



Original Effective Date: 08/01/2018
 Current Effective Date: 12/28/2022
 Last P&T Approval/Version: 10/25/2023
 Next Review Due By: 10/2024
 Policy Number: C14612-A

Tremfya (guselkumab)

PRODUCTS AFFECTED

Tremfya (guselkumab)

COVERAGE POLICY

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any. This Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide Molina Healthcare complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

Documentation Requirements:

Molina Healthcare reserves the right to require that additional documentation be made available as part of its coverage determination; quality improvement; and fraud; waste and abuse prevention processes. Documentation required may include, but is not limited to, patient records, test results and credentials of the provider ordering or performing a drug or service. Molina Healthcare may deny reimbursement or take additional appropriate action if the documentation provided does not support the initial determination that the drugs or services were medically necessary, not investigational, or experimental, and otherwise within the scope of benefits afforded to the member, and/or the documentation demonstrates a pattern of billing or other practice that is inappropriate or excessive.

DIAGNOSIS:

Moderate to severe plaque psoriasis, Active psoriatic arthritis

REQUIRED MEDICAL INFORMATION:

This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. If a drug within this policy receives an updated FDA label within the last 180 days, medical necessity for the member will be reviewed using the updated FDA label information along with state and federal requirements, benefit being administered and formulary preferencing. Coverage will be determined on a case-by-case basis until the criteria can be updated through Molina Healthcare, Inc. clinical governance. Additional information may be required on a case-by-case basis to allow for adequate review. When the requested drug product for coverage is dosed by weight, body surface area or other member specific measurement, this data element is required as part of the medical necessity review. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee has determined that the drug benefit shall be a mandatory generic and that generic drugs will be dispensed whenever available.

A. FOR ALL INDICATIONS:

1. (a) Prescriber attests, or clinical reviewer has found, member has had a negative TB screening* or TB test (if indicated)** result within the last 12 months for initial and continuation of therapy requests

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*MOLINA REVIEWER NOTE: TB SCREENING assesses patient for future or ongoing TB exposure or risk and includes reviewing if they have been exposed to tuberculosis, if they have resided or traveled to areas of endemic tuberculosis, if patient resides or works in a congregate setting (e.g., correctional facilities, long-term care facilities, homeless shelters), etc.

**MOLINA REVIEWER NOTE: TB SKIN TEST (TST, PPD) AND TB BLOOD TEST (QuantiFERON TB Gold, T-Spot) are not required or recommended in those without risk factors for tuberculosis
OR

(b) For members who have a positive test for latent TB, provider documents member has completed a treatment course (a negative chest x-ray is also required every 12 months) OR that member has been cleared by an infectious disease specialist to begin treatment
AND

2. Member is not on concurrent treatment or will not be used in combination with TNF- inhibitor, biologic response modifier or other biologic DMARDs, Janus kinase Inhibitors, or Phosphodiesterase 4inhibitor (i.e., apremilast, tofacitinib, baricitinib) as verified by prescriber attestation, member medication fill history, or submitted documentation
AND
3. Prescriber attests member does not have an active infection, including clinically important localized infections
AND
4. IF THIS IS A NON-FORMULARY/NON-PREFERRED PRODUCT: Documentation of trial/failure of or intolerance to a majority (not more than 3) of the preferred formulary/PDL alternatives for the given diagnosis. Submit documentation including medication(s) tried, dates of trial(s) and reason for treatment failure(s)

B. CHRONIC PLAQUE PSORIASIS:

1. Documented diagnosis of moderate to severe psoriasis (BSA \geq 3% OR $<$ 3% body surface area with plaque psoriasis that involves sensitive areas of the body or areas that would significantly impact daily function (e.g., face, neck, hands, feet, genitals)
AND
2. (a) Documentation of treatment failure, serious side effects, or clinical contraindication to TWO of the following systemic therapies for \geq 3 months: Methotrexate (oral or IM at a minimum dose of 15 mg/week), cyclosporine, acitretin, azathioprine, hydroxyurea, leflunomide, mycophenolate mofetil, or tacrolimus
OR
(b) Documentation of treatment failure to Phototherapy for \geq 3 months with either psoralens with ultraviolet A (PUVA) or ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation (provider to submit documentation of duration of treatment, dates of treatment, and number of sessions; contraindications include type 1 or type 2 skin, history of photosensitivity, treatment of facial lesions, presence of premalignant lesions, history of melanoma or squamous cell carcinoma, or physical inability to stand for the required exposure time)
AND
3. Documentation of prescriber baseline disease activity evaluation and goals for treatment to be used to evaluate efficacy of therapy at renewal [DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED]

C. PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS (PsA):

1. Documentation of active psoriatic arthritis
AND
2. Documentation of prescriber baseline disease activity evaluation and goals for treatment to be used to evaluate efficacy of therapy at renewal [DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED]
AND
3. (a) Documented treatment failure-serious side effects or clinical contraindication to a minimum 3-month trial of ONE of the following: Leflunomide, Methotrexate, Sulfasalazine, Cyclosporine
OR
(b) Documentation member has severe psoriatic arthritis [erosive disease, elevated markers of inflammation, long term damage that interferes with function, highly active disease that causes a major impairment in quality of life, active PsA at many sites including dactylitis, enthesitis,

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function- limiting PsA at a few sites or rapidly progressive disease]

OR

Documentation member has severe psoriasis [PASI \geq 12, BSA of >5-10%, significant involvement in specific areas (e.g., face, hands or feet, nails, intertriginous areas, scalp), impairment of physical or mental functioning with lower amount of surface area of skin involved]

AND

4. Documentation of treatment failure, serious side effects or clinical contraindication to a trial (>3 months) of ONE FORMULARY OR PREFERRED TNF-inhibitor

NOTE: Contraindications to TNF treatment include congestive heart failure, previous serious infections, recurrent infections, or demyelinating disease

CONTINUATION OF THERAPY:

A. ALL INDICATIONS:

1. Adherence to therapy at least 85% of the time as verified by the prescriber or member medication fill history OR adherence less than 85% of the time due to the need for surgery or treatment of an infection, causing temporary discontinuation

AND

2. Prescriber attests to or clinical reviewer has found no evidence of intolerable adverse effects or drug toxicity

AND

3. Documentation of positive clinical response as demonstrated by low disease activity and/or improvements in the condition's signs and symptoms [DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED]

AND

4. (a) Prescriber attests, or clinical reviewer has found, member has had a negative TB screening* or TB test (if indicated)** result within the last 12 months for initial and continuation of therapy requests

*MOLINA REVIEWER NOTE: TB SCREENING assesses patient for future or ongoing TB exposure or risk and includes reviewing if they have been exposed to tuberculosis, if they have resided or traveled to areas of endemic tuberculosis, if patient resides or works in a congregate setting (e.g., correctional facilities, long-term care facilities, homeless shelters), etc.

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(b) For members who have a positive test for latent TB, provider documents member has completed a treatment course (a negative chest x-ray is also required every 12 months) OR that member has been cleared by an infectious disease specialist to begin treatment

DURATION OF APPROVAL:

Initial authorization: 6 months, Continuation of Therapy: 12 months

PRESCRIBER REQUIREMENTS:

Prescribed by or in consultation with a board-certified dermatologist or rheumatologist. [If prescribed in consultation, consultation notes must be submitted with initial request and reauthorization requests]

AGE RESTRICTIONS:

18 years of age and older

QUANTITY:

100 mg via subcutaneous injection at week 0, week 4, and every 8 weeks thereafter. Max quantity allowed is one injection every 8 weeks during maintenance phase.

PLACE OF ADMINISTRATION:

The recommendation is that injectable medications in this policy will be for pharmacy benefit coverage and patient self-administered.

DRUG INFORMATION

ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION:

Subcutaneous injection

DRUG CLASS:

Antipsoriatics - Systemic

FDA-APPROVED USES:

Indicated for the treatment of adult patients with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy and active psoriatic arthritis

COMPENDIAL APPROVED OFF-LABELED USES:

None

APPENDIX

APPENDIX:

Reserved for State specific information. Information includes, but is not limited to, State contract language, Medicaid criteria and other mandated criteria.

State Specific Information

State Marketplace

Texas (Source: [Texas Statutes, Insurance Code](#))

“Sec. 1369.654. PROHIBITION ON MULTIPLE PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) A health benefit plan issuer that provides prescription drug benefits *may not require an enrollee to receive more than one prior authorization annually* of the prescription drug benefit for a prescription drug prescribed to treat an autoimmune disease, hemophilia, or Von Willebrand disease.

(b) This section does not apply to:

- (1) opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, or carisoprodol;
- (2) prescription drugs that have a typical treatment period of less than 12 months;
- (3) drugs that:
 - (A) have a boxed warning assigned by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use; and
 - (B) must have specific provider assessment; or
- (4) the use of a drug approved for use by the United States Food and Drug Administration in a manner other than the approved use.”

BACKGROUND AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

BACKGROUND:

Guselkumab is an interleukin 23 (IL-23) blocker

CONTRAINDICATIONS/EXCLUSIONS/DISCONTINUATION:

All other uses of Tremfya (guselkumab) are considered experimental/investigational and therefore, will follow Molina’s Off-Label policy. Contraindications to Tremfya (guselkumab) include serious hypersensitivity reactions to guselkumab or to any of the excipients, concurrent use of live vaccines.

OTHER SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None

CODING/BILLING 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

HCPCS CODE	DESCRIPTION
N/A	

AVAILABLE DOSAGE FORMS:

Tremfya SOPN 100MG/ML pen injector
Tremfya SOSY 100MG/ML prefilled syringe

REFERENCES

1. Tremfya™ injection [prescribing information]. Horsham, PA: Janssen Biotech; July 2020.
2. Blauvelt A, Papp KA, Griffiths CE, et al. Efficacy and safety of guselkumab, an anti-interleukin- 23 monoclonal antibody, compared with adalimumab for the continuous treatment of patients with moderate to severe psoriasis: results from the phase III, double-blinded, placebo- and active comparator-controlled VOYAGE 1 trial. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2017;76(3):405-417.
3. Reich K, Armstrong AW, Foley P, et al. Efficacy and safety of guselkumab, an anti-interleukin- 23 monoclonal antibody, compared with adalimumab for the treatment of patients with moderate to severe psoriasis with randomized withdrawal and retreatment: results from the phase III, double- blind, placebo- and active comparator-controlled VOYAGE 2 trial. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2017;76(3):418-431.
4. Hsu S, Papp KA, Lebwohl MG, et al. Consensus guidelines for the management of plaque psoriasis. *Arch Dermatol.* 2012;148(1):95-102.
5. Furst DE, Keystone EC, So AK, et al. Updated consensus statement on biological agents for the treatment of rheumatic diseases, 2012. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2013;72 Suppl 2:ii2-34.
6. Menter, A., Strober, B., Kaplan, D., Kivelevitch, D., Prater, E., & Stoff, B. et al. (2019). Joint AAD- NPF guidelines of care for the management and treatment of psoriasis with biologics. *Journal Of The American Academy Of Dermatology*, 80(4), 1029-1072. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2018.11.057
7. Menter, A., Gelfand, J., Connor, C., Armstrong, A., Cordoro, K., & Davis, D. et al. (2020). Joint American Academy of Dermatology–National Psoriasis Foundation guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis with systemic nonbiologic therapies. *Journal Of The American Academy Of Dermatology*, 82(6), 1445-1486. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2020.02.044
8. Elmets, C., Lim, H., Stoff, B., Connor, C., Cordoro, K., & Lebwohl, M. et al. (2019). Joint American Academy of Dermatology–National Psoriasis Foundation guidelines of care for the management and treatment of psoriasis with phototherapy. *Journal Of The American Academy Of Dermatology*, 81(3), 775-804. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2019.04.042
9. Singh, J., Guyatt, G., Ogdie, A., Gladman, D., Deal, C., & Deodhar, A. et al. (2018). 2018 American College of Rheumatology/National Psoriasis Foundation Guideline for the Treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis. *Arthritis & Rheumatology*, 71(1), 5-32. doi: 10.1002/art.40726

Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

SUMMARY OF REVIEW/REVISIONS	DATE
REVISION- Notable revisions: Required Medical Information Continuation of Therapy Available Dosage Forms	Q4 2023
REVISION- Notable revisions: Diagnosis Required Medical Information Continuation of Therapy FDA-Approved Uses Contraindications/Exclusions/Discontinuation References	Q4 2022
Q2 2022 Established tracking in new format	Historical changes on file