

Clinical Policy: Certolizumab (Cimzia)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.247

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Line of Business: Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Certolizumab (Cimzia[®]) is a tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blocker.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Cimzia is indicated for:

- Reducing signs and symptoms of Crohn's disease (CD) and maintaining clinical response in adult patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- Treatment of adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
- Treatment of adult patients with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)
- Treatment of adults with active ankylosing spondylitis (AS)
- Treatment of adults with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) with objective signs of inflammation
- Treatment of adults with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis (PsO) who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy
- Treatment of active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (pJIA) in patients 2 years of age and older

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation[®] that Cimzia is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. Axial Spondylitis (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of AS or nr-axSpA;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Failure of at least TWO non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) at up to maximally indicated doses, each used for \geq 4 weeks unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
5. For AS, member meets ALL* of the following, each used for \geq 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a, b, and c, see Appendix D):

- a. Failure of one adalimumab product (e.g., *Hadlima*[™], *Simlandi*[®], *Yusimry*[™], *adalimumab-aaty*, *adalimumab-adaz*, *adalimumab-adbm*, and *adalimumab-fkjp* are preferred), unless the member has had a history of failure of two TNF blockers;
 - b. Failure of Taltz[®];
 - c. If member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers, *Xeljanz*[®]/*Xeljanz XR*[®], unless member has cardiovascular risk and benefits do not outweigh the risk of treatment;
**Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products, Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR, and Taltz*
6. For nr-axSpA: Failure of Taltz^{*}, used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
**Prior authorization may be required for Taltz*
 7. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
 8. Dose does not exceed 400 mg at weeks 0, 2, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 400 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Crohn's Disease (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of CD;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of at least ONE immunomodulator (e.g., azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine [6-MP], methotrexate [MTX]) at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
 - b. Medical justification supports inability to use immunomodulators (*see Appendix D*);
5. Member meets ONE of the following, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (a or b, *see Appendix D*):
 - a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of one adalimumab* product (e.g., *Hadlima*, *Simlandi*, *Yusimry*, *adalimumab-aaty*, *adalimumab-adaz*, *adalimumab-adbm*, and *adalimumab-fkjp* are preferred);
 - b. History of failure of two TNF blockers;
**Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products*
6. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
7. Dose does not exceed 400 mg at weeks 0, 2, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 400 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

C. Plaque Psoriasis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of moderate-to-severe PsO as evidenced by involvement of one of the following (a or b):

- a. $\geq 3\%$ of total body surface area;
- b. Hands, feet, scalp, face, or genital area;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist or rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of MTX at up to maximally indicated doses;
 - b. Member has intolerance or contraindication to MTX (*see Appendix D*), and failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of cyclosporine or acitretin at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;
 - c. Member has intolerance or contraindication to MTX, cyclosporine, and acitretin, and failure of phototherapy, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Member meets ONE of the following, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (a or b, *see Appendix D*):
 - a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of one adalimumab* product (e.g., *Hadlima, Simlandi, Yusimry, adalimumab-aaty, adalimumab-adaz, adalimumab-adbm, and adalimumab-fkjp are preferred*);
 - b. History of failure of two TNF blockers;
**Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products*
6. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of Taltz*, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
**Prior authorization may be required for Taltz*
7. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
8. Dose does not exceed 400 mg every 2 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

D. Psoriatic Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of PsA;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist or rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Failure of ALL* of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a, b, c, and d, *see Appendix D*):
 - a. One adalimumab product (e.g., *Hadlima, Simlandi, Yusimry, adalimumab-aaty, adalimumab-adaz, adalimumab-adbm, and adalimumab-fkjp are preferred*), unless the member has had a history of failure of two TNF blockers;
 - b. Otezla[®];
 - c. Taltz;
 - d. If member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers, Xeljanz[®]/Xeljanz XR[®], unless member has cardiovascular risk and benefits do not outweigh the risk of treatment;

**Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products, Otezla, Taltz, and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR*

5. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
6. Dose does not exceed 400 mg at weeks 0, 2, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 400 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

E. Rheumatoid Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of RA per American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria (*see Appendix E*);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Failure of a \geq 3 consecutive month trial of MTX at up to maximally indicated doses;
 - b. Member has intolerance or contraindication to MTX (*see Appendix D*), and failure of a \geq 3 consecutive month trial of at least ONE conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug [DMARD] (e.g., sulfasalazine, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine) at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
5. Failure of ALL* of the following, each used for \geq 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a, b, and c, *see Appendix D*):
 - a. One adalimumab product (e.g., *Hadlima, Simlandi, Yusimry, adalimumab-aaty, adalimumab-adaz, adalimumab-adbm, and adalimumab-fkjp are preferred*), unless the member has had a history of failure of two TNF blockers;
 - b. Actemra[®];
 - c. If member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers, Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR, unless member has cardiovascular risk and benefits do not outweigh the risk of treatment;

**Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products, Actemra, and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR*
6. Documentation of one of the following baseline assessment scores (a or b):
 - a. Clinical disease activity index (CDAI) score (*see Appendix F*);
 - b. Routine assessment of patient index data 3 (RAPID3) score (*see Appendix G*);
7. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
8. Dose does not exceed 400 mg at weeks 0, 2, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 400 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

F. Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of PJIA* as evidenced by \geq 5 joints with active arthritis;
**Overlap of diagnosis exists in children with JIA and non-systemic polyarthritis, which may include children from ILAR JIA categories of enthesitis-related arthritis*
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
3. Age \geq 2 years;

4. Documented baseline 10-joint clinical juvenile arthritis disease activity score (cJADAS-10) (*see Appendix H*);
5. Member meets one of the following (a, b, c, or d):
 - a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of MTX at up to maximally indicated doses;
 - b. Member has intolerance or contraindication to MTX (*see Appendix D*), and failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of leflunomide or sulfasalazine at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;
 - c. For sacroiliitis/axial spine involvement (i.e., spine, hip), failure of a ≥ 4 week trial of an NSAID at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
 - d. Documented presence of high disease activity as evidenced by a cJADAS-10 > 8.5 (*see Appendix H*);
6. Failure of ALL* of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated (a, b, and c, *see Appendix D*):
 - a. ONE adalimumab product (e.g., *Hadlima, Simlandi, Yusimry, adalimumab-aaty, adalimumab-adaz, adalimumab-adbm, and adalimumab-fkjp are preferred*), unless the member has had a history of failure of two TNF blockers;
 - b. Actemra;
 - c. If member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers, Xeljanz, unless member has cardiovascular risk and benefits do not outweigh the risk of treatment;

**Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products, Actemra, and Xeljanz*
7. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
8. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Weight 10 kg (22 lbs) to < 20 kg (44 lbs) (both i and ii):
 - i. Loading dose: 100 mg at week 0, 2, and 4;
 - ii. Maintenance dose: 50 mg at week 6 and every 2 weeks thereafter;
 - b. Weight 20 kg (44 lbs) to < 40 kg (88 lbs) (both i and ii):
 - i. Loading dose: 200 mg at week 0, 2, and 4;
 - ii. Maintenance dose: 100 mg at week 6 and every 2 weeks thereafter;
 - c. Weight ≥ 40 kg (88 lbs) (both i and ii):
 - i. Loading dose: 400 mg at week 0, 2, and 4;
 - ii. Maintenance dose: 200 mg at week 6 and every 2 weeks thereafter.

Approval duration: 6 months

G. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):

- a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. All Indications in Section I (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. For RA: Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. A decrease in CDAI (*see Appendix F*) or RAPID3 (*see Appendix G*) score from baseline;
 - ii. Medical justification stating inability to conduct CDAI re-assessment, and submission of RAPID3 score associated with disease severity that is similar to initial CDAI assessment or improved;
 - b. For pJIA: Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by a decrease in cJADAS-10 from baseline (*see Appendix H*);
 - c. For all other indications: Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. For CD, RA, PsA, AS, nr-axSpA: 400 mg every 4 weeks;
 - b. For pJIA: 200 mg every 2 weeks;
 - c. For PsO: 400 mg every 2 weeks.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):

- a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents;
- B. Combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) or potent immunosuppressants, including but not limited to any tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists [e.g., Cimzia[®], Enbrel[®], Humira[®] and its biosimilars, Remicade[®] and its biosimilars (Avsola[™], Inflectra[™], Renflexis[™], Zymfentra[®]), Simponi[®]], interleukin agents [e.g., Actemra[®] (IL-6RA), Arcalyst[®] (IL-1 blocker), Bimzelx[®] (IL-17A and F antagonist), Cosentyx[®] (IL-17A inhibitor), Ilaris[®] (IL-1 blocker), Ilumya[™] (IL-23 inhibitor), Kevzara[®] (IL-6RA), Kineret[®] (IL-1RA), Omvoh[™] (IL-23 antagonist), Siliq[™] (IL-17RA), Skyrizi[™] (IL-23 inhibitor), Stelara[®] (IL-12/23 inhibitor), Taltz[®] (IL-17A inhibitor), Tofidence[™] (IL-6), Tremfya[®] (IL-23 inhibitor), Wezlana[™] (IL-12/23 inhibitor)], Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) [e.g., Cibinqo[™], Olumiant[™], Rinvoq[™], Xeljanz[®]/Xeljanz[®] XR,], anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies [Rituxan[®] and its biosimilars (Riabni[™], Ruxience[™], Truxima[®]), Rituxan Hycela[®]], selective co-stimulation modulators [Orencia[®]], integrin receptor antagonists [Entyvio[®]], tyrosine kinase 2 inhibitors [Sotyktu[™]], and sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor modulator [Velsipity[™]] because of the additive immunosuppression, increased risk of neutropenia, as well as increased risk of serious infections.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

6-MP: 6-mercaptopurine	MTX: methotrexate
AS: ankylosing spondylitis	nr-axSpA: non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis
CD: Crohn's disease	NSAID: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
CDAI: clinical disease activity index	pJIA: polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis
cJADAS-10: 10-joint clinical juvenile arthritis disease activity score	PsA: psoriatic arthritis
DMARD: disease-modifying antirheumatic drug	PsO: plaque psoriasis
FDA: Food and Drug Administration	RA: rheumatoid arthritis
JAKi: Janus kinase inhibitors	RAPID3: routine assessment of patient index 3
	TNF: tumor necrosis factor

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
acitretin (Soriatane [®])	PsO 25 or 50 mg PO QD	50 mg/day
azathioprine (Azasan [®] , Imuran [®])	RA 1 mg/kg/day PO QD or divided BID CD* 1.5 – 2.5 mg/kg/day PO	2.5 mg/kg/day
corticosteroids	CD* prednisone 40 mg – 60 mg PO QD for 1 to 2 weeks, then taper daily dose by 5 mg weekly until 20 mg PO QD, and then continue with 2.5 – 5 mg decrements weekly or IV 50 – 100 mg Q6H for 1 week budesonide (Entocort EC [®]) 6 – 9 mg PO QD	Various
Cuprimine [®] (d-penicillamine)	RA* <u>Initial dose:</u> 125 or 250 mg PO QD <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 500 – 750 mg/day PO QD	1,500 mg/day
cyclosporine (Sandimmune [®] , Neoral [®])	RA, PsO 2.5 – 4 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	4 mg/kg/day
hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil [®])	RA* <u>Initial dose:</u> 400 – 600 mg/day PO QD <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 200 – 400 mg/day PO QD	600 mg/day
leflunomide (Arava [®])	PJIA* Weight < 20 kg: 10 mg every other day Weight 20 - 40 kg: 10 mg/day Weight > 40 kg: 20 mg/day RA 100 mg PO QD for 3 days, then 20 mg PO QD	20 mg/day
6-mercaptopurine (Purixan [®])	CD* 50 mg PO QD or 0.75 – 1.5 mg/kg/day PO	1.5 mg/kg/day
methotrexate (Trexall [®] ,	CD* 15 – 25 mg/week IM or SC	30 mg/week

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Otrexup [™] , Rasuvo [®] , RediTrex [®] , Rheumatrex [®] , Jylamvo [®])	<p>PJIA*</p> <p>10 – 20 mg/m²/week PO, SC, or IM</p> <p>RA</p> <p>7.5 mg/week PO, SC, or IM or 2.5 mg PO Q12 hr for 3 doses/week</p> <p>PsO</p> <p>10 to 25 mg/week IM, SC or PO or 2.5 mg PO Q12 hr for 3 doses/week</p>	
NSAIDs (e.g., indomethacin, ibuprofen, naproxen, celecoxib)	<p>AS, nr-axSpA</p> <p>Varies</p>	Varies
Pentasa [®] (mesalamine)	<p>CD</p> <p>1,000 mg PO QID</p>	4 g/day
Ridaura [®] (auranofin)	<p>RA</p> <p>6 mg PO QD or 3 mg PO BID</p>	9 mg/day (3 mg TID)
sulfasalazine (Azulfidine [®])	<p>PJIA*</p> <p>30-50 mg/kg/day PO divided BID</p> <p>RA</p> <p><u>Initial dose:</u> 500 mg to 1,000 mg PO QD for the first week. Increase the daily dose by 500 mg each week up to a maintenance dose of 2 g/day.</p> <p><u>Maintenance dose:</u> 2 g/day PO in divided doses</p>	<p>PJIA: 2 g/day</p> <p>RA: 3 g/day</p>
tacrolimus (Prograf [®])	<p>CD*</p> <p>0.27 mg/kg/day PO in divided doses or 0.15 – 0.29 mg/kg/day PO</p>	N/A
Actemra [®] (tocilizumab)	<p>pJIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight < 30 kg: 10 mg/kg IV every 4 weeks or 162 mg SC every 3 weeks • Weight ≥ 30 kg: 8 mg/kg IV every 4 weeks or 162 mg SC every 2 weeks <p>RA</p> <p>IV: 4 mg/kg every 4 weeks followed by an increase to 8 mg/kg every 4 weeks based on clinical response</p>	<p>PJIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IV: 10 mg/kg every 4 weeks • SC: 162 mg every 2 weeks <p>RA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IV: 800 mg every 4 weeks

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	SC: Weight < 100 kg: 162 mg SC every other week, followed by an increase to every week based on clinical response Weight ≥ 100 kg: 162 mg SC every week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC: 162 mg every week
Hadlima (adalimumab-bwwd), Simlandi (adalimumab-ryvk), Yusimry (adalimumab-aqvh), adalimumab-aaty (Yuflyma [®]), adalimumab-adaz (Hyrimoz [®]), adalimumab-fkjp (Hulio [®]), adalimumab-adbm (Cyltezo [®])	<p>RA, AS, PsA 40 mg SC every other week</p> <p>PsO <u>Initial dose:</u> 80 mg SC</p> <p><u>Maintenance dose:</u> 40 mg SC every other week starting one week after initial dose</p> <p>CD <u>Initial dose:</u> 160 mg SC on Day 1, then 80 mg SC on Day 15</p> <p><u>Maintenance dose:</u> 40 mg SC every other week starting on Day 29</p> <p>pJIA Cyltezo, Hadlima, Hyrimoz: Weight 10 kg (22 lbs) to < 15 kg (33 lbs): 10 mg SC every other week</p> <p>Cyltezo, Hadlima, Hulio, Yuflyma: Weight 15 kg (33 lbs) to < 30 kg (66 lbs): 20 mg SC every other week</p> <p>Cyltezo, Hadlima, Hulio, Hyrimoz, Simlandi, Yuflyma, Yusimry: Weight ≥ 30 kg (66 lbs): 40 mg SC every other week</p>	40 mg every other week
Otezla [®] (apremilast)	<p>PsA <u>Initial dose:</u> Day 1: 10 mg PO QAM Day 2: 10 mg PO QAM and 10 mg PO QPM Day 3: 10 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM</p>	60 mg/day

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	Day 4: 20 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM Day 5: 20 mg PO QAM and 30 mg PO QPM <u>Maintenance dose:</u> Day 6 and thereafter: 30 mg PO BID	
Taltz [®] (ixekizumab)	PsA, AS <u>Initial dose:</u> 160 mg (two 80 mg injections) SC at week 0 <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 80 mg SC every 4 weeks nr-axSpA 80 mg SC every 4 weeks PsO <u>Initial dose:</u> 160 mg (two 80 mg injections) SC at week 0, then 80 mg SC at weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 80 mg SC every 4 weeks	80 mg every 4 weeks
Xeljanz [®] (tofacitinib)	PsA, RA 5 mg PO BID pJIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 kg ≤ body weight < 20 kg: 3.2 mg (3.2 mL oral solution) PO BID • 20 kg ≤ body weight < 40 kg: 4 mg (4 mL oral solution) PO BID • Body weight ≥ 40 kg: 5 mg PO BID 	10 mg/day
Xeljanz XR [®] (tofacitinib extended-release)	PsA, RA 11 mg PO QD	11 mg/day

sTherapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name[®] (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name[®]) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

**Off-label*

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): none reported
- Boxed warning(s):
 - There is an increased risk of serious infections leading to hospitalization or death including tuberculosis (TB), bacterial sepsis, invasive fungal infections (such as histoplasmosis), and infections due to other opportunistic pathogens.
 - Cimzia should be discontinued if a patient develops a serious infection or sepsis.
 - Perform test for latent TB; if positive, start treatment for TB prior to starting Cimzia

- Monitor all patients for active TB during treatment, even if initial latent TB test is negative
- Lymphoma and other malignancies have been observed.
- Epstein Barr Virus-associated post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder has been observed.

Appendix D: General Information

- Definition of failure of MTX or DMARDs
 - Child-bearing age is not considered a contraindication for use of MTX. Each drug has risks in pregnancy. An educated patient and family planning would allow use of MTX in patients who have no intention of immediate pregnancy.
 - Social use of alcohol is not considered a contraindication for use of MTX. MTX may only be contraindicated if patients choose to drink over 14 units of alcohol per week. However, excessive alcohol drinking can lead to worsening of the condition, so patients who are serious about clinical response to therapy should refrain from excessive alcohol consumption.
- Examples of positive response to therapy may include, but are not limited to:
 - Reduction in joint pain/swelling/tenderness
 - Improvement in ESR/CRP levels
 - Improvements in activities of daily living
- The following may be considered for medical justification supporting inability to use an immunomodulator for Crohn's disease:
 - Inability to induce short-term symptomatic remission with a 3-month trial of systemic glucocorticoids
 - High-risk factors for intestinal complications may include:
 - Initial extensive ileal, ileocolonic, or proximal GI involvement
 - Initial extensive perianal/severe rectal disease
 - Fistulizing disease (e.g., perianal, enterocutaneous, and rectovaginal fistulas)
 - Deep ulcerations
 - Penetrating, structuring, or stenosis disease and/or phenotype
 - Intestinal obstruction or abscess
 - High risk factors for postoperative recurrence may include:
 - Less than 10 years duration between time of diagnosis and surgery
 - Disease location in the ileum and colon
 - Perianal fistula
 - Prior history of surgical resection
 - Use of corticosteroids prior to surgery
- TNF blockers:
 - Etanercept (Enbrel[®]), adalimumab (Humira[®]) and its biosimilars, infliximab (Remicade[®]) and its biosimilars (Avsola[™], Renflexis[™], Inflectra[®]), certolizumab pegol (Cimzia[®]), and golimumab (Simponi[®], Simponi Aria[®]).

Appendix E: The 2010 ACR Classification Criteria for RA

Add score of categories A through D; a score of ≥ 6 out of 10 is needed for classification of a patient as having definite RA.

A	Joint involvement	Score
	1 large joint	0
	2-10 large joints	1
	1-3 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)	2
	4-10 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)	3
	> 10 joints (at least one small joint)	5
B	Serology (at least one test result is needed for classification)	
	Negative rheumatoid factor (RF) <i>and</i> negative anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA)	0
	Low positive RF <i>or</i> low positive ACPA <i>* Low: < 3 x upper limit of normal</i>	2
	High positive RF <i>or</i> high positive ACPA <i>* High: ≥ 3 x upper limit of normal</i>	3
C	Acute phase reactants (at least one test result is needed for classification)	
	Normal C-reactive protein (CRP) and normal erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)	0
	Abnormal CRP or abnormal ESR	1
D	Duration of symptoms	
	< 6 weeks	0
	≥ 6 weeks	1

Appendix F: Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) Score

The Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) is a composite index for assessing disease activity in RA. CDAI is based on the simple summation of the count of swollen/tender joint count of 28 joints along with patient and physician global assessment on VAS (0–10 cm) Scale for estimating disease activity. The CDAI score ranges from 0 to 76.

CDAI Score	Disease state interpretation
≤ 2.8	Remission
> 2.8 to ≤ 10	Low disease activity
> 10 to ≤ 22	Moderate disease activity
> 22	High disease activity

Appendix G: Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID3) Score

The Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID3) is a pooled index of the three patient-reported ACR core data set measures: function, pain, and patient global estimate of status. Each of the individual measures is scored 0 – 10, and the maximum achievable score is 30.

RAPID3 Score	Disease state interpretation
≤ 3	Remission
3.1 to 6	Low disease activity
6.1 to 12	Moderate disease activity
> 12	High disease activity

Appendix H: Clinical Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score Based on 10 Joints (cJADAS-10)

The cJADAS10 is a continuous disease activity score specific to JIA and consisting of the following three parameters totaling a maximum of 30 points:

- Physician’s global assessment of disease activity measured on a 0-10 visual analog scale (VAS), where 0 = no activity and 10 = maximum activity;
- Parent global assessment of well-being measured on a 0-10 VAS, where 0 = very well and 10 = very poor;
- Count of joints with active disease to a maximum count of 10 active joints*

**ACR definition of active joint: presence of swelling (not due to currently inactive synovitis or to bony enlargement) or, if swelling is not present, limitation of motion accompanied by pain, tenderness, or both*

cJADAS-10	Disease state interpretation
≤ 1	Inactive disease
1.1 to 2.5	Low disease activity
2.51 to 8.5	Moderate disease activity
> 8.5	High disease activity

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
CD	<u>Initial dose:</u> 400 mg SC at 0, 2, and 4 weeks <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 400 mg SC every 4 weeks	400 mg every 4 weeks
RA, PsA, AS, nr-axSpA	<u>Initial dose:</u> 400 mg SC at 0, 2, and 4 weeks <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 200 mg SC every other week (or 400 mg SC every 4 weeks)	400 mg every 4 weeks
PsO	400 mg SC every other week. For some patients (with body weight ≤ 90 kg), a dose of 400 mg SC at 0, 2 and 4 weeks, followed by 200 mg SC every other week may be considered.	400 mg every other week
pJIA	<u>Loading dose:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight 10 kg (22 lbs) to < 20 kg (44 lbs): 100 mg SC at week 0, 2, and 4 • Weight 20 kg (44 lbs) to < 40 kg (88 lbs): 200 mg SC at week 0, 2, and 4 • Weight ≥ 40 kg (88 lbs): 400 mg SC at week 0, 2, and 4 <u>Maintenance dose:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight 10 kg (22 lbs) to < 20 kg (44 lbs): 50 mg SC at week 6 and every 2 weeks thereafter • Weight 20 kg (44 lbs) to < 40 kg (88 lbs): 100 mg SC at week 6 and every 2 weeks thereafter 	200 mg every 2 weeks

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weight \geq 40 kg (88 lbs): 200 mg SC at week 6 and every 2 weeks thereafter 	

VI. Product Availability

- Single-use vial: 200 mg
- Single-use prefilled syringe: 200 mg/mL

VII. References

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Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J0717	Injection, certolizumab pegol, 1 mg (code may be used for Medicare when drug administered under the direct supervision of a physician, not for use when drug is self-administered)

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
2Q 2020 annual review: for RA, added specific diagnostic criteria for definite RA, baseline CDAI score requirement, and decrease in CDAI score as positive response to therapy; references reviewed and updated.	04.23.20	05.20
Revised typo in Appendix E from “normal ESR” to “abnormal ESR” for a point gained for ACR Classification Criteria.	11.22.20	
Added criteria for RAPID3 assessment for RA given limited in-person visits during COVID-19 pandemic, updated appendices.	11.24.20	02.21
2Q 2021 annual review: added additional criteria related to diagnosis of moderate-to-severe PsO per 2019 AAD/NPF guidelines specifying at least 3% BSA involvement or involvement of areas that severely impact daily function; added combination of bDMARDs under Section III; updated CDAI table with “>” to prevent overlap in classification of severity; references reviewed and updated.	02.23.21	05.21
Per August SDC and prior clinical guidance, for PsA removed Simponi as a redirect option and modified to require a trial of all; for RA added Actemra to redirect options and modified to require a trial of all; for Xeljanz redirection requirements added bypass for members with cardiovascular risk and qualified redirection to apply only for member that has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers.	08.25.21	11.21
2Q 2022 annual review: for RA, added redirection to Olumiant per February SDC; for PsO, allowed phototherapy as alternative to systemic conventional DMARD if contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced; reiterated requirement against combination use with a bDMARD or JAKi from Section III to Sections I and II; references reviewed and updated.	02.16.22	05.22

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	10.10.22	
2Q 2023 annual review: for PsA and RA, added TNFi criteria to allow bypass if member has had history of failure of two TNF blockers; references reviewed and updated.	02.08.23	05.23
Per July SDC: for PsA and RA, removed criteria requiring use of Enbrel; for AS, CD, PsO, PsA, RA, added criteria requiring use of one adalimumab product and stating Yusimry, Hadlima, unbranded adalimumab-fkjp, and unbranded adalimumab-adaz as preferred; for AS, added criteria requiring use of preferred Taltz and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR; for nr-axSpa, added criteria requiring use of preferred Taltz; updated Appendix B with relevant therapeutic alternatives.	07.25.23	
Per December SDC, added adalimumab-adbm to listed examples of preferred adalimumab products; for RA removed redirection to Kevzara and Olumiant.	12.06.23	02.24
2Q 2024 annual review: updated Appendix D with removal of CRADLE trial supplemental information; added Bimzelx, Zymfentra, Omvoh, Tofidence, Sotyktu, Wezlana, and Velsipity to section III.B; references reviewed and updated.	01.22.24	05.24
Per June SDC, added Simlandi to listed examples of preferred adalimumab products. Per SDC, added unbranded adalimumab-aaty to listed examples of preferred adalimumab products.	07.23.24	08.24
RT4: added criteria for newly approved indication for polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis; added Appendix H with cJADAS-10 scores.	09.19.24	11.24

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

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Note:

For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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