TX CLINICAL CRITERIA & PROCEDURE

CRITERIA NAME: Benralizumab (Fasenra®)	**CRITERIA ID:** TX.CC.PHAR.17
BUSINESS UNIT: Superior HealthPlan	**FUNCTIONAL AREA:** Pharmacy, Medical Directors, Claims
EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/18/2021	**PRODUCT(S):** STAR, STAR PLUS, STAR HEALTH, STAR KIDS, CHIP, CHIP Perinate
REVIEWED/REVISED DATE: 11/30/2021, 8/10/2022, 11/14/2022, 8/1/2023, 03/15/2024, 05/01/2024, 07/02/2024, 12/04/2024, 11/03/2025	
REGULATOR MOST RECENT APPROVAL DATE(S): N/A	

CRITERIA STATEMENT:
The purpose of this clinical criteria is to provide a guide to medical necessity reviews for benralizumab (Fasenra®).

PURPOSE:
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 criteria and prior authorization requirements.

SCOPE:
This criteria applies to all directors, officers, and employees of Centene Corporation, its affiliates, health plans, and subsidiary companies (collectively, the "Company").

DEFINITIONS:
N/A

POLICY:
It is the policy of Superior HealthPlan and Centene Pharmacy Services to follow state guidance for medical necessity review benralizumab (Fasenra®); procedure code: J0517.

Description/Mechanism of Action:
Benralizumab (Fasenra®) is an interleukin-5 receptor alpha-directed cytolytic monoclonal antibody (IgG1 kappa).

FDA Approved Indications:
Benralizumab (Fasenra®) is indicated for the following:

- Add-on maintenance treatment of clients who are 6 years of age or older and have severe asthma with an eosinophilic phenotype;
- Adult clients who are 18 years of age or older with eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA).

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. Severe Asthma (must meet all):

1. The client has a diagnosis of severe asthma with eosinophilic phenotype (as defined by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's Guidelines for the Diagnosis and management of Asthma) (diagnosis codes J45.50, J45.51 J45.52, and J82.83).

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 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 Fasenra, 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 Medical Director.
4. Fasenra is not prescribed concurrently with Xolair or any other interleukin-5 antagonist.
5. Any client with a preexisting helminth infection should be treated prior to receiving Fasenra therapy. If there is an active helminth infection, the client should be treated with anti-helminth treatment. If there is no response, treatment with Fasenra should be discontinued until parasitic infection resolves.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangitis (EGPA) (must meet all):

1. The client has a diagnosis of eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangitis (EGPA) (diagnosis code: M30.1)
2. 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 Medical Director.
3. The client has a medical history of asthma.
4. The client has a refractory disease or has had a history of EGPA relapse.
5. Fasenra is not prescribed concurrently with Xolair or any other interleukin-5 antagonist.
6. Any client with a preexisting helminth infection should be treated prior to receiving Fasenra therapy. If there is an active helminth infection, the client should be treated with anti-helminth treatment. If there is no response, treatment with Fasenra should be discontinued until parasitic infection resolves.

Approval Duration: 6 months

II. Continued Therapy

A. Severe 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 client has not exhibited symptoms of hypersensitivity or anaphylaxis (bronchospasm, hypotension, syncope, urticaria, and/or angioedema) after administration of Fasenra
3. Fasenra is not prescribed concurrently with Xolair or any other interleukin-5 antagonist.
4. The client must be compliant with their Fasenra 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 Fasenra therapy. If there is an active helminth infection, the client should be treated with anti-helminth treatment. If there is no response, treatment with Fasenra 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 Medical Director. After lapses in treatment of 3 months or greater, prior authorization requests submitted with documentation will be reviewed by a Medical Director.

Approval duration: 12 months

B: Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangitis (EGPA) (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or has met all initial approval criteria.
2. Documentation showing that the client has had positive response to therapy.
3. Documentation showing that the client has been compliant with the medication for 6 continuous months.
4. Documentation stating that client has not exhibited symptoms of hypersensitivity or anaphylaxis (bronchospasm, hypotension, syncope, urticaria, and/or angioedema) after administration of Fasenra.
5. Fasenra is not prescribed concurrently with Xolair or any other interleukin-5 antagonist.
6. Any client with a preexisting helminth infection should be treated prior to receiving Fasenra therapy. If there is an active helminth infection, the client should be treated with anti-helminth treatment. If there is no response, treatment with Fasenra 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 Medical Director. After lapses in treatment of 3 months or greater, prior authorization requests submitted with documentation will be reviewed by a Medical Director.

Approval Duration: 12 months

REFERENCES:

Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual: Outpatient Drug Services Handbook

ATTACHMENTS:

REVISION LOG

REVISION TYPE	REVISION SUMMARY	DATE APPROVED & PUBLISHED
Ad Hoc	Added diagnosis codes Removed age exception note	11/30/2021
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 Edited ICD-10 codes, typos from J4450, J4451 to J4550 and J551	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	8/1/2023

	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 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, pulmonary function tests and eosinophil counts Changed Superior HealthPlan/CPS to Centene Pharmacy Services/CPS throughout policy Added names/titles under Policy and Procedure Approval Section Added CHIP Perinate to Products	
Ad Hoc Review	Updated to TX.CC.PHAR format template Added Centene copyright statement	03/15/2024
Ad Hoc Review	Added J82.83 under I.A.1 as clarification for eosinophilic asthma Realigned Bullet I. and A. for formatting purposes	05/01/2024
Ad Hoc Review	Updated age requirement for FDA indication from 12 years of age or older to 6 years of age or older	07/02/2024
Ad Hoc Review	Added new FDA approved indication: EGPA in Sections I.B. and II.B.	12/04/2024
Annual Review	No changes	11/03/2025