Clinical Policy: Certolizumab (Cimzia)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.247
Effective Date: 08.16
Last Review Date: 05.18
Line of Business: HIM, Medicaid

Coding Implications
Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

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

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Cimzia is indicated for:

- Reducing signs and symptoms of Crohn's disease (CD) and maintaining clinical response in adult patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- Treatment of adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
- Treatment of adult patients with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)
- Treatment of adults with active ankylosing spondylitis (AS)

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

1. Diagnosis of CD;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gastrointestinal (GI) specialist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of at least ONE immunomodulator (e.g., azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine [6-MP], methotrexate [MTX]) at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of adalimumab *(Humira® is preferred)* unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
   **Prior authorization is required for adalimumab*
6. Dose does not exceed 400 mg at weeks 0, 2, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 400 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Rheumatoid Arthritis (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of RA;

2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
   a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of MTX at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
   b. If intolerance or contraindication to MTX (*see Appendix C*), 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 etanercept *(Enbrel® is preferred)* and adalimumab *(Humira is preferred)*, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
   **Prior authorization is required for etanercept and adalimumab*
6. Dose does not exceed 400 mg at weeks 0, 2, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 400 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

C. Psoriatic Arthritis (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of PsA;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist or rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
   a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of MTX at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
   b. If intolerance or contraindication to MTX (*see Appendix C*), failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of cyclosporine, sulfasalazine, or leflunomide at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Failure of etanercept *(Enbrel is preferred)* and adalimumab *(Humira is preferred)*, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
   **Prior authorization is required for etanercept and adalimumab*
6. Dose does not exceed 400 mg at weeks 0, 2, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 400 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

D. Ankylosing Spondylitis (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of AS;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 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. Failure of etanercept *(Enbrel is preferred)* and adalimumab *(Humira is preferred)*, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
   **Prior authorization is required for etanercept and adalimumab*
6. Dose does not exceed 400 mg at weeks 0, 2, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 400 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

E. 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): HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace and 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 is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 400 mg every 4 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
2. 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): HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace and 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 – HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

6-MP: 6-mercaptopurine
AS: ankylosing spondylitis
CD: Crohn's disease
DMARD: disease-modifying anti rheumatic drug
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
GI: gastrointestinal
MTX: methotrexate
NSAID: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
PsA: psoriatic arthritis
RA: rheumatoid arthritis
TNF: tumor necrosis factor

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

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
acitretin (Soriatane®)	**PsO** 25 or 50 mg PO QD	50 mg/day
azathioprine (Azasan®, Imuran®)	**RA** 1 mg/kg/day PO QD or divided BID **CD*** 1.5 – 2 mg/kg/day PO	2.5 mg/kg/day
corticosteroids	**CD*** 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	Various
Cuprimine® (d-penicillamine)	**RA*** Initial dose: 125 or 250 mg PO QD Maintenance dose: 500 – 750 mg/day PO QD	1,500 mg/day
cyclosporine (Sandimmune®, Neoral®)	**PsA*** 2.5 – 3 mg/kg/day PO QD **RA** 2.5 – 4 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	PsA: 3 mg/kg/day RA: 4 mg/kg/day
hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®)	**RA*** Initial dose: 400 – 600 mg/day PO QD Maintenance dose: 200 – 400 mg/day PO QD	600 mg/day
leflunomide (Arava®)	**PsA*** 100 mg/day PO loading dose for 3 days followed by 20 mg/day PO QD **RA** 100 mg PO QD for 3 days, then 20 mg PO QD	20 mg/day
6-mercaptopurine (Purixan®)	**CD*** 50 mg PO QD or 1 – 2 mg/kg/day PO	2 mg/kg/day
methotrexate (Rheumatrex®)	**CD*** 15 – 25 mg/week IM or SC	30 mg/week

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	PsA* 7.5 – 15 mg/week PO **RA** 7.5 mg/week PO, SC, or IM or 2.5 mg PO Q12 hr for 3 doses/week	
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®)	**PsA*** 2 g/day PO QD **RA** 2 g/day PO in divided doses	PsA: 5 g/day RA: 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
Enbrel® (etanercept)	**AS** 50 mg SC once weekly **PsA, RA** 25 mg SC twice weekly or 50 mg SC once weekly	50 mg/week
Humira® (adalimumab)	**AS, PsA, RA** 40 mg SC every other week **CD** Initial dose: 160 mg SC on Day 1, then 80 mg SC on Day 15 Maintenance dose: 40 mg SC every other week starting on Day 29	AS, PsA, CD: 40 mg every other week RA: 40 mg/week

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: General Information

- Definition of failure of MTX or DMARDs
  - Child-bearing age is not considered a contraindication for use of MTX. Each drug has risks in pregnancy. An educated patient and family planning would allow use of MTX in patients who have no intention of immediate pregnancy.
  - Social use of alcohol is not considered a contraindication for use of MTX. MTX may only be contraindicated if patients choose to drink over 14 units of alcohol per week. However, excessive alcohol drinking can lead to worsening of the condition, so patients who are serious about clinical response to therapy should refrain from excessive alcohol consumption.
- Examples of positive response to therapy may include, but are not limited to:
  - Reduction in joint pain/swelling/tenderness
  - Improvement in ESR/CRP levels
  - Improvements in activities of daily living
- Several AS treatment guidelines call for a trial of 2 or 3 NSAIDs prior to use of an anti-TNF agent. A two year trial showed that continuous NSAID use reduced radiographic progression of AS versus on demand use of NSAID.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
CD	Initial dose: 400 mg SC at 0, 2, and 4 weeks Maintenance dose: 400 mg SC every 4 weeks	400 mg every 4 weeks
RA	Initial dose: 400 mg SC at 0, 2, and 4 weeks Maintenance dose: 200 mg SC every other week (or 400 mg SC every 4 weeks)	400 mg every 4 weeks
PsA		
AS		

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.; January 2017. Available at http://www.cimzia.com/assets/pdf/Prescribing_Information.pdf. Accessed February 27, 2018.
2. Lichtenstein GR, Hanauer SB, Sandborn WJ, and the Practice Parameters Committee of the American College of Gastroenterology. Management of Crohn's disease in adults. Am J Gastroenterol. 2009; 104(2):465-483.
3. Smolen JS, Landewé R, Breedveld FC, et al. EULAR recommendations for the management of rheumatoid arthritis with synthetic and biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: 2013 update. Ann Rheum Dis. 2014; 73: 492-509.
4. Singh JA, Furst DE, Bharat A, et al. 2012 update of the 2008 American College of Rheumatology recommendations for the use of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs and biologic agents in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis Care Res. 2012; 64(5): 625-639.
5. Menter A, Korman NJ, Elmets CA, et al. Guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Section 6: Guidelines of care for the treatment of psoriasis and

psoriatic arthritis: case-based presentations and evidence-based conclusions. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2011; 65(1):137-174.
6. Menter A, Gottlieb A, Feldman SR, et al. Guidelines for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Section 1: Overview of psoriasis and guidelines of care for the treatment of psoriasis with biologics. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2008; 58(5):826-850.
7. Ward MM, et al. American College of Rheumatology/Spondylitis Association of America/Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network 2015 recommendations for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis and nonradiographic axial spondyloarthritis. Arthritis & Rheumatology, 2015. DOI 10.1002/ART.39298.
8. Braun J, van den berg R, et al. 2010 Update of the ASAS/EULAR recommendations for the management of ankylosing spondylitis. Am Rheu Dis. 2011: 70; 896- 904.
9. Sandborn WJ. Crohn's Disease Evaluation and Treatment: Clinical Decision Tool. Gastroenterology 2014; 147: 702-705.
10. Singh JA. Saag KG, Bridges SL, et al. 2015 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis. Arthritis Care and Research. 2015; 1-25. DOI 10.1002/acr.22783

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
Policy split from CP.PHAR.86.ArthritisTreatments, CP.PHAR.85 Psoriasis Treatment, CP.PHAR.87 IBD Treatment. CD, RA, PsA, AS: Removed criteria related to HBV, malignant disease, concomitant use with other biologics, and concurrent administration of live vaccines; added dosing requirement; added requirement for trial and failure of PDL Enbrel and Humira, unless contraindicated (just Humira for CD). PsA: required trial of MTX and added requirement for the following agents as an alternative if MTX cannot be used: leflunomide, cyclosporine, sulfasalazine, azathioprine. CD: removed aminosalicylate as an option for initial therapy. RA: changed age requirement to 18 years; modified criteria to require trial of MTX, unless contraindicated; added sulfasalazine and hydroxychloroquine as an alternative to MTX if MTX is contraindicated. Re-auth: combined into All Indications; added criteria for dosing and reasons to discontinue. Modified approval	6.16	08.16

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
duration to 6 months for initial and 12 months for renewal. Shortened background section.		
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

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.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

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.

For Health Insurance Marketplace members, when applicable, this policy applies only when the prescribed agent is on your health plan approved formulary. Request for non-formulary drugs must be reviewed using the formulary exception policy.