



## Drug Coverage Policy

Effective Date .....3/15/2026

Coverage Policy Number.....IP0714

Policy Title.....Nemluvio

# Immunologicals – Nemluvio

- Nemluvio® (nemolizumab-ilto subcutaneous injection – Galderma)

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### 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.

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### Overview

Nemluvio, an interleukin (IL)-31 receptor antagonist, is indicated for the following uses:<sup>1</sup>

- **Atopic dermatitis**, for the treatment of patients ≥ 12 of age with moderate-to-severe disease in combination with topical corticosteroids and/or topical calcineurin inhibitors when the disease is not adequately controlled with topical prescription therapies.
- **Prurigo nodularis** in adults.

## Clinical Efficacy

### *Atopic Dermatitis*

Two pivotal studies, ARCADIA 1 and ARCADIA 2, evaluated Nemluvio's efficacy in the treatment of atopic dermatitis in patients  $\geq 12$  years of age.<sup>1,2</sup> These studies evaluated efficacy after 16 weeks of Nemluvio therapy. According to the prescribing information, Nemluvio should be used with topical corticosteroids and/or topical calcineurin inhibitors. However, when the disease has sufficiently improved, the labeling states to discontinue the use of topical therapies. In the ARCADIA studies, concomitant topical corticosteroids and/or a topical calcineurin inhibitor were administered during the trial. However, based on disease activity, these therapies could be tapered and/or discontinued at the investigator's discretion.

### *Prurigo Nodularis*

Two pivotal studies, OLYMPIA 1 and OLYMPIA 2, evaluated Nemluvio's efficacy in the treatment of prurigo nodularis in patients  $\geq 18$  years of age.<sup>1,3,4</sup> To enroll, patients were required to have  $\geq 20$  nodular lesions distributed bilaterally on the legs, and/or both arms, and/or trunk. Across both studies, 78.5% of patients had tried topical corticosteroid therapy. Patients with chronic pruritus caused by an active condition other than prurigo nodularis were excluded, as were patients with neuropathic and psychogenic pruritis. In OLYMPIA 1, patients received an initial 24 weeks of randomized therapy, while in OLYMPIA 2 patients received 16 weeks of treatment. The primary endpoints in both studies were evaluated at 16 weeks (4 months).

## Guidelines

### *Atopic Dermatitis*

The **American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)** Guidelines for the Care and Management of Atopic Dermatitis in Adults (topical therapies update in 2023<sup>5</sup> and systemic agents update in 2024<sup>6</sup>; focused update 2015<sup>13</sup>) and the **American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI)/American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters** Atopic Dermatitis Guidelines (2023)<sup>7</sup> continue to affirm that despite the availability of newer, systemic therapies, topical agents remain the mainstay of treatment due to their proven track record and favorable safety profiles. Several topical agents are recommended, with topical corticosteroids commonly used first-line for mild to severe atopic dermatitis in all skin regions. If topical therapy and basic management (e.g., moisturizers, bathing modifications) have been optimized and the patient has not achieved adequate control, systemic therapy may be considered. In this setting, Nemluvio in combination with a topical corticosteroid is a recommended treatment option in patients with moderate to severe disease (strong recommendation).

### *Prurigo Nodularis*

A United States Expert Panel Consensus provides a practical approach for the diagnosis and management of prurigo nodularis (2021).<sup>8</sup> The primary findings in patients with prurigo nodularis are the presence of firm, nodular lesions; pruritus lasting at least 6 weeks; and history or signs, or both, of repeated scratching, picking, or rubbing. Goals of treatment are to reduce pruritus, interrupt the itch-scratch cycle, and completely heal prurigo nodularis lesions. Topical corticosteroids are recommended as one of the treatments to address the immunologic component of prurigo nodularis.

## Coverage Policy

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Prior Authorization is required for benefit coverage of Nemluvio. 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

Nemluvio as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, initial approval requires Nemluvio to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

**Nemluvio is considered medically necessary when ONE of the following is met:**

**FDA-Approved Indications**

**1. Atopic Dermatitis.** Approve for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

**A) Initial Therapy.** Approve for 4 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, iii, iv, v, and vi):

- i.** Patient is  $\geq 12$  years of age; AND
- ii.** According to the prescriber, the patient has atopic dermatitis involvement estimated to be  $\geq 10\%$  of the body surface area; AND
- iii.** Patient meets ALL of the following (a, b, and c):
  - a)** Patient has tried at least one medium-, medium-high, high-, and/or super-high-potency prescription topical corticosteroid; AND
  - b)** This topical corticosteroid was applied daily for at least 28 consecutive days; AND
  - c)** According to the prescriber, inadequate efficacy was demonstrated with this topical corticosteroid therapy; AND
- iv.** Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):
  - a)** For initial therapy, the medication will be used in combination with a topical corticosteroid and/or a topical calcineurin inhibitor; OR
  - b)** The patient's atopic dermatitis has sufficiently improved with Nemluvio and topical therapy has been discontinued; AND
- v.** The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist, immunologist, or dermatologist.
- vi.** Preferred product criteria is met for the product(s) as listed in the below table(s)  
[Individual and Family Plans]

**B) Patient is Currently Receiving Nemluvio.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):

- i.** Patient has already received at least 4 months of therapy with Nemluvio; AND  
Note: A patient who has received  $< 4$  months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with Nemluvio should be considered under criterion 1A (Atopic Dermatitis, Initial Therapy).
- ii.** Patient has responded to therapy as determined by the prescriber.  
Note: Examples of a response to Nemluvio therapy are marked improvements in erythema, induration/papulation/edema, excoriations, and lichenification; reduced pruritus; decreased requirement for other topical or systemic therapies; reduced body surface area affected with atopic dermatitis; or other responses observed.

**2. Prurigo Nodularis.** Approve for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

**A) Initial Therapy.** Approve for 4 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, and vii):

- i.** Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND
- ii.** Patient has  $\geq 20$  identifiable nodular lesions in total on both arms, and/or both legs, and/or trunk; AND
- iii.** Patient has experienced pruritus for  $\geq 6$  weeks; AND
- iv.** Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):
  - a)** The prurigo nodularis is NOT medication-induced or secondary to a non-dermatologic condition such as neuropathy or a psychiatric disease; OR

- b) The patient has a secondary cause of prurigo nodularis that has been identified and adequately managed, according to the prescriber; AND
  - v. Patient meets ALL of the following (a, b, and c):
    - a) Patient has tried at least one high- or super-high-potency prescription topical corticosteroid; AND
    - b) This topical corticosteroid was applied daily for at least 14 consecutive days; AND
    - c) Inadequate efficacy was demonstrated with this topical corticosteroid therapy, according to the prescriber; AND
  - vi. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist, immunologist, or dermatologist.
  - vii. Preferred product criteria is met for the product(s) as listed in the below table(s) [Individual and Family Plans]
- B) Patient is Currently Receiving Nemluvio.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):
- i. Patient has already received at least 4 months of therapy with Nemluvio; AND  
Note: A patient who has received < 4 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with Nemluvio should be considered under criterion 2A (Prurigo Nodularis, Initial Therapy).
  - ii. Patient has experienced a beneficial clinical response, defined by ONE of the following (a, b, or c):
    - a) Reduced nodular lesion count; OR
    - b) Decreased pruritus; OR
    - c) Reduced nodular lesion size.

**Individual and Family Plans:**

Product	Criteria
<b>Nemluvio subcutaneous injection</b>	<p><b>ONE</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Patient has tried, and according to the prescriber has experienced inadequate efficacy OR significant intolerance with Dupixent</li> <li>2. Patient has already been started on therapy with Nemluvio</li> </ol>

**Conditions Not Covered**

**Nemluvio for any other use is 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. Concurrent Use of Nemluvio with another Monoclonal Antibody Therapy.** The efficacy and safety of Nemluvio in combination with other monoclonal antibody therapies have not been established.<sup>1</sup>  
Note: Monoclonal antibody therapies are Adbry® (tralokinumab-ldrm subcutaneous injection), Cinqair® (reslizumab intravenous injection), Dupixent® (dupilumab subcutaneous injection), Ebglyss® (lebrikizumab-lbkz subcutaneous injection), Fasentra® (benralizumab subcutaneous injection), Nucala® (mepolizumab subcutaneous injection), Teszpire® (tezepelumab-ekko subcutaneous injection), or Xolair® (omalizumab subcutaneous injection).
- 2. Concurrent Use of Nemluvio with Janus Kinase (JAK) Inhibitors (oral or topical).** Use of JAK inhibitors is not recommended for use in combination with other JAK inhibitors, biologic immunomodulators (e.g., Nemluvio), or with other immunosuppressants.<sup>5-8</sup>

**Note:** Examples of JAK inhibitors are Cibinqo® (abrocitinib tablets), Leqselvi™ (deuruxolitinib tablets), Rinvoq®/Rinvoq® LQ (upadacitinib tablets and oral solution), and Opzelura™ (ruxolitinib cream).

## References

1. Nemluvio® subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Dallas, TX: Galderma; June 2025.
2. Silverberg JI, Wollenberg A, Reich A, et al. Nemolizumab with concomitant topical therapy in adolescents and adults with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis (ARCADIA 1 and ARCADIA 2): results from two replicate, double-blind, randomised controlled phase 3 trials. *Lancet*. 2024;404:445-460.
3. Stander S, Yosipovitch G, Legat FJ, et al. Efficacy and safety of nemolizumab in patients with moderate to severe prurigo nodularis: the OLYMPIA1 randomized clinical phase 3 trial. *JAMA Dermatol*. 2025;161(2):147-156.
4. Kwatra SG, Yosipovitch G, Legat FJ, et al. Phase 3 trial of nemolizumab in patients with prurigo nodularis. *N Engl J Med*. 2023;389(17):1579-1589.
5. Sidbury R, Alikhan A, Cohen DE, et al. Guidelines of care for the management of atopic dermatitis in adults with topical therapies. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2023;89(1):e1-e20.
6. Davis DMR, Drucker AM, Alikhan A, et al. Guidelines of care for the management of atopic dermatitis in adults with phototherapy and systemic therapies. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2024;90(2):e43-e56.
7. Chu DK, Schneider L, Asiniwasis RN, et al. Atopic dermatitis (eczema) guidelines: 2023 American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology/American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Joint Task Force on practice parameters GRADE- and Institute of Medicine-based recommendations. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol*. 2024;132(3):274-312.
8. Elmariah S, Kim B, Berger T, et al. Practical approaches for diagnosis and management of prurigo nodularis: United States expert panel consensus. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2021;84(3):747-760.
9. Cibinqo® tablets [prescribing information]. New York, NY: Pfizer; January 2025.
10. Rinvoq® tablets/Rinvoq® LQ oral solution [prescribing information]. North Chicago, IL: AbbVie; April 2024.
11. Opzelura® cream [prescribing information]. Wilmington, DE: Incyte; September 2025.
12. Leqselvi™ tablets [prescribing information]. Whippany, NJ: Sun/Halo; July 2025.
13. Davis MR, Frazer-Green L, Alikhan A, et al. Focused update: guidelines of care for the management of atopic dermatitis in adults. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2025;93(3):745.

## Revision Details

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Date
New	New policy	2/15/2025
Selected Revision	Updated Policy template	11/15/2025
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	3/15/2026

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

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