



Drug Coverage Policy

Effective Date05/15/2026
Coverage Policy Number.....IP0687
Policy Title..... Ustekinumab
Subcutaneous Prior Authorization Policy

Inflammatory Conditions – Ustekinumab Subcutaneous Products Prior Authorization Policy

- Stelara® (ustekinumab subcutaneous injection – Janssen Biotech)
- Imuldosa® (ustekinumab-srlf subcutaneous injection – Accord)
- Otulfi™ (ustekinumab-aaaz subcutaneous injection – Formycon/Fresenius)
- Pyzchiva™ (ustekinumab-ttwe subcutaneous injection – Sandoz/Samsung, Cordavis)
- Selarsdi™ (ustekinumab-aekn subcutaneous injection – Alvotech/Teva)
- Steqeyma™ (ustekinumab-stba subcutaneous injection – Celltrion)
- Starjemza™ (ustekinumab-hmny subcutaneous injection – BioThera)
- ustekinumab subcutaneous injection (Janssen Biotech)
- ustekinumab-aaaz subcutaneous injection (Fresenius)
- ustekinumab-aekn subcutaneous injection (Teva)
- ustekinumab-ttwe subcutaneous injection (Quallent)
- Wezlana™ (ustekinumab-auub subcutaneous injection – Amgen)
- Yesintek™ (ustekinumab-kfce subcutaneous injection – Biocon)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

The following Coverage Policy applies to health benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Certain Cigna Companies and/or lines of business only provide utilization review services to clients and do not make coverage determinations. References to standard benefit plan language and coverage determinations do not apply to those clients. Coverage Policies are intended to provide guidance in interpreting certain standard benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Please note, the terms of a customer's particular benefit plan document [Group Service Agreement, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, Summary Plan Description (SPD) or similar plan document] may differ significantly from the standard benefit plans upon which these Coverage Policies are based. For example, a customer's benefit plan document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a Coverage Policy. In the event of a conflict, a customer's benefit plan document always supersedes the information in the Coverage Policies. In the absence of a controlling federal or state coverage mandate, benefits are ultimately determined by the terms of the applicable benefit plan document. Coverage determinations in each specific instance require consideration of 1) the terms of the applicable benefit plan document in effect on the date of service; 2) any applicable laws/regulations; 3) any relevant collateral source materials including Coverage Policies and; 4) the specific facts of the particular situation. Each coverage request should be reviewed on its own merits. Medical directors are expected to exercise clinical judgment

where appropriate and have discretion in making individual coverage determinations. Where coverage for care or services does not depend on specific circumstances, reimbursement will only be provided if a requested service(s) is submitted in accordance with the relevant criteria outlined in the applicable Coverage Policy, including covered diagnosis and/or procedure code(s). Reimbursement is not allowed for services when billed for conditions or diagnoses that are not covered under this Coverage Policy (see "Coding Information" below). When billing, providers must use the most appropriate codes as of the effective date of the submission. Claims submitted for services that are not accompanied by covered code(s) under the applicable Coverage Policy will be denied as not covered. Coverage Policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans. Coverage Policies are not recommendations for treatment and should never be used as treatment guidelines. In certain markets, delegated vendor guidelines may be used to support medical necessity and other coverage determinations.

OVERVIEW

Ustekinumab subcutaneous (SC), an interleukin (IL)-12/23 blocker, is indicated for the following uses:^{1,8-14,16}

- **Crohn's disease**, in patients ≥ 2 years of age with moderate to severe active disease.
- **Plaque psoriasis**, in patients ≥ 6 years of age with moderate to severe disease who are candidates for phototherapy or systemic therapy.
- **Psoriatic arthritis**, in patients ≥ 6 years of age with active disease.
- **Ulcerative colitis**, in patients ≥ 18 years of age with moderate to severe active disease.

Dosing

A weight-based dose is administered by SC injection under the supervision of a physician or by the patient or a caregiver. The approved dosing listed in the prescribing information are as follows:^{1,8-14}

- **Crohn's disease:**
 - Adults: 90 mg SC injection once every 8 weeks (Q8W), starting 8 weeks after an initial intravenous (IV) dose.
 - Pediatric patients weighing ≥ 10 kg to ≤ 35 kg: 2.5 mg/kg SC once Q8W, starting 8 weeks after an initial IV dose.
 - Pediatric patients weighing > 35 kg: 90 mg SC once Q8W, starting 8 weeks after an initial IV dose.
- **Plaque psoriasis:**
 - Adults weighing ≤ 100 kg: 45 mg SC at Week 0, Week 4, and then once every 12 weeks (Q12W) thereafter.
 - Adults weighing > 100 kg: 90 mg SC at Week 0, Week 4, and then Q12W thereafter.
 - Pediatric patients ≥ 6 years of age weighing < 60 kg: 0.75 mg/kg SC at Week 0, Week 4, and then Q12W thereafter.
 - Pediatric patients ≥ 6 years of age weighing 60 kg to 100 kg: 45 mg SC at Week 0, Week 4, and then Q12W thereafter.
 - Pediatric patients ≥ 6 years of age weighing > 100 kg: 90 mg SC at Week 0, Week 4, and then Q12W thereafter.
- **Psoriatic arthritis:**
 - Adults weighing > 100 kg with co-existent moderate to severe plaque psoriasis: 90 mg SC at Week 0, Week 4, and then Q12W thereafter.
 - All other adults: 45 mg SC at Week 0, Week 4, and then Q12W thereafter.
 - Pediatric patients ≥ 6 years of age weighing < 60 kg: 0.75 mg/kg SC at Week 0, Week 4, and then Q12W thereafter.
 - Pediatric patients ≥ 6 years of age weighing 60 kg to 100 kg: 45 mg SC at Week 0, Week 4, and then Q12W thereafter.

- Pediatric patients ≥ 6 years of age weighing > 100 kg with co-existent moderate to severe plaque psoriasis: 90 mg SC at Week 0, Week 4, and then Q12W thereafter.
- **Ulcerative colitis**: Starting 8 weeks after an initial IV dose, the maintenance dose is 90 mg SC Q8W.

Guidelines

Guidelines for the treatment of inflammatory conditions recommend use of ustekinumab SC.

- **Crohn's Disease**: The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) [2025] and the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) [2025] have guidelines for the management of CD in adults.^{2,15} Both guidelines recommend upfront use of advanced therapies, rather than step-up therapy after failure of corticosteroids and/or immunomodulators. Advanced therapies recommended include tumor necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors, Entyvio® (vedolizumab IV infusion, SC injection), IL-23 inhibitors, IL-12/23 inhibitors, and Rinvoq® (upadacitinib extended-release tablets).
- **Plaque Psoriasis**: Guidelines from the American Academy of Dermatology and National Psoriasis Foundation (2019) recommend ustekinumab as a monotherapy treatment option or in combination with other therapies for adults with moderate to severe disease.³
- **Psoriatic Arthritis**: Guidelines from the American College of Rheumatology (2018) recommend ustekinumab after other agents (e.g., TNFis) have been tried.⁴ Ustekinumab may be used in patients who have active disease despite treatment with other agents, particularly in those with concomitant inflammatory bowel disease.⁴
- **Ulcerative Colitis**: The AGA (2024) and the ACG (2025) have clinical practice guidelines on the management of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis.^{5,6} In moderate to severe disease, systemic corticosteroids or advanced therapies may be utilized for induction of remission. Advanced therapies recommended include TNF inhibitors, Entyvio, IL-23 inhibitors, IL-12/23 inhibitors, sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) receptor modulators, and Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors. If steroids are utilized for induction, efforts should be made to introduce steroid-sparing agents for maintenance therapy. Of note, guidelines state corticosteroids may be avoided entirely when other effective induction strategies are planned.⁶ Both guidelines also recommend that any drug that effectively treats induction should be continued for maintenance.

Coverage Policy

Policy Statement

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

NOTE: This product also requires the use of preferred ustekinumab subcutaneous products before approval of non-preferred ustekinumab subcutaneous products. Refer to the respective *Inflammatory Conditions – Ustekinumab Subcutaneous Products Preferred Specialty Management Policy for Standard/Performance and and Total Savings Prescription Drug Lists (PSM021)*, *Legacy Prescription Drug Lists (PSM022)*, *Value/Advantage Prescription Drug Lists (PSM038)*, or *Individual and Family Plans (PSM023)* for additional preferred product criteria requirements and exceptions.

The following products are not covered on the pharmacy and medical benefits for Employer Plans and Individual and Family Plans: Imuldosa subcutaneous (NDCs starting with 51407), Pyzchiva subcutaneous (NDCs starting with 83457), ustekinumab-aauz subcutaneous, Wezlana subcutaneous. Refer to the customer's benefit plan document for details of covered product(s).

Ustekinumab subcutaneous products are considered medically necessary when ONE of the following is met (1, 2, 3, or 4):

FDA-Approved Indications

1. Crohn's Disease. Approve 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 ≥ 2 years of age; AND
- ii. According to the prescriber, the patient will receive a single induction dose with ustekinumab intravenous within 2 months of initiating therapy with ustekinumab subcutaneous; AND
- iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist.

B) Patient is Currently Receiving Ustekinumab Subcutaneous. 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 fecal markers (e.g., fecal lactoferrin, fecal calprotectin), serum markers (e.g., C-reactive protein), imaging studies (magnetic resonance enterography, computed tomography enterography), endoscopic assessment, and/or reduced dose of corticosteroids.
 - b) Compared with baseline (prior to initiating the requested drug), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased pain, fatigue, stool frequency, and/or blood in stool.

2. Plaque Psoriasis. Approve (45 mg syringe/vial) for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

Note: If the 90 mg syringe is requested, approve if the patient meets ONE of the following:

- Patient weighs > 100 kg; OR
- Patient is currently receiving the 90 mg syringe; OR
- Patient has received standard dosing with the 45 mg syringe/vial for at least 3 months with inadequate efficacy.

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

- i. Patient is ≥ 6 years of age; AND
- ii. Patient meets ONE of the following conditions (a or b):
 - a) Patient has tried at least one traditional systemic agent for psoriasis for at least 3 months, unless intolerant; OR
Note: Examples of traditional systemic agents used for psoriasis include methotrexate, cyclosporine, or acitretin. A 3-month trial of psoralen plus ultraviolet A light (PUVA) also counts. An exception to the requirement for a trial of one traditional systemic agent for psoriasis can be made if the patient has had a 3-

month trial or previous intolerance to at least one biologic (other than the requested drug), Otezla/Otezla XR (apremilast tablets/extended-release tablets), or Sotyktu (deucravacitinib tablets). A biosimilar of the requested biologic does not count. Refer to [Appendix](#) for examples of biologics used for plaque psoriasis. A patient who has already tried a biologic for psoriasis, Otezla/Otezla XR, or Sotyktu is not required to "step back" and try a traditional systemic agent for psoriasis.

b) According to the prescriber, the patient has a contraindication to methotrexate;
AND

iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist.

B) Patient is Currently Receiving Ustekinumab Subcutaneous. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):

i. Patient has been established on the requested drug for at least 3 months; AND

Note: A patient who has received < 3 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with the requested drug is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).

ii. Patient experienced a beneficial clinical response, defined as improvement from baseline (prior to initiating the requested drug) in at least one of the following: estimated body surface area, erythema, induration/thickness, and/or scale of areas affected by psoriasis; AND

iii. Compared with baseline (prior to receiving the requested drug), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased pain, itching, and/or burning.

3. Psoriatic Arthritis. Approve (45 mg syringe/vial) for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

Note: If the 90 mg syringe is requested, approve if the patient meets ONE of the following:

- Patient has moderate to severe plaque psoriasis AND weighs > 100 kg; OR
- Patient is currently receiving the 90 mg syringe; OR
- Patient has received standard dosing with the 45 mg syringe/vial for at least 3 months with inadequate efficacy.

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

i. Patient is \geq 6 years of age; AND

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

B) Patient is Currently Receiving Ustekinumab Subcutaneous. 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 standardized 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 the requested drug), 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.

- 4. Ulcerative Colitis.** Approve 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.** According to the prescriber, the patient will receive a single induction dose with ustekinumab intravenous within 2 months of initiating therapy with ustekinumab subcutaneous; AND
 - iii.** The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist; OR
- B) Patient is Currently Receiving Ustekinumab Subcutaneous.** 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 assessment for inflammatory response 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 the requested drug), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased pain, fatigue, stool frequency, and/or decreased rectal bleeding.

Conditions Not Covered

Ustekinumab subcutaneous products for any other use are considered not medically necessary, including the following (this list may not be all inclusive; criteria will be updated as new published data are available):

- 1. Ankylosing Spondylitis.** There are other biologic therapies indicated in ankylosing spondylitis (e.g., Cimzia[®] [certolizumab pegol subcutaneous injection], etanercept, adalimumab, infliximab, Simponi subcutaneous, Cosentyx[™] [secukinumab subcutaneous injection]). More data are needed to demonstrate efficacy of ustekinumab in this condition. There is a published proof-of-concept trial evaluating ustekinumab in ankylosing spondylitis (n = 20).⁷ Patients who previously failed to respond to TNFi were excluded, but patients who discontinued a TNFi for reasons other than lack of efficacy were allowed to enroll. In all, 65% of patients (n = 13/20) achieved an ASAS40 response at Week 24. There was at least a 50% improvement of the BASDAI (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index) achieved by 55% of patients (n = 11/20). However, enthesitis (measured by MASES [Maastricht AS Entheses Score] and SPARCC [SPondyloArthritis Research Consortium of Canada] enthesitis indices) and the number of swollen joints were not significantly improved at Week 24. There was a significant reduction of active inflammation on magnetic resonance imaging at Week 24 compared with baseline in sacroiliac joints.
- 2. Concurrent Use with a Biologic or with a Targeted Synthetic Oral Small Molecule Drug.** 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, and sulfasalazine) in combination with this medication.

Coding Information

Note: 1) This list of codes may not be all-inclusive.

2) Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement.

Considered Medically Necessary when criteria in the applicable policy statements listed above are met:

HCPCS Codes	Description
C9399	Unclassified drugs or biologicals
J3357	Ustekinumab, for subcutaneous injection, 1 mg
J3490	Unclassified drugs
J3590	Unclassified biologics
Q5098	Injection, ustekinumab-srlf (Imuldosa), biosimilar, 1 mg
Q5099	Injection, ustekinumab-stba (Steqeyma), biosimilar, 1 mg (Code Effective 7/1/2025)
Q5100	Injection, ustekinumab-kfce (Yesintek), biosimilar, 1 mg (Code Effective 7/1/2025)
Q9996	Injection, ustekinumab-ttwe (Pyzchiva), subcutaneous, 1 mg
Q9998	Injection, ustekinumab-aekn (Selarsdi), 1 mg
Q9999	Injection, ustekinumab-aaaz (Otulfi), biosimilar, 1 mg

References

1. Stelara® subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Horsham, PA: Janssen Biotech; April 2026.
2. Lichtenstein G, Loftus E, Afzali A, et al. ACG Clinical Guideline: Management of Crohn's Disease in Adults. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2025 June;120(6):1225-1264.
3. Menter A, Strober BE, Kaplan DH, et al. Joint AAD-NPF guidelines of care for the management and treatment of psoriasis with biologics. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2019;80(4):1029-1072.
4. Singh JA, Guyatt G, Ogdie A, et al. 2018 American College of Rheumatology/National Psoriasis Foundation Guideline for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2019;71(1):2-29.
5. Singh S, Loftus EV Jr, Limketkai BN, et al. AGA Living Clinical Practice Guideline on Pharmacological Management of Moderate-to-Severe Ulcerative Colitis. *Gastroenterology*. 2024 Dec;167(7):1307-1343.
6. Rubin D, Ananthakrishnan A, Siegel C. ACG Clinical Guideline Update: Ulcerative Colitis in Adults. *Am J of Gastroenterol*. 2025 June;120(6):1187-1224.
7. Poddubnyy D, Hermann KG, Callhoff J, et al. Ustekinumab for the treatment of patients with active ankylosing spondylitis: results of a 28-week, prospective, open-label, proof-of-concept study (TOPAS). *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2014;73(5):817-823.
8. Otulfi® intravenous infusion, subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Lake Zurich, IL: Fresenius; December 2024.
9. Pyzchiva® intravenous infusion, subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Princeton, NJ: Sandoz; June 2024.

10. Selarsdi® intravenous infusion, subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Parsippany, NJ: Teva; October 2024.
11. Steqeyma® intravenous infusion, subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Incheon, Republic of Korea: Celltrion; December 2024.
12. Yesintek® intravenous infusion, subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Cambridge, MA: Biocon; December 2024.
13. Wezlana® intravenous infusion, subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen; January 2025.
14. Imuldosa® intravenous infusion, subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Raleigh, NC: Accord; October 2025.
15. Scott FI, Ananthakrishnan AN, Click B, et al. AGA Living Clinical Practice Guideline on the Pharmacologic Management of Moderate-to-Severe Crohn's Disease. *Gastroenterology*. 2025 Dec;169(7):1397-1448.
16. Starjemza™ intravenous infusion, subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Guangzhou, Guang dong, China: Bio-Thera; May 2025.

Revision Details

Summary of Changes	Review Date	Effective Date
New policy	09/12/2024	11/01/2024
<p>Policy name was updated to more generally list Ustekinumab Subcutaneous Products; previously policy was specific to Stelara Subcutaneous. Wording for a patient currently receiving Stelara subcutaneous was changed to currently receiving ustekinumab subcutaneous. Wording for a patient who had previously received induction with Stelara intravenous was changed to more generally refer to ustekinumab intravenous.</p> <p>Otulfi, Pyzchiva, ustekinumab-ttwe, Selarsdi, Steqeyma, and Yesintek subcutaneous were added to the policy; the same criteria apply for all ustekinumab subcutaneous products.</p> <p>Added HCPCS Coding Table: Added HCPCS: C9399, J3357, J3490, J3590, Q9996, Q9998, Q9999</p>	03/20/2025	04/15/2025
<p>Updated HCPCS Coding: Added Q5099 Q5100 (Codes Effective 7/1/2025)</p>	--	04/15/2025
<p>Ustekinumab subcutaneous (unbranded Stelara) and ustekinumab-aekn subcutaneous (unbranded Selarsdi) were added to the policy; the same criteria apply as the other ustekinumab subcutaneous products.</p> <p>Ulcerative Colitis: For initial therapy, removed the following conditions of approval: (1) the patient has tried one systemic therapy; (2) the patient has pouchitis and tried an antibiotic, probiotic, corticosteroid enema, or mesalamine enema.</p>	07/24/2025	09/01/2025

Imuldosa subcutaneous was added to the policy; the same criteria apply for all ustekinumab subcutaneous products. Coding Information Added: HCPCS code Q5098	09/11/2025	10/15/2025
Plaque Psoriasis: For initial therapy, in the Note, a 3-month trial or prior intolerance to Otezla/Otezla XR (apremilast tablets/extended-release tablets), or Sotyktu (deucravacitinib tablets) was added as an exception to the requirement for a trial of one traditional systemic agent for psoriasis. For initial therapy, the requirement "patient has a contraindication to methotrexate, as determined by the prescriber" was modified to "according to the prescriber, the patient has a contraindication to methotrexate". In the Appendix, Otezla XR (apremilast extended-release tablets) was added under the Oral Therapies/Targeted Synthetic Oral Small Molecular Drugs.	11/13/2025	01/01/2026
Starjemza subcutaneous injection was added to the policy; the same criteria apply as the other ustekinumab subcutaneous products. Ustekinumab-aauz was added to the policy. A "Note" was also added for Imuldosa subcutaneous (NDCs starting with 51407), Pyzchiva subcutaneous (NDCs starting with 83457), ustekinumab-aauz subcutaneous, and Wezlana subcutaneous stating they are not covered on the pharmacy and medical benefits for Employer Plans and Individual and Family Plans. Refer to the customer's benefit plan document for details of covered product(s).	01/29/2026	03/01/2026
Crohn's Disease: For initial therapy, the following options of approval were removed: The patient has tried or is currently taking systemic corticosteroids, or corticosteroids are contraindicated; patient has tried one conventional systemic therapy for Crohn's disease along with the associated Note; patient has enterocutaneous (perianal or abdominal) or rectovaginal fistulas; patient had ileocolonic resection (to reduce the chance of Crohn's disease recurrence).	02/19/2026	03/15/2026
Crohn's Disease: The age requirement was modified from ≥ 18 years to ≥ 2 years of age	04/30/2026	05/15/2026

The policy effective date is in force until updated or retired.

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
Kineret® (anakinra SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-1	JIA [^] , RA
Tocilizumab Products (Actemra® IV, biosimilar; Actemra SC, biosimilar)	Inhibition of IL-6	SC formulation: PJIA, RA, SJIA
		IV formulation: PJIA, RA, SJIA
Kevzara® (sarilumab SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-6	PJIA, RA
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	PsO, AS, nr-axSpA, PsA
Ustekinumab Products (Stelara® IV, biosimilar; Stelara SC, biosimilar)	Inhibition of IL-12/23	SC formulation: CD, PsO, PsA, UC
Ilumya® (tildrakizumab-asmn SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-23	PsO
Omvoh® (mirikizumab IV infusion, SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-23	CD, UC
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: CD, PsA, PsO, UC
		IV formulation: CD, UC
Entyvio® (vedolizumab IV infusion, vedolizumab SC injection)	Integrin receptor antagonist	CD, UC
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
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, CD, UC
Rinvoq® LQ (upadacitinib oral solution)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	PsA, PJIA
Sotyktu® (deucravacitinib tablets)	Inhibition of TYK2	PsA, 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; PDE4 – Phosphodiesterase 4; JAK – Janus kinase; AD – Atopic dermatitis; AA – Alopecia areata; TYK2 – Tyrosine kinase 2.

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