SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT

STELARA (ustekinumab)

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.

1. FDA-Approved Indications
2. Moderate to severe plaque psoriasis (PsO)
3. Active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)
4. Moderately to severely active Crohn's disease (CD)
5. Moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC)

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and not medically necessary.

II. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

A. Moderate to severe plaque psoriasis (PsO)

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members who previously received Otezla or a biologic indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.

2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis when all of the following criteria are met:
   a. At least 3% of body surface area (BSA) is affected OR crucial body areas (e.g., hands, feet, face, neck, scalp, genitals/groin, intertriginous areas) are affected.
   b. Member meets any of the following criteria:
      i. Member has had an inadequate response or intolerance to either phototherapy (e.g., UVB, PUVA) or a pharmacologic treatment with methotrexate, cyclosporine or acitretin.
      ii. Member has a clinical reason to avoid pharmacologic treatment with methotrexate, cyclosporine and acitretin (see Appendix A).
      iii. Member has severe psoriasis that warrants a biologic DMARD as first-line therapy (i.e. at least 10% of the body surface area (BSA) or crucial body areas (e.g., hands, feet, face, neck, scalp, genitals/groin, intertriginous areas) are affected).

B. Active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of active psoriatic arthritis.

C. Moderately to severely active Crohn's disease (CD)

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members who have previously received a biologic indicated for the treatment of Crohn's disease.

2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for the treatment of moderately to severely active CD in members who had an inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to at least one conventional therapy option (See Appendix B).

D. Moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC)

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members who have previously received a biologic or targeted synthetic DMARD (e.g., Xeljanz) indicated for moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis.

2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for the treatment of moderately to severely active UC for members who had an inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to at least one conventional therapy option (See Appendix C).

III. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for all members (including new members) who are using Stelara for an indication outlined in section II and achieve or maintain a positive clinical response with Stelara as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition.

IV. OTHER

For all indications: Member has had a documented negative TB test (which can include a tuberculosis skin test [PPD], an interferon-release assay [IGRA], or a chest x-ray)* within 6 months of initiating therapy for persons who are naïve to biologic DMARDs or targeted synthetic DMARDs (e.g., Xeljanz), and repeated yearly for members with risk factors** for TB that are continuing therapy with biologics.

* If the screening testing for TB is positive, there must be documentation of further testing to confirm there is no active disease. Do not administer ustekinumab to members with active TB infection. If there is latent disease, TB treatment must be started before initiation of ustekinumab.

** Risk factors for TB include: Persons with close contact to people with infectious TB disease; persons who have recently immigrated from areas of the world with high rates of TB (e.g., Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Russia); children less than 5 years of age who have a positive TB test; groups with high rates of TB transmission (e.g., homeless persons, injection drug users, persons with HIV infection); persons who work or reside with people who are at an increased risk for active TB (e.g., hospitals, long-term care facilities, correctional facilities, homeless shelters).

For all indications: Member cannot use Stelara concomitantly with any other biologic DMARD or targeted synthetic DMARD.

Stelara for intravenous administration is FDA-approved for the treatment of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis and will only be authorized for these conditions.

V. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Examples of Clinical Reasons to Avoid Pharmacologic Treatment with Methotrexate, Cyclosporine or Acitretin.

1. Alcoholism, alcoholic liver disease or other chronic liver disease
2. Breastfeeding
3. Drug interaction
4. Cannot be used due to risk of treatment-related toxicity
5. Pregnancy or planning pregnancy

6. Significant comorbidity prohibits use of systemic agents (examples include liver or kidney disease, blood dyscrasias, uncontrolled hypertension)

Appendix B: Examples of Conventional Therapy Options for CD

1. Mild to moderate disease – induction of remission:
   a. Oral budesonide
   b. Alternatives: metronidazole, ciprofloxacin, rifaximin
2. Mild to moderate disease – maintenance of remission:
   a. Azathioprine, mercaptopurine
   b. Alternatives: oral budesonide, methotrexate intramuscular (IM) or subcutaneous (SC), sulfasalazine
3. Moderate to severe disease – induction of remission:
   a. Prednisone, methylprednisolone intravenously (IV)
   b. Alternatives: methotrexate IM or SC
4. Moderate to severe disease – maintenance of remission:
   a. Azathioprine, mercaptopurine
   b. Alternative: methotrexate IM or SC
5. Perianal and fistulizing disease – induction of remission:
   a. Metronidazole ± ciprofloxacin, tacrolimus
6. Perianal and fistulizing disease – maintenance of remission:
   a. Azathioprine, mercaptopurine
   b. Alternative: methotrexate IM or SC

Appendix C: 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

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