

Clinical Policy: Certolizumab (Cimzia)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.247

Effective Date: 08.16 Last Review Date: 11.21 Line of Business: Medicaid

Coding Implications
Revision Log

See <u>Important Reminder</u> 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

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 ≥ 4 weeks unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
 - 5. 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 \geq 18 years;
- 4. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Failure of a \geq 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 contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
 - b. Medical justification supports inability to use immunomodulators (*see Appendix D*):
- 5. 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 \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 $a \ge 3$ consecutive month trial of cyclosporine or acitretin at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
- 5. Failure of a \geq 3 consecutive month trial of Taltz[®], unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
 - *Prior authorization may be required for Taltz
- 6. 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 \geq 18 years;
- 4. Failure of ALL of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (a and b):
 - a. Enbrel[®], Otezla[®], Taltz[®];
 - b. 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 Enbrel, Otezla, Taltz, Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR
- 5. 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 $a \ge 3$ 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 at least ONE conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug [DMARD] (e.g., sulfasalazine, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine) at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
- 5. Failure of ALL of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (a and b):
 - a. Actemra[®], Enbrel[®], Kevzara[®];
 - b. 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 Actemra, Enbrel, Kevzara, 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. 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. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

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

- 1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
- 2. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - 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 all other indications: member is responding positively to therapy;



- 3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed:
 - a. For CD, RA, PsA, AS, nr-axSpA: 400 mg every 4 weeks;
 - b. For PsO: 400 mg every 2 weeks.

Approval duration: 12 months

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

- 1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
 - Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or
- Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): 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 of biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs), including any tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists [Cimzia[®], Enbrel[®], Simponi[®], Avsola[™], Inflectra[™], Remicade[®], Renflexis[™]], interleukin agents [Arcalyst[®] (IL-1 blocker), Ilaris[®] (IL-1 blocker), Kineret[®] (IL-1RA), Actemra[®] (IL-6RA), Kevzara[®] (IL-6RA), Stelara[®] (IL-12/23 inhibitor), Cosentyx[®] (IL-17A inhibitor), Taltz[®] (IL-17A inhibitor), Siliq[™] (IL-17RA), Ilumya[™] (IL-23 inhibitor), Skyrizi[™] (IL-23 inhibitor), Tremfya[®] (IL-23 inhibitor)], janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) [Xeljanz[®]/Xeljanz[®] XR, Rinvoq[™]], anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies [Rituxan[®], Riabni[™], Ruxience[™], Truxima[®], and Rituxan Hycela[®]], selective co-stimulation modulators [Orencia[®]], or integrin receptor antagonists [Entyvio[®]] because of the possibility of increased immunosuppression, neutropenia and increased risk of infection.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

6-MP: 6-mercaptopurine nr-axSpA: non-radiographic axial

AS: ankylosing spondylitis spondyloarthritis

CD: Crohn's disease NSAID: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug

CDAI: clinical disease activity index PsA: psoriatic arthritis PsO: plaque psoriasis

rug RA: rheumatoid arthritis

FDA: Food and Drug Administration RAPID3: routine assessment of patient index 3

MTX: methotrexate 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	PsO	50 mg/day
(Soriatane®)	25 or 50 mg PO QD	
azathioprine	RA	2.5 mg/kg/day
(Azasan [®] , Imuran [®])	1 mg/kg/day PO QD or divided BID	
	CD*	
	1.5 - 2 mg/kg/day PO	
corticosteroids	CD*	Various
	prednisone 40 mg PO QD for 2 weeks or IV	
	50 – 100 mg Q6H for 1 week	
	budesonide (Entocort EC®) 6 – 9 mg PO QD	
Cuprimine®	RA*	1,500 mg/day
(d-penicillamine)	<u>Initial dose:</u>	
	125 or 250 mg PO QD	
	Maintenance dose:	
	500 – 750 mg/day PO QD	
cyclosporine	RA, PsO	4 mg/kg/day
(Sandimmune®,	2.5 – 4 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	
Neoral®)		
hydroxychloroquine	RA*	600 mg/day
(Plaquenil®)	<u>Initial dose:</u>	
	400 – 600 mg/day PO QD	
	Maintenance dose:	
	200 – 400 mg/day PO QD	
leflunomide	RA	20 mg/day
(Arava [®])	100 mg PO QD for 3 days, then 20 mg PO	
	QD	
6-mercaptopurine	CD*	2 mg/kg/day
(Purixan [®])	50 mg PO QD or 1 – 2 mg/kg/day PO	
methotrexate	CD*	30 mg/week
(Rheumatrex®)	15 – 25 mg/week IM or SC	
	RA	
	7.5 mg/week PO, SC, or IM or 2.5 mg PO	
	Q12 hr for 3 doses/week	
	PsO	
	10 to 25 mg/week, IM, IV or PO or 2.5 mg	
NG ATD (PO Q12 hr for 3 doses/week	** .
NSAIDs (e.g.,	AS, nr-axSpA	Varies
indomethacin,	Varies	
ibuprofen,		



Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
naproxen, celecoxib)		
Pentasa [®] (mesalamine)	CD 1,000 mg PO QID	4 g/day
Ridaura [®] (auranofin)	RA 6 mg PO QD or 3 mg PO BID	9 mg/day (3 mg TID)
sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®)	RA 2 g/day PO in divided doses	3 g/day
tacrolimus (Prograf®)	CD* 0.27 mg/kg/day PO in divided doses or 0.15 – 0.29 mg/kg/day PO	N/A
Actemra® (tocilizumab)	RA IV: 4 mg/kg every 4 weeks followed by an increase to 8 mg/kg every 4 weeks based on clinical response	IV: 800 mg every 4 weeks SC: 162 mg every week
	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	
Enbrel® (etanercept)	PsA, RA 25 mg SC twice weekly or 50 mg SC once weekly	50 mg/week
Kevzara® (sarilumab)	RA 200 mg SC once every two weeks	200 mg/2 weeks
Otezla [®] (apremilast)	PsA Initial dose: 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 Day 4: 20 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM Day 5: 20 mg PO QAM and 30 mg PO QPM Maintenance dose:	60 mg/day
T-14-®	Day 6 and thereafter: 30 mg PO BID	00
Taltz [®] (ixekizumab)	PsA Initial dose: 160 mg (two 80 mg injections) SC at week 0 Maintenance dose: 80 mg SC every 4 weeks	80 mg every 4 weeks



Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	PsO	
	Initial dose:	
	160 mg (two 80 mg injections) SC at week 0,	
	then 80 mg SC at weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12	
	Maintenance dose:	
	80 mg SC every 4 weeks	
Xeljanz®	PsA, RA	10 mg/day
(tofacitinib)	5 mg PO BID	
Xeljanz XR®	PsA, RA	11 mg/day
(tofacitinib	11 mg PO QD	
extended-release)		

Therapeutic 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.
 - o Cimzia should be discontinued if a patient develops a serious infection or sepsis.
 - o 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
 - o 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:
 - o Reduction in joint pain/swelling/tenderness
 - o Improvement in ESR/CRP levels
 - o 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
 - o 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, stricturing 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
- According to the CRADLE, a prospective, postmarketing, multicenter, pharmacokinetic study (n = 17), there were no or minimal certolizumab pegol transfer from the maternal plasma to breast milk, with a relative infant dose of 0.15% of the maternal dose.

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
В	Serology (at least one test result is needed for classification)	
	Negative rheumatoid factor (RF) and negative anti-citrullinated protein	0
	antibody (ACPA)	
	Low positive RF <i>or</i> low positive ACPA	2
	*Low: < 3 x upper limit of normal	
	High positive RF or high positive ACPA	3
	* High: ≥ 3 x upper limit of normal	
C	Acute phase reactants (at least one test result is needed for classification)	
	Normal C-reactive protein (CRP) and normal erythrocyte sedimentation rate	0
	(ESR)	
	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
\leq 2.8	Remission
$> 2.8 \text{ to} \le 10$	Low disease activity
$> 10 \text{ to} \le 22$	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

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
CD	Initial dose: 400 mg SC at 0, 2, and 4 weeks	400 mg every 4
	Maintenance dose: 400 mg SC every 4 weeks	weeks
RA, PsA, AS,	Initial dose: 400 mg SC at 0, 2, and 4 weeks	400 mg every 4
nr-axSpA	Maintenance dose: 200 mg SC every other	weeks
	week (or 400 mg SC every 4 weeks)	
PsO	400 mg SC every other week. For some patients	400 mg every other
	(with body weight $\leq 90 \text{ kg}$), a dose of 400 mg	week
	SC at 0, 2 and 4 weeks, followed by 200 mg SC	
	every other week may be considered.	

VI. Product Availability

• Single-use vial: 200 mg

• Single-use prefilled syringe: 200 mg/mL

VII. References

1. Cimzia Prescribing Information. Smyrna, GA: UCB, Inc.; September 2019. Available at: https://www.cimzia.com/. Accessed January 11, 2021.



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- 14. Singh JA, Guyatt G, Ogdie A, et al. 2018 American College of Rheumatology/National Psoriasis Foundation Guideline for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis. *American College of Rheumatology*. 2019; 71(1):5-32. doi: 10.1002/art.40726

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
Converted to new template. RA: Revised criteria for confirmation of RA diagnosis per 2010 ACR Criteria. CD: revised list of poor prognostic indicators per AGA guidelines; examples of extensive disease added. Safety criteria was applied according to the safety guidance discussed at CPAC and endorsed by Centene Medical Affairs.	08.17	08.17
2Q 2018 annual review: added HIM; removed specific diagnosis requirements for CD; modified specialist requirement to any GI specialist for CD; removed TB testing for all indications; modified trial and failure for RA to at least one conventional DMARD; references reviewed and updated.	02.27.18	05.18
4Q 2018 annual review: criteria added for new FDA indication: plaque psoriasis; modified prescriber specialist from GI specialist to gastroenterologist for CD; added trial and failure of immunosuppressants, or medical necessity for use of biologics in CD; allowed bypassing conventional DMARDs for axial PsA and required trial of NSAIDs; references reviewed and updated.	09.04.18	02.19
2Q 2019 annual review: removed trial and failure requirement of conventional DMARDs (e.g., MTX)/NSAIDs for biologic DMARDs for PsA per ACR/NPF 2018 guidelines; references reviewed and updated.	03.05.19	05.19
Criteria added for new FDA indication: non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis; references reviewed and updated.	05.21.19	08.19
Removed HIM line of business; updated preferred redirections based on SDC recommendation and prior clinical guidance: for RA: removed redirection to adalimumab, added redirection to 2 of 3 (Enbrel, Kevzara and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR); for PsA, changed redirection from 2 agents (adalimumab and etanercept) to 3 of 5 (Enbrel, Simponi, Talktz, Otezla, Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR); for PsO, removed redirection to adalimumab and added redirection to Taltz; for CD, removed redirection to adalimumab; for AS, removed redirection to etanercept and adalimumab.	12.13.19	
2Q 2020 annual review: for RA, added specific diagnostic criteria for definite RA, baseline CDAI score requirement, and decrease in	04.23.20	05.20



Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
CDAI score as positive response to therapy; references reviewed and updated.		
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 inperson 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

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.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to



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This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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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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