12 years of age and older and have chronic idiopathic urticaria (CIU) who remain symptomatic despite H1 antihistamine treatment
• Add-on maintenance treatment of nasal polyps for clients 18 years of age and older with inadequate response to nasal corticosteroids

PROCEDURE:
Provider must submit documentation (which may include office chart notes and lab results) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Moderate to Severe Persistent Asthma (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of moderate to severe asthma (as defined by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's Guidelines for the Diagnosis and management of Asthma) (diagnosis codes J4540 and J4550)
2. The client is 6 years of age or older.
   Note: Exceptions may be considered for clients younger than the FDA approved age on a case-by-case basis by the CPS medical director.
3. Documentation showing symptoms are inadequately controlled with use of a minimum of 3 months of controller medication (which includes but is not limited to a long-acting beta2-agonist [LABA], an inhaled or oral corticosteroid, leukotriene receptor antagonist [LTRA], or theophylline, unless the individual is intolerant of, or has a medical contraindication to these agents.
   Note: Exceptions to the criteria above will be considered on a case-by-case basis, which will require a letter from the prescribing provider stating the medical necessity for omalizumab, the client's asthma severity level, and the duration of current and past therapies and lack of asthma control. Consideration for these exceptions will be reviewed by the CPS medical director.
4. The client has a positive skin test or radioallergosorbent test (RAST) to a perennial (not seasonal) aeroallergen within the past 36 months.
5. The client has a total IgE level greater than 30 IU/ml but less than 1300 IU/ml within the past 12 months.
6. Xolair is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, or Nucala or any other interleukin-5 antagonist.
7. Any client with a preexisting helminth infection should be treated prior to receiving mepolizumab therapy. If there is an active helminth infection, the client should be treated with anti-helminth treatment. If there is no response, treatment with omalizumab should be discontinued until parasitic infection resolves.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria (CIU) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of CIU with symptoms despite H1 antihistamine treatment (diagnosis code L501)
2. The client is 12 years of age or older.
   Note: Exceptions may be considered for clients younger than the FDA approved age on a case-by-case basis by the CPS medical director
3. The provider must provide evidence of an evaluation that excludes other medical diagnoses associated with chronic urticaria.
4. Documentation of failure of an antihistamine, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced, or contraindicated.
5. Xolair is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala or any other interleukin-5 antagonist.
6. Any client with a preexisting helminth infection should be treated prior to receiving mepolizumab therapy.
7. If there is an active helminth infection, the client should be treated with anti-helminth treatment. If there is no response, treatment with omalizumab should be discontinued until parasitic infection resolves.

Approval duration: 6 months

C. Nasal Polyps (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of bilateral nasal polyposis (diagnosis codes J330, J331, J338, J339) with inadequate response to nasal corticosteroids
2. Confirmed diagnosis by physical examination or nasal endoscopy.
3. The client is 18 years of age or older.
   Note: Exceptions may be considered for clients younger than the FDA approved age on a case-by-case basis by the CPS medical director
4. Documentation of failure of or inadequate response to corticosteroid treatments as monotherapy, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced.
5. Xolair is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala or any other interleukin-5 antagonist.
6. Any client with a preexisting helminth infection should be treated prior to receiving omalizumab therapy. If there is an active helminth infection, the client should be treated with anti-helminth treatment. If there is no response, treatment with omalizumab should be discontinued until parasitic infection resolves.

Approval duration: 6 months

II. Continued Therapy

A. Moderate to Severe Persistent Asthma (must meet all):

1. The client has a satisfactory clinical response to therapy (Documentation of clinical improvement must include one or more of the following (a, b, or c):
   a. Decreased utilization of rescue medications
   b. Increase in predicted FEV1 (forced expiratory volume) from pretreatment baseline
   c. Reduction in reported asthma-related symptoms, as evidenced by decreases in frequency or magnitude of one or more of the following symptoms:
      - Asthma attacks
      - Chest tightness or heaviness
      - Coughing or clearing throat
      - Difficulty taking deep breath or difficulty breathing out
      - Shortness of breath
      - Sleep disturbance, night wakening, or symptoms upon awakening
      - Tiredness
      - Wheezing/heavy breathing/fighting for air
2. Documentation stating member has not exhibited symptoms of hypersensitivity or anaphylaxis (bronchospasm, hypotension, syncope, urticaria, and/or angioedema) after administration of omalizumab.
3. Xolair is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala or any other interleukin-5 antagonist.
4. The client must be compliant with their Xolair regimen in order to qualify for additional prior authorizations. The provider must submit a statement documenting compliance with the requests for each renewal.
5. Any client with a preexisting helminth infection should be treated prior to receiving omalizumab therapy. If there is an active helminth infection, the client should be treated with anti-helminth treatment. If there is no response, treatment with omalizumab should be discontinued until parasitic infection resolves.

   Note: Requests for clients who do not meet the above criteria will be reviewed for medical necessity by the CPS medical director. After lapses in treatment of 3 months or greater, prior authorization requests submitted with documentation will be reviewed by a CPS medical director.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. CIU or Nasal Polyps (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or has met all initial approval criteria.
2. Documentation supports positive response to therapy.
3. Documentation of compliance with the medication for 6 continuous months.
4. Documentation stating client has not exhibited symptoms of hypersensitivity or anaphylaxis (bronchospasm, hypotension, syncope, urticaria, and/or angioedema) after administration of omalizumab.
5. Xolair is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala or any other interleukin-5 antagonist.
6. Any client with a preexisting helminth infection should be treated prior to receiving omalizumab therapy. If there is an active helminth infection, the client should be treated with anti-helminth treatment. If there is no response, treatment with omalizumab should be discontinued until parasitic infection resolves.

   Note: Requests for clients who do not meet the above criteria will be reviewed for medical necessity by the CPS medical director. After lapses in treatment of 3 months or greater, prior authorization requests submitted with documentation will be reviewed by a CPS medical director.

Approval duration: 12 months

REFERENCES:

Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual: Outpatient Drug Services Handbook

ATTACHMENTS:

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES: N/A

REGULATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: N/A

REVISION LOG

REVISION TYPE	REVISION SUMMARY	DATE APPROVED & PUBLISHED
Ad Hoc	Added diagnosis codes	11/30/2021
Ad Hoc	Removed requirement of leukotriene inhibitor therapy Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria (CIU) to match TMHP criteria change that is effective 3/1/22	2/16/2022
Ad Hoc	Added criteria to all diagnoses that Xolair should not be prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, or Nucala	3/11/2022
Ad Hoc	Formatted to new template Added compliance statement requirement for continued approval for asthma Added that treatment must not be used with any other IL-5 antagonist	8/10/2022
Ad Hoc	Extended Approval Duration for continuation of therapy to 12 months	11/14/2022
Ad Hoc	Added additional PA requirement for all indications for initial and continuation criteria: • a client with a preexisting helminth infection should be treated prior to receiving mepolizumab therapy • If there is an active helminth infection, the client should be treated with anti-helminth treatment. If there is no response, treatment should be discontinued until parasitic infection resolves Updated criteria step 3 for initial therapy for indication of moderate to severe asthma to: • Documentation showing symptoms are inadequately controlled with use of a minimum of 3 months of controller medication (which includes but is not limited to a long-acting beta2-agonist [LABA], an inhaled or oral corticosteroid, leukotriene receptor antagonist [LTRA], or theophylline, unless the individual is intolerant of, or has a medical	8/1/2023

	contraindication to these agents. Update criteria verbiage to “the client” for consistency throughout document Updated age requirements throughout by removing ≥ symbol. Removed criteria points under asthma indication referencing: smoking and pulmonary function tests. Changed Superior HealthPlan/CPS to Centene Pharmacy Services/CPS throughout policy Added names/titles under Policy and Procedure Approval Section Added CHIP Perinate to Product	

POLICY AND PROCEDURE APPROVAL

Thomas Nguyen, Sr. Pharmacy Director	Approval on file
Dr. David Harmon, Sr. V.P., Chief Medical Officer	Approval on file

The electronic approval retained in RSA Archer, the Company’s P&P management software, is considered equivalent to a signature.