



PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

- POLICY:** Inflammatory Conditions – Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ Prior Authorization Policy
- Rinvoq® (upadacitinib extended-release tablets – AbbVie)
 - Rinvoq® LQ (upadacitinib oral solution – AbbVie)

REVIEW DATE: 02/11/2026

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

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CIGNA NATIONAL FORMULARY COVERAGE:

OVERVIEW

Rinvoq, a Janus kinase inhibitor (JAKi), is indicated for the following uses:¹

- **Ankylosing spondylitis**, for treatment of active disease in adults who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFis).
- **Atopic dermatitis**, for treatment of refractory, moderate to severe atopic dermatitis in patients \geq 12 years of age, whose disease is not adequately controlled with other systemic drug products (including biologics) or when those therapies are not advisable.
- **Crohn's disease**, for treatment of moderately to severely active disease in adults who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNFis. If TNFis are clinically inadvisable, patients should have received at least one approved systemic therapy prior to use of Rinvoq.
- **Giant cell arteritis**, in adults.

- **Non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis**, in adults with objective signs of inflammation who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNFis.
- **Polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)**, in patients ≥ 2 years of age with active disease who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNFis.
- **Psoriatic arthritis**, for treatment of active disease in patients ≥ 2 years of age who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNFis.
- **Rheumatoid arthritis**, for treatment of moderately to severely active disease in adults who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNFis.
- **Ulcerative colitis**, for treatment of moderately to severely active disease in adults who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNFis. If TNFis are clinically inadvisable, patients should have received at least one approved systemic therapy prior to use of Rinvoq.

Rinvoq LQ oral solution is only indicated for use in **polyarticular JIA** and **psoriatic arthritis in patients 2 to < 18 years of age**.¹ Rinvoq LQ oral solution is not substitutable with Rinvoq extended-release tablets.

For all indications, Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ is not recommended for use in combination with other JAKis, biologics, or potent immunosuppressants such as azathioprine or cyclosporine.¹

Guidelines

Guidelines are available for treatment of inflammatory conditions:

- **Ankylosing Spondylitis and Non-Radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis:** Current guidelines do not address Rinvoq. Guidelines from the American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/Spondylitis Association of America/Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network (2019) recommend a TNFi as the initial biologic.² In those who are secondary non-responders to a TNFi, a second TNFi is recommended over switching out of the class. Both TNFis and interleukin (IL)-17 blockers are recommended over Xeljanz®/Xeljanz® XR (tofacitinib tablets/tofacitinib extended release tablets).
- **Atopic Dermatitis:** Guidelines for the care and management of atopic dermatitis from the American Academy of Dermatology (2023) and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (2023) have been updated to address Rinvoq.^{3,4} Systemic therapies are recommended in patients with moderate to severe or widespread disease, in those with impaired quality of life, and those whose atopic dermatitis is refractory to topical therapies. Biologic agents, such as Dupixent® (dupilumab subcutaneous injection) or Adbry® (tralokinumab-ldrm subcutaneous injection), are recommended as initial systemic treatment due to their favorable efficacy and safety profiles compared to traditional systemic therapies (e.g., azathioprine, cyclosporine, methotrexate, mycophenolate mofetil). Rinvoq may be considered in adults refractory or intolerant to Dupixent or Adbry.
- **Crohn's Disease:** The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) [2025] and the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) [2025] have guidelines for the management of Crohn's in adults.^{5,6} Both guidelines recommend upfront use of advanced therapies, rather than step-up therapy after failure of corticosteroids and/or immunomodulators. Advanced therapies recommended include TNF inhibitors, Entyvio® (vedolizumab intravenous [IV] infusion, subcutaneous [SC] injection), interleukin (IL)-23 inhibitors, IL-12/23 inhibitors, and Rinvoq.
- **Giant Cell Arteritis:** Current guidelines do not address Rinvoq. The ACR/Vasculitis Foundation (2021) conditionally recommend initiating treatment with high dose corticosteroids.¹² Once inflammation is controlled, the corticosteroid dose is gradually

reduced with the goal of establishing a maintenance dose that controls disease activity while minimizing adverse effects. Glucocorticoid-sparing agents, such as tocilizumab or methotrexate, may be added to the treatment regimen to reduce the amount of corticosteroids needed.

- **JIA:** Rinvoq is not addressed in ACR/Arthritis Foundation guidelines for the treatment of JIA (2019) specific to juvenile non-systemic polyarthritis, sacroiliitis, and enthesitis.¹¹ TNFis are the biologics recommended for polyarthritis, sacroiliitis, and enthesitis. Actemra® (tocilizumab intravenous infusion, tocilizumab subcutaneous injection) and Orenzia® (abatacept intravenous infusion, abatacept subcutaneous injection) are also among the biologics recommended for polyarthritis. Biologics are recommended following other therapies (e.g., following synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs [DMARDs] for active polyarthritis or following a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug for active JIA with sacroiliitis or enthesitis). However, there are situations where initial therapy with a biologic may be preferred over other conventional therapies (e.g., if there is involvement of high-risk joints such as the cervical spine, wrist, or hip; high disease activity; and/or those judged to be at high risk of disabling joint damage).
- **Psoriatic Arthritis:** Current guidelines do not address Rinvoq. Guidelines from ACR (2018) recommend TNFis over other biologics and Xeljanz for use in treatment-naïve patients with psoriatic arthritis and in those who were previously treated with an oral therapy.⁷
- **Rheumatoid Arthritis:** Guidelines from ACR (2021) recommend addition of a biologic or a targeted synthetic DMARD for a patient taking the maximum tolerated dose of methotrexate who is not at target.⁸
- **Ulcerative colitis:** The AGA (2024)⁹ and ACG (2019)¹⁰ have clinical practice guidelines on the management of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis in adults. AGA recognizes all of the FDA-approved advanced therapies as potential options for adults with moderate to severe ulcerative colitis.⁹ Advanced therapies include the biologics and targeted synthetic small molecule drugs. In general, the AGA recommends starting with advanced therapies and/or immunomodulators. Immunomodulators are recommended in the setting of maintenance of clinical remission induced by corticosteroids. The ACG recommends TNF inhibitors, Entyvio, Stelara® (ustekinumab IV infusion, SC injection), or Xeljanz®/Xeljanz® XR (tofacitinib tablets, tofacitinib extended-release tablets) for induction treatment of moderate to severe disease.¹⁰ The guidelines also recommend that any drug that effectively treats induction should be continued for maintenance.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. In cases where the approval is authorized in months, 1 month is equal to 30 days. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, initial approval requires Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

- **Rinvoq® (upadacitinib extended-release tablets – AbbVie)**
- **Rinvoq® LQ (upadacitinib oral solution – AbbVie)**

is(are) covered as medically necessary when the following criteria is(are) met for FDA-approved indication(s) or other uses with supportive evidence (if applicable):

FDA-Approved Indications

1. Ankylosing Spondylitis. Approve Rinvoq extended-release tablets (not Rinvoq LQ oral solution) for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):

i. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND

ii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):

a) Patient has had a 3-month trial of at least ONE tumor necrosis factor inhibitor; OR

b) Patient has tried at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor but was unable to tolerate a 3-month trial; AND

Note: Refer to [Appendix](#) for examples of tumor necrosis factor inhibitors used for rheumatoid arthritis. Conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) such as methotrexate, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine, and sulfasalazine do not count.

iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist; OR

B) Patient is Currently Receiving Rinvoq extended-release tablets. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):

i. Patient has been established on therapy for at least 6 months; AND

Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).

ii. Patient meets at least ONE of the following (a or b):

a) When assessed by at least one objective measure, patient experienced a beneficial clinical response from baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq); OR

Note: Examples of objective measures include Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS), Ankylosing Spondylitis Quality of Life Scale (ASQoL), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Global Score (BAS-G), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Metrology Index (BASMI), Dougados Functional Index (DFI), Health Assessment Questionnaire for the Spondylarthropathies (HAQ-S), and/or serum markers (e.g., C-reactive protein, erythrocyte sedimentation rate).

b) Compared with baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased pain or stiffness, or improvement in function or activities of daily living.

2. Atopic Dermatitis. Approve Rinvoq extended-release tablets (not Rinvoq LQ oral solution) for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve for 3 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):

i. Patient is ≥ 12 years of age; AND

ii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):

a) Patient has had a 4-month trial of at least ONE systemic therapy; OR

b) Patient has tried at least ONE systemic therapy but was unable to tolerate a 4-month trial; AND

Note: Examples of systemic therapies include Dupixent (dupilumab subcutaneous injection), Ebglyss (lebrikizumab-lbkz subcutaneous injection), Nemludio (nemolizumab-ilto subcutaneous injection), and Adbry (tralokinumab-ldrm subcutaneous injection). Methotrexate, azathioprine,

cyclosporine, or mycophenolate mofetil also count towards trial of a systemic therapy.

iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist, immunologist, or dermatologist; OR

B) Patient is Currently Receiving Rinvoq extended-release tablets. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):

i. Patient has been established on therapy for at least 90 days; AND

Note: A patient who has received < 90 days of therapy or who is restarting therapy with Rinvoq is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).

ii. Patient experienced a beneficial clinical response, defined as improvement from baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq) in at least one of the following: estimated body surface area affected, erythema, induration/papulation/edema, excoriations, lichenification, and/or a decreased requirement for other topical or systemic therapies for atopic dermatitis; AND

iii. Compared with baseline (prior to receiving Rinvoq), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased itching.

3. Crohn's Disease. Approve Rinvoq extended-release tablets (not Rinvoq LQ oral solution) for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):

i. Patient is \geq 18 years of age; AND

ii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):

a) Patient has had a 3-month trial of at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor; OR

b) Patient has tried at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor but was unable to tolerate a 3-month trial; AND

Note: Refer to [Appendix](#) for examples of tumor necrosis factor inhibitors used for Crohn's disease.

iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist; OR

B) Patient is Currently Receiving Rinvoq extended-release tablets. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):

i. Patient has been established on therapy for at least 6 months; AND

Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with Rinvoq is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).

ii. Patient meets at least ONE of the following (a or b):

a) When assessed by at least one objective measure, patient experienced a beneficial clinical response from baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq); OR

Note: Examples of objective measures include fecal markers (e.g., fecal lactoferrin, fecal calprotectin), serum markers (e.g., C-reactive protein), imaging studies (magnetic resonance enterography [MRE], computed tomography enterography [CTE]), endoscopic assessment, and/or reduced dose of corticosteroids.

b) Compared with baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased pain, fatigue, stool frequency, and/or blood in stool.

4. Giant Cell Arteritis. Approve Rinvoq extended-release tablets (not Rinvoq LQ oral solution) for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):

i. Patient is \geq 18 years of age; AND

- ii. Patient has tried or is currently taking a systemic corticosteroid, or systemic corticosteroids are contraindicated; AND
Note: An example of a systemic corticosteroid is prednisone.
- iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist; OR
- B) Patient is Currently Receiving Rinvoq extended-release tablets.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Patient has been established on therapy for at least 6 months; AND
Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).
 - ii. Patient meets at least ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) When assessed by at least one objective measure, patient experienced a beneficial clinical response from baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq); OR
Note: Examples of objective measures are serum markers (e.g., C-reactive protein, erythrocyte sedimentation rate), resolution of fever, and/or reduced dosage of corticosteroids.
 - b) Compared with baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased headache, scalp or jaw pain, decreased fatigue, and/or improved vision.

5. Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA). Approve Rinvoq extended-release tablets or Rinvoq LQ oral solution for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

Note: This includes JIA regardless of type of onset and a patient with juvenile spondyloarthritis/active sacroiliac arthritis. JIA is also referred to as Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis.

- A) Initial Therapy.** Approve for 6 months if the patient meets the ALL of following (i, ii, and iii):
 - i. Patient is ≥ 2 years of age; AND
 - ii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) Patient has had a 3-month trial of at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor; OR
 - b) Patient has tried at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor but was unable to tolerate a 3-month trial; AND
Note: Refer to [Appendix](#) for examples of tumor necrosis factor inhibitors. Conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) such as methotrexate, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine, and sulfasalazine do not count.
 - iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist; OR
- B) Patient is Currently Receiving Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Patient has been established on therapy for at least 6 months; AND
Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).
 - ii. Patient meets at least ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) When assessed by at least one objective measure, patient experienced a beneficial clinical response from baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ); OR
Note: Examples of objective measures include Physician Global Assessment (MD global), Parent/Patient Global Assessment of Overall Well-Being (PGA), Parent/Patient Global Assessment of Disease Activity (PDA), Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score (JDAS), Clinical Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score (cJDAS), Juvenile Spondyloarthritis Disease Activity Index (JSpADA), serum

markers (e.g., C-reactive protein, erythrocyte sedimentation rate), and/or reduced dosage of corticosteroids.

- b) Compared with baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as improvement in limitation of motion, less joint pain or tenderness, decreased duration of morning stiffness or fatigue, improved function or activities of daily living.

6. Non-Radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis. Approve Rinvoq extended-release tablets (not Rinvoq LQ oral solution) for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, iii, and iv):

- i. Patient is \geq 18 years of age; AND
- ii. Patient has objective signs of inflammation, defined as at least ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) C-reactive protein (CRP) elevated beyond the upper limit of normal for the reporting laboratory; OR
 - b) Sacroiliitis reported on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI); AND
- iii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) Patient has had a 3-month trial of at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor; OR
 - b) Patient has tried at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor but was unable to tolerate a 3-month trial; AND

Note: Cimzia (certolizumab pegol subcutaneous injection) is an example of a tumor necrosis factor inhibitor used for non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis. Conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) such as methotrexate, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine, and sulfasalazine do not count.

- iv. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist; OR

B) Patient is Currently Receiving Rinvoq extended-release tablets. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):

- i. Patient has been established on the requested drug for at least 6 months; AND
Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with the requested drug is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).
- ii. Patient meets at least ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) When assessed by at least one objective measure, patient experienced a beneficial clinical response from baseline (prior to initiating the requested drug); OR
Note: Examples of objective measures include Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS), Ankylosing Spondylitis Quality of Life Scale (ASQoL), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Global Score (BAS-G), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Metrology Index (BASMI), Dougados Functional Index (DFI), Health Assessment Questionnaire for the Spondylarthropathies (HAQ-S), and/or serum markers (e.g., C-reactive protein, erythrocyte sedimentation rate).
 - b) Compared with baseline (prior to initiating the requested drug), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased pain or stiffness, or improvement in function or activities of daily living.

7. Psoriatic Arthritis. Approve Rinvoq extended-release tablets or Rinvoq LQ oral solution for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

- A) Initial Therapy.** Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):
- i.** Patient is \geq 2 years of age; AND
 - ii.** Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a)** Patient has had a 3-month trial of at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor; OR
 - b)** Patient has tried at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor but was unable to tolerate a 3-month trial; AND
Note: Refer to [Appendix](#) for examples of tumor necrosis factor inhibitors used for psoriatic arthritis. Conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) such as methotrexate, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine, and sulfasalazine do not count.
 - iii.** The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist or a dermatologist; OR
- B) Patient is Currently Receiving Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):
- i.** Patient has been established on therapy for at least 6 months; AND
Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).
 - ii.** Patient meets at least ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a)** When assessed by at least one objective measure, patient experienced a beneficial clinical response from baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ); OR
Note: Examples of objective measures of disease activity include Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA), Composite Psoriatic Disease Activity Index (CPDAI), Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score (PsA DAS), Grace Index, Leeds Enthesitis Score (LEI), Spondyloarthritis Consortium of Canada (SPARCC) enthesitis score, Leeds Dactylitis Instrument Score, Minimal Disease Activity (MDA), Psoriatic Arthritis Impact of Disease (PsAID-12), and/or serum markers (e.g., C-reactive protein, erythrocyte sedimentation rate).
 - b)** Compared with baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as less joint pain, morning stiffness, or fatigue; improved function or activities of daily living; decreased soft tissue swelling in joints or tendon sheaths.

8. Rheumatoid Arthritis. Approve Rinvoq extended-release tablets (not Rinvoq LQ oral solution) for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

- A) Initial Therapy.** Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):
- i.** Patient is \geq 18 years of age; AND
 - ii.** Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a)** Patient has had a 3-month trial of at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor; OR
 - b)** Patient has tried at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor but was unable to tolerate a 3-month trial; AND
Note: Refer to [Appendix](#) for examples of tumor necrosis factor inhibitors used for rheumatoid arthritis. Conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) such as methotrexate, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine, and sulfasalazine do not count.
 - iii.** The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist; OR
- B) Patient is Currently Receiving Rinvoq extended-release tablets.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):
- i.** Patient has been established on therapy for at least 6 months; AND

Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with Rinvoq is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).

- ii. Patient meets at least ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) Patient experienced a beneficial clinical response when assessed by at least one objective measure; OR
Note: Examples of objective measures of disease activity include Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI), Disease Activity Score (DAS) 28 using erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) or C-reactive protein (CRP), Patient Activity Scale (PAS)-II, Rapid Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID-3), and/or Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI).
 - b) Patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased joint pain, morning stiffness, or fatigue; improved function or activities of daily living; decreased soft tissue swelling in joints or tendon sheaths.

9. Ulcerative Colitis. Approve Rinvoq extended-release tablets (not Rinvoq LQ oral solution) for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):

- i. Patient is \geq 18 years of age; AND
- ii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) Patient has had a 3-month trial of at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor; OR
 - b) Patient has tried at least one tumor necrosis factor inhibitor but was unable to tolerate a 3-month trial; AND
Note: Refer to [Appendix](#) for examples of tumor necrosis factor inhibitors used for ulcerative colitis.
- iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist; OR

B) Patient is Currently Receiving Rinvoq extended-release tablets. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):

- i. Patient has been established on therapy for at least 6 months; AND
Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with Rinvoq is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).
- ii. Patient meets at least ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) When assessed by at least one objective measure, patient experienced a beneficial clinical response from baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq); OR
Note: Examples of objective measures include fecal markers (e.g., fecal calprotectin), serum markers (e.g., C-reactive protein), endoscopic assessment, and/or reduced dose of corticosteroids.
 - b) Compared with baseline (prior to initiating Rinvoq), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased pain, fatigue, stool frequency, and/or rectal bleeding.

CONDITIONS NOT COVERED

- Rinvoq® (upadacitinib extended-release tablets – AbbVie)
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is(are) considered not medically necessary for ANY other use(s) including the following (this list may not be all inclusive; criteria will be updated as new published data are available):

- 1. Concurrent Use with a Biologic or with a Targeted Synthetic Oral Small Molecule Drug.**¹ This medication should not be administered in combination with another biologic or with a targeted synthetic oral small molecule drug used for an inflammatory condition (see [Appendix](#) for examples). Combination therapy is generally not recommended due to a potentially higher rate of adverse events and lack of controlled clinical data supporting additive efficacy.
Note: This does NOT exclude the use of conventional synthetic DMARDs (e.g., methotrexate, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine, or sulfasalazine) in combination with this medication.
- 2. Concurrent Use with a Biologic Immunomodulator.** Rinvoq is not recommended in combination with biologic immunomodulators.¹
Note: Examples of biologic immunomodulators include Adbry (tralokinumab-ldrm subcutaneous injection), Cinqair (reslizumab intravenous), Dupixent (dupilumab subcutaneous injection), Ebglyss (lebrikizumab-lbkz subcutaneous injection), Nemluvio (nemolizumab-iltto subcutaneous injection), Fasentra (benralizumab subcutaneous injection), Nucala (mepolizumab subcutaneous injection), Tezspire (tezepelumab-ekko subcutaneous injection), and Xolair (omalizumab subcutaneous injection).
- 3. Concurrent Use with Other Potent Immunosuppressants** (e.g., azathioprine, cyclosporine).¹ Co-administration with other potent immunosuppressive drugs has the risk of added immunosuppression and has not been evaluated in rheumatoid arthritis.
Note: This does NOT exclude use of Rinvoq with methotrexate. In rheumatoid arthritis, Rinvoq has been evaluated with background methotrexate and other conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs).

REFERENCES

1. Rinvoq® tablets/Rinvoq LQ oral solution [prescribing information]. North Chicago, IL: AbbVie; April 2024.
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HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
Annual Revision	<p>Atopic Dermatitis: The requirement that the patient has tried one traditional systemic agent (i.e., azathioprine, cyclosporine, methotrexate, mycophenolate mofetil) was changed to require a trial of one "systemic" agent. The Note of examples of "systemic" agents was changed to include Dupixent (dupilumab subcutaneous injection) and Adbry (tralokinumab-ldrm subcutaneous injection). A notation was added that a trial of a traditional systemic agent would count towards the trial of one systemic therapy. The duration of such trial of a systemic agent was changed from 3 months to 4 months. There were no other changes to the criteria.</p>	02/07/2024
Selected Revision	<p>Policy name changed from "Inflammatory Conditions – Rinvoq" to "Inflammatory Conditions – Rinvoq/Rinvoq LQ". For all indications, except JIA and psoriatic arthritis, specified approval is for Rinvoq tablets, not Rinvoq LQ oral solution.</p> <p>Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: This newly approved indication was added to the policy.</p> <p>Psoriatic Arthritis: Expanded age requirement from ≥ 18 years to ≥ 2 years of age.</p>	05/15/2024
Selected Revision	<p>Non-Radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis: For initial approvals, a requirement that the patient is ≥ 18 years of age was added.</p> <p>Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: For initial approvals, a requirement that the patient is ≥ 2 years of age was added.</p> <p>Conditions Not Covered</p> <p>: Concurrent use with a Biologic or with a Targeted Synthetic Oral Small Molecule Drug was changed to as listed (previously oral small molecule drug was listed as Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drug). Additionally, removed concurrent use with another Janus kinase inhibitor.</p>	09/11/2024

Annual Revision	Atopic Dermatitis: Ebglyss (lebrikizumab-lbkz subcutaneous injection) and Nemluvio (nemolizumab-ilto subcutaneous injection) were added to the note listing examples of systemic therapies. Conditions Not Covered : Ebglyss and Nemluvio were added as examples of biologic immunomodulators which are not allowed concurrently with Rinvoq and Rinvoq LQ.	02/26/2025
Selected Revision	Removed the following from the Policy Statement: "All reviews for use of Rinoq for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and/or cytokine release syndrome associated with COVID-19 will be forwarded to the Medical Director." Conditions Not Covered : Removed COVID-19.	04/23/2025
Selected Revision	Giant Cell Arteritis: This newly approved indication was added to the policy.	05/07/2025
Selected Revision	Giant Cell Arteritis: The requirement that the patient has tried one systemic corticosteroid was changed to now specify the patient has tried or currently is taking a systemic corticosteroid, unless a systemic corticosteroid is contraindicated.	06/11/2025
Update	10/20/2025: No criteria changes. Updated the Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis indication in the Overview section. Added "If TNFis are clinically inadvisable, patients should have received at least one approved systemic therapy prior to use of Rinvoq."	NA
Annual Revision	No criteria changes. Appendix: Otezla XR (apremilast extended-release tablets) was added.	02/11/2026

APPENDIX

	Mechanism of Action	Examples of Indications*
Biologics		
Adalimumab SC Products (Humira®, biosimilars)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, CD, JIA, PsO, PsA, RA, UC
Cimzia® (certolizumab pegol SC injection)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, CD, JIA, nr-axSpA, PsO, PsA, RA
Etanercept SC Products (Enbrel®, biosimilars)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, JIA, PsO, PsA, RA
Infliximab IV Products (Remicade®, biosimilars)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, CD, PsO, PsA, RA, UC
Zymfentra® (infliximab-dyyb SC injection)	Inhibition of TNF	CD, UC
Simponi®, Simponi Aria® (golimumab SC injection, golimumab IV infusion)	Inhibition of TNF	SC formulation: AS, PsA, RA, UC
		IV formulation: AS, PJIA, PsA, RA
Tocilizumab Products (Actemra® IV, biosimilar; Actemra SC, biosimilar)	Inhibition of IL-6	SC formulation: PJIA, RA, SJIA
		IV formulation: PJIA, RA, SJIA

Kezara [®] (sarilumab SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-6	RA
Orencia [®] (abatacept IV infusion, abatacept SC injection)	T-cell costimulation modulator	SC formulation: JIA, PSA, RA
		IV formulation: JIA, PsA, RA
Rituximab IV Products (Rituxan [®] , biosimilars)	CD20-directed cytolytic antibody	RA
Kineret [®] (anakinra SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-1	JIA [^] , RA
OmvoH [®] (mirikizumab IV infusion, SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-23	UC
Stelara [®] (ustekinumab SC injection, ustekinumab IV infusion)	Inhibition of IL-12/23	SC formulation: CD, PsO, PsA, UC
		IV formulation: CD, UC
Siliq [®] (brodalumab SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-17	PsO
Cosentyx [®] (secukinumab SC injection; secukinumab IV infusion)	Inhibition of IL-17A	SC formulation: AS, ERA, nr-axSpA, PsO, PsA
		IV formulation: AS, nr-axSpA, PsA
Taltz [®] (ixekizumab SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-17A	AS, nr-axSpA, PsO, PsA
Bimzelx [®] (bimekizumab-bkzx SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-17A/17F	AS, nr-axSpA, PsA, PsO
Ilumya [®] (tildrakizumab-asmn SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-23	PsO
Skyrizi [®] (risankizumab-rzaa SC injection, risankizumab-rzaa IV infusion)	Inhibition of IL-23	SC formulation: CD, PSA, PsO, UC
		IV formulation: CD, UC
Tremfya [®] (guselkumab SC injection, guselkumab IV infusion)	Inhibition of IL-23	SC formulation: PsA, PsO, UC
		IV formulation: UC
Entyvio [®] (vedolizumab IV infusion, vedolizumab SC injection)	Integrin receptor antagonist	CD, UC
Oral Therapies/Targeted Synthetic Oral Small Molecule Drugs		
Otezla [®] (apremilast tablets)	Inhibition of PDE4	PsO, PsA
Otezla XR [™] (apremilast extended-release tablets)	Inhibition of PDE4	PsO, PsA
Cibinqo [™] (abrocitinib tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AD
Olumiant [®] (baricitinib tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	RA, AA
Litfulo [®] (ritlecitinib capsules)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AA
Leqselvi [®] (deuruxolitinib tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AA
Rinvoq [®] (upadacitinib extended-release tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AD, AS, nr-axSpA, RA, PsA, UC
Rinvoq LQ [®] (upadacitinib oral solution)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	PsA, PJIA
Sotyktu [®] (deucravacitinib tablets)	Inhibition of TYK2	PsO
Xeljanz [®] (tofacitinib tablets/oral solution)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	RA, PJIA, PsA, UC
Xeljanz XR [®] (tofacitinib extended-release tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	RA, PsA, UC

Zeposia ® (ozanimod tablets)	Sphingosine 1 phosphate receptor modulator	UC
Velsipity ® (etrasimod tablets)	Sphingosine 1 phosphate receptor modulator	UC

* Not an all-inclusive list of indications. Refer to the prescribing information for the respective agent for FDA-approved indications; SC – Subcutaneous; TNF – Tumor necrosis factor; AS – Ankylosing spondylitis; CD – Crohn’s disease; JIA – Juvenile idiopathic arthritis; PsO – Plaque psoriasis; PsA – Psoriatic arthritis; RA – Rheumatoid arthritis; UC – Ulcerative colitis; nr-axSpA – Non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis; IV – Intravenous, PJIA – Polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis; IL – Interleukin; SJIA – Systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis; ^ Off-label use of Kineret in JIA supported in guidelines; ERA – Enthesitis-related arthritis; DMARD – Disease-modifying antirheumatic drug; PDE4 – Phosphodiesterase 4; JAK – Janus kinase; AD – Atopic dermatitis; AA – Alopecia areata; TYK2 – Tyrosine kinase 2.

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