

Clinical Policy: Upadacitinib (Rinvoq, Rinvoq LQ)

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Line of Business: Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Upadacitinib (Rinvoq[®], Rinvoq LQ[®]) is a Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Rinvoq and Rinvoq LQ are indicated for treatment of:

- Adults and pediatric patients 2 years of age and older with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA) who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blockers.
- Patients 2 years of age and older with active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (pJIA) who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNF blockers.

Rinvoq is also indicated for treatment of:

- Adult patients with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNF blockers.
- Adults and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older with refractory, moderate to severe atopic dermatitis whose disease is not adequately controlled with other systemic drug products, including biologics, or when use of those therapies are inadvisable.
- Adult patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC) who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNF blockers. If TNF blockers are clinically inadvisable, patients should have received at least one approved systemic therapy prior to use of Rinvoq.
- Adults with active ankylosing spondylitis (AS) who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNF blockers.
- Adults with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) with objective signs of inflammation who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to TNF blocker therapy.
- Adults with moderately to severely active Crohn's disease (CD) who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNF blockers. If TNF blockers are clinically inadvisable, patients should have received at least one approved systemic therapy prior to use of Rinvoq.
- Adults with giant cell arteritis (GCA).

Limitation(s) of use: Use of Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ is not recommended for use in combination with other JAK inhibitors, biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), or with potent immunosuppressants such as azathioprine and cyclosporine.

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 Rinvoq and Rinvoq LQ are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Rheumatoid Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of RA per American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria (*see Appendix E*);
2. Request is for Rinvoq;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
4. Age \geq 18 years;
5. Member meets one of the following, unless previously failed a biologic agent for RA (a or b):
 - a. Failure of a \geq 3 consecutive month trial of methotrexate (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 DMARD (e.g., sulfasalazine, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine) at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effect are experienced or all are contraindicated;
6. 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*
7. 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*);
8. 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*);
9. Dose does not exceed both of the following (a and b):
 - a. 15 mg per day;
 - b. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Psoriatic Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of PsA;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist or rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 2 years;
4. For members ≥ 18 years, both of the following (a and b):
 - a. Request is for Rinvoq;
 - b. Failure of ALL of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (i, ii, iii, iv, and v, *see Appendix D*):
 - i. 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;
 - ii. Otezla[®]/Otezla XR[™];
 - iii. Taltz[®];
 - iv. One ustekinumab product (e.g. *Otulfi[®], Pyzchiva[®] (branded), Selarsdi[™], Steqeyma[®], Yesintek[™] are preferred*);
 - v. 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/Otezla XR,, Taltz, ustekinumab products, and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR*

5. For age 6 to 17 years, failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of both of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a and b):
 - a. Otezla/Otezla XR;
 - b. One ustekinumab product (e.g. *Otulfi[®], Pyzchiva[®] (branded), Selarsdi[™], Steqeyma[®], Yesintek[™] are preferred*);

**Prior authorization may be required for Otezla/Otezla XR and ustekinumab 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 one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Age ≥ 18 years: Both of the following (i and ii) (*Rinvoq*):
 - i. 15 mg per day;
 - ii. 1 tablet per day;
 - b. Age ≥ 2 to < 18 years: One of the following (i, ii, or iii):
 - i. Weight 10 kg to < 20 kg: 6 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - ii. Weight 20 kg to < 30 kg: 8 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - iii. Weight ≥ 30 kg, one of the following (1 or 2):
 - 1) 12 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - 2) Both of the following (a and b) (*Rinvoq*):
 - a) 15 mg per day;
 - b) 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

C. Atopic Dermatitis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of atopic dermatitis affecting one of the following (a or b):
 - a. At least 10% of the member's body surface area (BSA);
 - b. Hands, feet, face, neck, scalp, genitals/groin, and/or intertriginous areas;
2. Request is for Rinvoq;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist or allergist;
4. Age \geq 12 years;
5. Failure of both of the following (a and b), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced:
 - a. Two formulary medium to very high potency topical corticosteroids, each used for \geq 2 weeks;
 - b. One non-steroidal topical therapy* used for \geq 4 weeks: topical calcineurin inhibitor (e.g., tacrolimus 0.03% ointment, pimecrolimus 1% cream) or Eucrisa[®];
**These agents may require prior authorization*
6. Rinvoq is not prescribed concurrently with another biologic medication (e.g., Adbry[®], Dupixent[®]) or a JAK inhibitor (e.g., Olumiant[®], Cibinqo[®], Opzelura[™]);
7. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. 15 mg per day;
 - ii. 1 tablet per day;
 - b. Medical justification supports inadequate response to 15 mg daily and both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. 30 mg per day;
 - ii. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

D. Axial Spondyloarthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of AS or nr-axSpA;
2. Request is for Rinvoq;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
4. Age \geq 18 years;
5. 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, all are contraindicated, or previously failed a biologic agent for AS or nr-axSpA;
6. For AS: 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. 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*

7. 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*
8. 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*);
9. Dose does not exceed both of the following (a and b):
 - a. 15 mg per day;
 - b. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

E. Ulcerative Colitis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of UC;
2. Request is for Rinvoq;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist;
4. Age ≥ 18 years;
5. Documentation of a Mayo Score ≥ 6 , modified Mayo Score ≥ 5 , or Mayo Endoscopic Score ≥ 2 (*see Appendix H*);
6. Failure of an 8-week trial of systemic corticosteroids, unless contraindicated, clinically significant adverse effects are experienced, or previously failed a biologic agent for UC;
7. Failure of one of the following, used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a or b):
 - 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. One ustekinumab product (e.g., *Otulfi*[®], *Pyzchiva*[®] (branded), *Selarsdi*[™], *Steqeyma*[®], *Yesintek*[™] are preferred);
**Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products and ustekinumab products*
8. Member meets one* of the following (a or b):
 - a. Member has not responded to one or more TNF blockers;
 - b. If TNF blockers are clinically inadvisable, member has received at least one approved systemic therapy (e.g., ustekinumab);
**Prior authorization may be required for TNF blockers and approved systemic therapies.*
9. 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*);
10. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. For induction (both i and ii):
 - i. 45 mg once daily for 8 weeks;
 - ii. 1 tablet once daily for 8 weeks;
 - b. For maintenance (both i and ii):
 - i. 15 mg once daily;
 - ii. 1 tablet once daily.

Approval duration: 12 months

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

1. Diagnosis of CD;
2. Request is for Rinvoq;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist;
4. Age \geq 18 years;
5. 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, clinically significant adverse effects are experienced, or previously failed a biologic agent for CD;
 - b. Medical justification supports inability to use immunomodulators (*see Appendix I*);
6. Member meets one of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a or b, *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), used for \geq 3 consecutive months;
 - b. History of failure of two TNF blockers;
**Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products*
7. Failure of a \geq 3 consecutive month trial of one ustekinumab product (e.g., *Otulfi*[®], *Pyzchiva*[®] (branded), *Selarsdi*[™], *Steqeyma*[®], *Yesintek*[™] are preferred), unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for ustekinumab products*
8. Member meets one* of the following (a or b):
 - a. Member has not responded to one or more TNF blockers;
 - b. If TNF blockers are clinically inadvisable, member has received at least one approved systemic therapy (e.g., ustekinumab);
**Prior authorization may be required for TNF blockers and approved systemic therapies.*
9. 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*);
10. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. For induction (both i and ii):
 - i. 45 mg once daily for 12 weeks;
 - ii. 1 tablet once daily;
 - b. Medical justification supports inadequate response to 15 mg daily and both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. 30 mg per day;
 - ii. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

G. 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. Member meets one of the following, unless previously failed a biologic agent for pJIA (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. Documentation of high disease activity;
5. 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, 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*
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 one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Weight 10 kg to < 20 kg: 6 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - b. Weight 20 kg to < 30 kg: 8 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - c. Weight ≥ 30 kg, one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. 12 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - ii. Both of the following (1 and 2) (*Rinvoq*):
 - 1) 15 mg per day;
 - 2) 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

H. Giant Cell Arteritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of GCA;
2. Request is for Rinvoq;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
4. Age ≥ 18 years;
5. Failure of a systemic corticosteroid at up to maximally tolerated doses, unless contraindicated, clinically significant adverse effects are experienced, or previously failed a biologic agent for GCA;
6. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of Actemra, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;

**Prior authorization may be required for Actemra*

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 both of the following (a and b):
 - a. 15 mg per day;
 - b. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

I. 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. Rheumatoid Arthritis (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. Request is for Rinvoq;
3. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by one of the following (a or b):
 - a. A decrease in CDAI (*see Appendix F*) or RAPID3 (*see Appendix G*) score from baseline;
 - b. 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;
4. 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*);
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed both of the following (a and b):
 - a. 15 mg per day;
 - b. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Atopic Dermatitis (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. Request is for Rinvoq;
3. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by, including but not limited to, reduction in itching and scratching;
4. Rinvoq is not prescribed concurrently with another biologic medication (e.g., Adbry, Dupixent) or a JAK inhibitor (e.g., Olumiant, Cibinco, Opzelura);
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. 15 mg per day;
 - ii. 1 tablet per day;
 - b. Medical justification supports inadequate response to 15 mg daily and both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. 30 mg per day;
 - ii. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

C. All Other Indications (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. For CD, UC, AS, nr-axSpA, GCA: Request is for Rinvoq;
3. For CD, UC, AS, nr-axSpA, PsA, GCA: Member is responding positively to therapy;
4. 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*);
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed (a, b, c, or d):
 - a. For UC, AS, nr-axSpA, GCA: Both of the following (i and ii) (*Rinvoq*):
 - i. 15 mg per day;
 - ii. 1 tablet per day;
 - b. For refractory, severe, or extensive UC or CD: Both of the following (i and ii) (*Rinvoq*):
 - i. 30 mg per day;
 - ii. 1 tablet per day;

- c. For PsA: One of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Age \geq 18 years: Both of the following (1 and 2) (*Rinvoq*):
 - 1) 15 mg per day;
 - 2) 1 tablet per day;
 - ii. Age \geq 2 to $<$ 18 years: One of the following (1, 2, or 3):
 - 1) Weight 10 kg to $<$ 20 kg: 6 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - 2) Weight 20 kg to $<$ 30 kg: 8 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - 3) Weight \geq 30 kg: One of the following (a or b):
 - a) 12 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - b) Both of the following (i and ii) (*Rinvoq*):
 - i) 15 mg per day;
 - ii) 1 tablet per day;- d. For pJIA: One of the following (i, ii, or iii):
 - i. Weight 10 kg to $<$ 20 kg: 6 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - ii. Weight 20 kg to $<$ 30 kg: 8 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - iii. Weight \geq 30 kg, one of the following (1 or 2):
 - 1) 12 mg per day (*Rinvoq LQ*);
 - 2) Both of the following (a and b) (*Rinvoq*):
 - a) 15 mg per day;
 - b) 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

D. 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 policy – 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, Simponi[®]], interleukin agents [e.g., Actemra[®] (IL-6RA) and its biosimilars, 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), Spevigo[®] (IL-36 antagonist), Stelara[®] (IL-12/23 inhibitor) and its biosimilars, Taltz[®] (IL-17A inhibitor), Tremfya[®] (IL-23 inhibitor), Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) [e.g., Cibinco[™], Olumiant[™], Rinvoq[™], Xeljanz[®]/Xeljanz[®] XR,], anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies [Rituxan[®] and its biosimilars], 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

AS: ankylosing spondylitis

CD: Crohn's disease

CDAI: clinical disease activity index

DMARD: disease-modifying

antirheumatic drug

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

GCA: giant cell arteritis

JAKi: Janus kinase inhibitors

MTX: methotrexate

nr-axSpA: non-radiographic axial
spondyloarthritis

PsA: psoriatic arthritis

RA: rheumatoid arthritis

RAPID3: routine assessment of patient
index data 3

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
azathioprine (Azasan [®] , Imuran [®])	RA 1 mg/kg/day PO QD or divided BID CD 1.5 – 2 mg/kg/day PO	3 mg/kg/day
corticosteroids	UC* Prednisone 40 mg – 60 mg PO QD, then taper dose by 5 to 10 mg/week Budesonide (Uceris [®]) 9 mg PO QAM for up to 8 weeks CD* <i>Adult:</i> 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	Various

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	weekly or IV 50 – 100 mg Q6H for 1 week budesonide (Entocort EC [®]) 6 – 9 mg PO QD <i>Pediatric:</i> Prednisone 1 to 2 mg/kg/day PO QD GCA* 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 2.5 – 4 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	RA: 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 [®])	RA <u>Initial dose (for low risk hepatotoxicity or myelosuppression):</u> 100 mg PO QD for 3 days <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 20 mg PO QD PJIA* Weight < 20 kg: 10 mg every other day Weight 20 - 40 kg: 10 mg/day Weight > 40 kg: 20 mg/day	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 [®] , Otrexup [™] , Rasuvo [®] , RediTrex [®] ,	RA 7.5 mg/week PO, SC, or IM or 2.5 mg PO Q12 hr for 3 doses/week CD* 15 – 25 mg/week IM or SC	30 mg/week

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Xatmep [™] , Rheumatrex [®])	PJIA* 10 – 20 mg/m ² /week PO, SC, or IM	
NSAIDs (e.g., indomethacin, ibuprofen, naproxen, celecoxib)	AS Varies	Varies
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 <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. <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 2 g/day PO in divided doses PJIA* 30-50 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	3 g/day PJIA: 2 g/day
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 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 pJIA • 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 GCA IV: 6 mg/kg every 4 weeks in combination with a tapering course of glucocorticoids	RA: IV: 800 mg every 4 weeks SC: 162 mg every week PJIA: IV: 10 mg/kg every 4 weeks SC: 162 mg every 2 weeks GCA: IV: 6 mg/kg every 4 weeks SC: 162 mg every week

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	SC: 162 mg SC every week (every other week may be given based on clinical considerations)	
Cimzia [®] (certolizumab)	<p>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)</p> <p>CD <u>Initial dose:</u> 400 mg SC at 0, 2, and 4 weeks <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 400 mg SC every 4 weeks</p>	400 mg every 4 weeks
Hadlima (adalimumab-bwwd), Simlandi (adalimumab-ryvk), Yusimry (adalimumab-aqvh), adalimumab-aaty (Yuflyma [®]), adalimumab-adaz (Hyrimoz [®]), adalimumab-fkjp (Hulio [®]), adalimumab-adbm (Cyltezo [®])	<p>CD, UC <u>Initial dose:</u> 160 mg SC on Day 1, then 80 mg SC on Day 15 <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 40 mg SC every other week starting on Day 29</p> <p>RA, AS, PsA 40 mg SC every other week</p> <p>pJIA Cyltezo, Hadlima, Hyrimoz: Weight 10 kg (22 lbs) to < 15 kg (33 lbs): 10 mg SC every other week Cyltezo, Hadlima, Hulio, Yuflyma: Weight 15 kg (33 lbs) to < 30 kg (66 lbs): 20 mg SC every other week 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 [®] , Otezla XR [™]	PsA Adults:	Adults: • Otezla: 60 mg/day

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
(apremilast)	<p><u>Initial dose:</u> Otezla only: 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</p> <p><u>Maintenance dose:</u> Day 6 and thereafter: • Otezla: 30 mg PO BID • Otezla XR: 75 mg PO QD</p> <p>Pediatric: Otezla only: <i>Weight ≥ 50 kg:</i> <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 Day 4: 20 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM Day 5: 20 mg PO QAM and 30 mg PO QPM</p> <p><u>Maintenance dose:</u> Day 6 and thereafter: • Otezla: 30 mg PO BID • Otezla XR: 75 mg PO QD</p> <p><i>Weight 20 kg to < 50 kg:</i> <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 Day 4: 20 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM</p>	<p>• Otezla XR: 75 mg/day</p> <p>Pediatric: <i>Weight ≥ 50 kg:</i></p> <p>• Otezla: 60 mg/day • Otezla XR: 75 mg/day</p> <p><i>Weight 20 kg to < 50 kg:</i> kg: 40 mg/day</p>

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	<p>Day 5: 20 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM</p> <p><u>Maintenance dose:</u> Day 6 and thereafter, Otezla only: 20 mg PO BID</p>	
<p>Otulfi[®] (ustekinumab-aauz), Pyzchiva[®] (ustekinumab-ttwe), Selarsdi[™] (ustekinumab-aekn), Steqeyma[®] (ustekinumab-stba), Yesintek[™] (ustekinumab-kfce)</p>	<p>CD, UC <u>Weight based dosing IV at initial dose:</u> Weight ≤ 55 kg: 260 mg Weight > 55 kg to 85 kg: 390 mg Weight > 85 kg: 520 mg</p> <p><u>Maintenance dose:</u> 90 mg SC every 8 weeks</p> <p>PsA Weight based dosing SC at weeks 0 and 4, followed by maintenance dose every 12 weeks</p> <p><i>Adult:</i> 45 mg SC at weeks 0 and 4, followed by 45 mg every 12 weeks</p> <p><i>Pediatrics (age 6 years to 17 years):</i> Weight based dosing SC at weeks 0 and 4, then every 12 weeks thereafter</p> <p>Otulfi, Pyzchiva, Yesintek: Weight < 60 kg: 0.75 mg/kg</p> <p>Otulfi, Pyzchiva, Selarsdi, Steqeyma, Yesintek: Weight ≥ 60 kg: 45 mg</p>	<p>CD, UC: 90 mg every 8 weeks</p> <p>PsA: 45 mg every 12 weeks</p>
<p>Taltz[®] (ixekizumab)</p>	<p>AS, nr-axSpA, PsA <u>Initial dose:</u> 160 mg (two 80 mg injections) SC at week 0 <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 80 mg SC every 4 weeks</p>	<p>80 mg every 4 weeks</p>
<p>Xeljanz[®] (tofacitinib)</p>	<p>AS, PsA, RA 5 mg PO BID</p>	<p>10 mg/day</p>

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	<p>pJIA</p> <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 <p>Body weight ≥ 40 kg: 5 mg PO BID</p>	
Xeljanz XR [®] (tofacitinib extended-release)	<p>AS, PsA, RA</p> <p>11 mg PO QD</p>	11 mg/day
Very High Potency Topical Corticosteroids		
augmented betamethasone 0.05% (Diprolene [®] AF) cream, ointment, gel, lotion	<p>AD</p> <p>Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID</p>	Varies
clobetasol propionate 0.05% (Temovate [®]) cream, ointment, gel, solution		
diflorasone diacetate 0.05% (Maxiflor [®] , Psorcon E [®]) cream, ointment		
halobetasol propionate 0.05% (Ultravate [®]) cream, ointment		
High Potency Topical Corticosteroids		
augmented betamethasone 0.05% (Diprolene [®] AF) cream, ointment, gel, lotion	<p>AD</p> <p>Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID</p>	Varies
diflorasone 0.05% (Florone [®] , Florone E [®] , Maxiflor [®] , Psorcon E [®]) cream		
fluocinonide acetone 0.05% (Lidex [®] , Lidex E [®])		

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
cream, ointment, gel, solution		
triamcinolone acetonide 0.5% (Aristocort [®] , Kenalog [®]) cream, ointment		
Medium Potency Topical Corticosteroids		
desoximetasone 0.05% (Topicort [®]) cream, ointment, gel	AD Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	Varies
fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% (Synalar [®]) cream, ointment		
mometasone 0.1% (Elocon [®]) cream, ointment, lotion		
triamcinolone acetonide 0.025%, 0.1% (Aristocort [®] , Kenalog [®]) cream, ointment		
Low Potency Topical Corticosteroids		
alclometasone 0.05% (Aclovate [®]) cream, ointment	AD Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	Varies
desonide 0.05% (Desowen [®]) cream, ointment, lotion		
fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% (Synalar [®]) solution		
hydrocortisone 2.5% (Hytone [®]) cream, ointment		
Other Classes of Agents		
tacrolimus (Protopic [®]), pimecrolimus (Elidel [®])	AD Children \geq 2 years and adults: Apply a thin layer topically to affected skin BID. Treatment should be discontinued if resolution of disease occurs.	Varies

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Eucrisa [®] (crisaborole)	AD Apply to the affected areas BID	Varies

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): known hypersensitivity to upadacitinib or any of the excipients in Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ
- Boxed warning(s): serious infections, mortality, malignancy, major adverse cardiovascular events, and thrombosis

Appendix D: General Information

- Definition of MTX or DMARD Failure
 - 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
- 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: Mayo Score, Modified Mayo Score, or Mayo Endoscopic Score

- Mayo Score: evaluates ulcerative colitis stage, based on four parameters: stool frequency, rectal bleeding, endoscopic evaluation and Physician’s global assessment. Each parameter of the score ranges from zero (normal or inactive disease) to 3 (severe activity) with an overall score of 12.

Score	Decoding
0 – 2	Remission
3 – 5	Mild activity

Score	Decoding
6 – 10	Moderate activity
>10	Severe activity

- Modified Mayo Score: developed from the full Mayo score and evaluates ulcerative colitis stage, based on three parameters: stool frequency, rectal bleeding, and endoscopic evaluation. The modified Mayo Score gives a maximum overall score of 9. The FDA currently accepts the modified Mayo Score for the assessment of disease activity in pivotal UC clinical trials.
- Mayo Endoscopic Score: tool used to assess severity based on endoscopic findings during a colonoscopy and ranges from 0 to 3. A score of 2 or higher means there is moderate-to-severe inflammation.

Score	Decoding
0	Normal or inactive disease
1	Mild disease (erythema, decreased vascular pattern, mild friability)
2	Moderate disease (marked erythema, absent vascular pattern, moderate friability, erosions)
3	Severe disease (spontaneous bleeding, ulcerations)

Appendix I: Medical Justification

- 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, stricturing or stenosis disease and/or phenotype
 - Intestinal obstruction or abscess

Appendix J: Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis Disease Activity

According to 2019 American College of Rheumatology/Arthritis Foundation Guideline for the Treatment of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, disease activity (moderate/high and low) as defined by the clinical Juvenile Disease Activity score based on 10 joints (cJADAS-10) is provided as a general parameter and should be interpreted within the clinical context.

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

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Upadacitinib (Rinvoq)	AS, nr-axSpA, RA	15 mg PO QD	15 mg/day
	GCA	15 mg PO QD in combination with a tapering course of corticosteroids 15 mg PO QD can be used as monotherapy following discontinuation of corticosteroids	15 mg/day
	AD	<u>Age ≥ 12 years and ≥ 40 kg but < 65 years:</u> 15 mg PO QD; if an adequate response is not achieved, consider increasing the dosage to 30 mg PO QD <u>Age ≥ 65 years:</u> 15 mg PO QD	<u>Age ≥ 12 years and ≥ 40 kg but < 65 years:</u> 30 mg/day <u>Age ≥ 65 years:</u> 15 mg/day
	UC	<u>Induction:</u> 45 mg PO Q for 8 weeks <u>Maintenance:</u> 15 mg PO QD. A dosage of 30 mg PO QD may be considered for patients with refractory, severe, or extensive disease.	30 mg/day
	CD	<u>Induction:</u> 45 mg PO Q for 12 weeks <u>Maintenance:</u> 15 mg PO QD. A dosage of 30 mg PO QD may be considered for patients with refractory, severe, or extensive disease.	30 mg/day
	PsA	<u>Age ≥ 18 years:</u> 15 mg PO QD <u>Age ≥ 2 years but < 18 years:</u> Weight ≥ 30 kg: 15 mg PO QD	15 mg/day
	pJIA	<u>Age ≥ 2 years:</u> Weight ≥ 30 kg: 15 mg PO QD	15 mg/day
	PsA	<u>Age ≥ 2 years but < 18 years:</u>	12 mg/day

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Upadacitinib (Rinvoq LQ)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weight 10 kg to < 20 kg: 3 mg (3 mL oral solution) PO BID Weight 20 kg to < 30 kg: 4 mg (4 mL oral solution) PO BID Weight ≥ 30 kg: 6 mg (6 mL oral solution) PO BID 	
	pJIA	<u>Age ≥ 2 years:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weight 10 kg to < 20 kg: 3 mg (3 mL oral solution) PO BID Weight 20 kg to < 30 kg: 4 mg (4 mL oral solution) PO BID Weight ≥ 30 kg: 6 mg (6 mL oral solution) PO BID 	12 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Upadacitinib (Rinvoq)	Tablets, extended-release: 15 mg, 30 mg, 45 mg
Upadacitinib (Rinvoq LQ)	Oral solution: 1 mg/mL

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Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
2Q 2022 annual review: for RA, added redirection to Olumiant per February SDC; criteria added for new FDA indications: psoriatic arthritis, atopic dermatitis; revised Rinvoq’s place in therapy after TNFi for RA and PsA per FDA labeling; RT4: added newly FDA-approved indications for UC and AS; reiterated requirement against combination use with a bDMARD or JAKi from Section III to Sections I and II; references reviewed and updated.	05.02.22	05.22
RT4: revised lower age limit for AD from 18 to 12 years per PI. Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	09.15.22	
RT4: criteria added for new FDA indication: nr-axSpA.	10.31.22	
Per February SDC, added Amjevita as an alternative option to Humira for UC.	02.13.23	
2Q 2023 annual review: for RA, PsA, AS, and UC, added TNFi criteria to allow bypass if member has had history of failure of two TNF blockers; updated off-label dosing for Appendix B; references reviewed and updated.	02.10.23	05.23
RT4: criteria added for new FDA indication: Crohn’s disease.	05.25.23	
Per July SDC: for PsA and RA, removed criteria requiring use of Enbrel; for AS, removed criteria requiring use of Cimzia and Enbrel; for nr-axSpA, removed redirection to Cimzia; for UC, removed criteria requiring use of Simponi, Humira, and Amjevita; for PsA, RA, AS, UC, CD, added criteria requiring use of one adalimumab product and stating Yusimry, Hadlima, unbranded adalimumab-fkjp, and unbranded adalimumab-adaz as preferred; 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. For AD initial criteria, removed systemic immunosuppressant therapy step criterion per updated guideline and competitor analysis; for	12.06.23	02.24

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Appendix B, removed systemic immunosuppressant therapy therapeutic alternatives.		
2Q 2024 annual review: removed nr-axSpA supplemental guideline information in Appendix D; added Bimzelx, Zymfentra, Omvoh, Wezlana, Sotyktu, Tofidence, and Velsipity to section III.B; references reviewed and updated.	01.22.24	05.24
RT4: for PsA, updated criteria to reflect pediatric extension to 2 years and older; added new FDA approved pJIA indication; for PsA and pJIA, added new oral solution dosage form [Rinvoq LQ].	05.10.24	06.24
Per June SDC: for RA, PsA, AS, UC, CD, pJIA, added Simlandi to listed examples of preferred adalimumab products. Per SDC: for RA, PsA, AS, UC, CD, pJIA, added unbranded adalimumab-aaty to listed examples of preferred adalimumab products.	07.23.24	08.24
2Q 2025 annual review: for UC initial criteria, added option for documentation of modified Mayo Score ≥ 5 ; removed redirection to preferred adalimumab products as adalimumab is not recommended due to low efficacy per 2024 AGA guidelines; revised redirection to Zeposia with bypass allowance stating member must use Zeposia unless member has had history of failure of biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drug or Janus kinase inhibitor as supported by 2024 AGA guidelines; for Appendix H, added supplemental information on modified Mayo Score; for pJIA: removed criteria for minimum cJADAS-10 score ≥ 8.5 for documentation of high disease activity and “baseline 10-joint clinical juvenile arthritis disease activity score” in initial criteria to align with competitor analysis; removed criteria for “member is responding positively to therapy as evidence by decrease in cJADAS-10 from baseline” in continued therapy; for Appendix J, added pJIA disease activity information per 2019 ACR guidelines; updated section III.B with Spevigo and biosimilar verbiage; references reviewed and updated.	01.23.25	05.25
Per April SDC: for PsA, CD, and UC, added criteria requiring use of one preferred Stelara biosimilar (Otulfi, Pyzchiva (branded), Selarsdi, Yesintek, and Steqeyma are preferred); for UC, removed criteria requiring use of preferred agent Zeposia; for UC, revised requirement to include option for step through preferred adalimumab product or preferred ustekinumab product. RT4: added newly approved GCA indication for Rinvoq to criteria.	04.23.25	06.25
For PsA, applied step therapy to Otezla for pediatric age redirection as Otezla has a newly approved pediatric extension for 6 years and older; for UC, added option for Mayo Endoscopic Score ≥ 2 to define moderate-to-severe UC; for RA, AS, nr-axSpA, UC, CD, pJIA, and GCA, added bypass of conventional therapies if a member has failed a	08.05.25	11.25

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
biologic agent to clarify intention of not stepping back from biologic agent to conventional therapy. RT4: reflected place in therapy for UC and CD per PI; aligned duration for CD induction dose per PI for dose optimization criterion. Extended initial approval durations to 12 months for chronic conditions.		
2Q 2026 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated. RT4: For PsA, allowed Otezla XR to be used in place of Otezla.	03.30.26	05.26

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 applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

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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