



Federal Employee Program.

Federal Employee Program®

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# 5.50.002

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|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 1 of 16       |

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**Last Review Date:** March 8, 2024

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## Infliximab

### Description

**Remicade** (infliximab), **Avsola** (infliximab-axxq), **Inflectra** (infliximab-dyyb), **Infliximab**, **Ixifi\*** (infliximab-qbtx), **Renflexis** (infliximab-abda)

Preferred products: Avsola, Infliximab, Remicade

\*This medication is included in this policy but is not available on the market as of yet.

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### Background

Remicade (infliximab), Avsola (infliximab-axxq), Inflectra (infliximab-dyyb), infliximab, Ixifi (infliximab-qbtx) and Renflexis (infliximab-abda) are tumor necrosis factor (TNF- $\alpha$ ) blockers. Tumor necrosis factor is an endogenous protein that regulates a number of physiologic processes, including the inflammation response associated with some autoimmune inflammatory diseases. Avsola, Ixifi, Inflectra and Renflexis are biosimilars to Remicade. Infliximab marketed by Janssen Biotech is an unbranded biologic of Remicade. Infliximab is identical in composition and produced from the same cell line and at the same manufacturing sites as Remicade. It is labeled for all currently approved Remicade indications and has the same safety and efficacy profile as Remicade (1-6).

Outpatient hospital infusion costs may be 2-3 times more compared to other sites of care suggesting an immediate opportunity exists for lowering spending on select infusion specialty medications. Services for patients requiring infused specialty medications may be provided through a physician's in-office infusion program or free-standing ambulatory infusion center. These options provide access to quality care at a lower cost that may be more convenient for

|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 2 of 16       |

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the patient. In addition, patients that receive home infusion therapy have been shown to experience better outcomes, fewer complications for patients with certain conditions and, improved quality of life and preference, including more personalized attention which helps avoid stress (7).

### **Regulatory Status**

“Infliximab” will be used to refer to all infliximab products in this policy.

Infliximab is FDA-approved for the following indications: (1-6)

#### **Crohn’s disease (CD):**

- Indicated for reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in patients 6 years of age and older with moderately to severely active Crohn’s disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy.
- Indicated for reducing the number of draining enterocutaneous and rectovaginal fistulas and maintaining fistula closure in adult patients with fistulizing Crohn’s disease.

#### **Ulcerative colitis (UC):**

- Indicated for reducing signs and symptoms, inducing, and maintaining clinical remission and mucosal healing, and eliminating corticosteroid use in adult patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy.

#### **Rheumatoid arthritis (RA):**

- Used in combination with methotrexate for reducing signs and symptoms, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function in patients with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis.

#### **Ankylosing spondylitis (AS):**

- Indicated for reducing signs and symptoms in patients with active ankylosing spondylitis.

#### **Psoriatic arthritis (PsA):**

- Indicated for reducing signs and symptoms of active arthritis, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function in patients with psoriatic arthritis.

#### **Plaque psoriasis (PsO):**

|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 3 of 16       |

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- Indicated for the treatment of adult patients with chronic severe (i.e., extensive and/or disabling) plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy and when other systemic therapies are medically less appropriate.

**Pediatric ulcerative colitis:**

- Indicated for reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in pediatric patients 6 years of age and older with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy.

Infliximab Off-Label Uses: (8-19)

1. Axial spondyloarthritis
2. Behçet's syndrome
3. Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis)
4. Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS)
5. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis
6. Pyoderma gangrenosum
7. Sarcoidosis
8. Takayasu's arteritis
9. Uveitis

Infliximab carries a boxed warning regarding the increased risk of serious infections and malignancies. Patients treated with infliximab are at increased risk for developing serious infections that may lead to hospitalization or death. Lymphoma and other malignancies, some fatal, have been reported in children and adolescent patients treated with TNF blockers, including infliximab. Treatment with infliximab should not be initiated in patients with an active infection, including clinically important localized infections. Patients greater than 65 years of age, patients with co-morbid conditions and/or patients taking concomitant immunosuppressants such as corticosteroids or methotrexate may be at greater risk of infection (1-6).

Cases of leukopenia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, and pancytopenia, some with a fatal outcome, have been reported in patients receiving infliximab. Prescribers should exercise caution in considering the use of infliximab in patients with these hematologic abnormalities and should consider discontinuation of infliximab if these disorders develop (1-6).

Cases of reactivation of tuberculosis or new tuberculosis infections have been observed in patients receiving infliximab, including patients who have previously received treatment for

|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 4 of 16       |

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latent or active tuberculosis. Patients should be evaluated for tuberculosis risk factors and tested for latent infection prior to initiating infliximab and periodically during therapy (1-6).

Use of TNF blockers, including infliximab has been associated with reactivation of hepatitis B virus (HBV) in patients who are chronic carriers of this virus. In some instances, HBV reactivation occurring in conjunction with TNF blocker therapy has been fatal. Patients should be tested for HBV infection before initiating TNF blocker therapy, including infliximab (1-6).

Infliximab has been associated with adverse outcomes in patients with moderate to severe heart failure and should be used in patients with heart failure only after consideration of other treatment options (1-6).

It is recommended that live vaccines not be given concurrently. At least a six month waiting period following birth is recommended before the administration of live vaccines to infants born to female patients treated with infliximab (1-6).

It is recommended that all pediatric patients be brought up to date with all vaccinations prior to initiating infliximab. The interval between vaccination and initiation of infliximab therapy should be in accordance with current vaccination guidelines (1-6).

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## Related policies

Cimzia, Enbrel, Humira, Simponi

## Policy

*This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.*

Infliximab may be considered **medically necessary** if the conditions indicated below are met.

Infliximab may be considered **investigational** for all other indications.

## Prior-Approval Requirements

### Diagnoses

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

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|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 5 of 16       |

---

**Age** 6 years of age or older

1. Moderate to severely active Crohn's disease (CD)
  - a. Inadequate treatment response, intolerance, or contraindication to conventional therapy for CD (See Appendix 1)
  - b. Up to date with all vaccinations prior to initiating therapy (pediatric patients)
2. Moderate to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC)
  - a. Inadequate treatment response, intolerance, or contraindication to conventional therapy for UC (See Appendix 1)
  - b. Up to date with all vaccinations prior to initiating therapy (pediatric patients)

**Age** 12 years of age or older

1. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)
  - a. Inadequate treatment response, intolerance, or contraindication to at least a 3-month trial of a self-injectable TNF inhibitor indicated for JIA

**Age** 18 years of age and older

1. Moderate to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
  - a. Inadequate treatment response, intolerance, or contraindication to at least a 3-month trial of methotrexate despite adequate dosing (i.e., titrated to 20 mg/week)
  - b. Concurrent methotrexate or leflunomide therapy for patients who do not show intolerance to or for whom methotrexate or leflunomide is not contraindicated
2. Active ankylosing spondylitis (AS) / axial spondyloarthritis
  - a. Inadequate treatment response to at least **TWO** non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) over a 4-week period in total at maximum recommended or tolerated anti-inflammatory doses
3. Severe plaque psoriasis (PsO)

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|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 6 of 16       |

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- a. At least 5% of body surface area (BSA) is affected OR crucial body areas (e.g., hands, feet, face, neck, scalp, genitals/groin, intertriginous areas) are affected
  - b. Inadequate treatment response, intolerance, or contraindication to either conventional systemic therapy (see Appendix 1) or phototherapy
    - i. If the patient is intolerant or contraindicated to one therapy then the patient must have an inadequate response, intolerance, or contraindication to the other treatment option
4. Active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)
    - a. Inadequate treatment response, intolerance, or contraindication to a 3-month trial of at least **ONE** conventional DMARD (see Appendix 2)
  5. Behçet's syndrome
  6. Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis)
  7. Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS)
  8. Pyoderma gangrenosum
  9. Sarcoidosis
  10. Takayasu's arteritis
  11. Uveitis
    - a. Inadequate treatment response, intolerance, or contraindication to a trial of immunosuppressive therapy for uveitis

**AND ALL** of the following:

1. TB test confirming no active tuberculosis **OR** if latent tuberculosis infection is present, treatment for the infection to be started prior to use of infliximab products
2. **NO** active infections
3. **NOT** to be used in combination with any other biologic DMARD or targeted synthetic DMARD (See Appendix 2)
4. Patient is not at risk for HBV infection **OR** is at risk for HBV infection and HBV infection has been ruled out **OR** treatment for HBV infection has been initiated
5. **NOT** given concurrently with live vaccines

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|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 7 of 16       |

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6. **Non-preferred medications only:** Inadequate treatment response, intolerance, or contraindication to **ONE** of the preferred products (Avsola, Infliximab, Remicade)

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## Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

### Diagnoses

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

**Age** 6 years of age or older

1. Crohn's disease (CD)
2. Ulcerative colitis (UC)

**Age** 12 years of age and older

1. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)

**Age** 18 years of age or older

1. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
2. Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) / axial spondyloarthritis
3. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)
4. Plaque psoriasis (PsO)
5. Behçet's syndrome
6. Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis)
7. Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS)
8. Pyoderma gangrenosum
9. Sarcoidosis
10. Takayasu's arteritis
11. Uveitis

**AND ALL** of the following:

- a. Condition has improved or stabilized
- b. Absence of active infection (including tuberculosis and hepatitis B virus (HBV))
- c. **NOT** to be used in combination with any other biologic DMARD or targeted synthetic DMARD (See Appendix 2)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Section:</b> Prescription Drugs         | <b>Effective Date:</b> April 1, 2024      |
| <b>Subsection:</b> Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> May 20, 2011 |
| <b>Subject:</b> Infliximab                 | <b>Page:</b> 8 of 16                      |

d. **NOT** given concurrently with live vaccines

## Policy Guidelines

### Pre - PA Allowance

None

### Prior - Approval Limits

**Duration**      4 months (4 cycles per 4 months) for all diagnoses except RA and JIA  
                          6 months (5 cycles per 6 months) for RA and JIA

### Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

**Duration**      12 months (7 cycles per year) for all diagnoses except AS  
                          12 months (9 cycles per year) for AS

**Please reference tables for specific dosing in vials for initiation and continuation criteria:**

| Indications  | Initiation                         | Continuation                                     |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| All Diagnoses <u>except</u> AS, RA & JIA<br>Dosing: 5 mg/kg/cycle<br><b>**Note:</b> CD and UC dosing can go up to 10 mg/kg/cycle | 4 cycles of treatment for 4 months | 7 cycles of treatment for 1 year (every 8 weeks) |
| AS<br>Dosing: 5 mg/kg/cycle  | 4 cycles of treatment for 4 months | 9 cycles of treatment for 1 year (every 6 weeks) |
| RA & JIA<br>Dosing: 3 mg/kg/cycle<br><b>**Note:</b> Non-responders can increase to every 4 weeks dosing <b>OR</b> 10 mg/kg/cycle | 5 cycles of treatment for 6 months | 7 cycles of treatment for 1 year (every 8 weeks) |

| Patient Weight |              | Indications  |                                      |                                |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                |              | RA & JIA     | All Diagnoses <u>except</u> RA & JIA | Non-responders RA, JIA, CD, UC |
| 0 – 10 kg      | up to 22 lbs | 1 vial/cycle | 1 vial/cycle                         | 1 vial/cycle                   |
| 11 – 20 kg     | 23 – 44 lbs  | 1 vial/cycle | 1 vial/cycle                         | 2 vials/cycle                  |



# 5.50.002

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|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 9 of 16       |

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|              |               |               |               |                |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 21 – 30 kg   | 45 – 66 lbs   | 1 vial/cycle  | 2 vials/cycle | 3 vials/cycle  |
| 31 – 40 kg   | 67 – 88 lbs   | 2 vials/cycle | 2 vials/cycle | 4 vials/cycle  |
| 41 – 50 kg   | 89 – 110 lbs  | 2 vials/cycle | 3 vials/cycle | 5 vials/cycle  |
| 51 – 60 kg   | 111 – 132 lbs | 2 vials/cycle | 3 vials/cycle | 6 vials/cycle  |
| 61 – 65 kg   | 133 – 145 lbs | 2 vials/cycle | 4 vials/cycle | 7 vials/cycle  |
| 66 – 70 kg   | 146 – 154 lbs | 3 vials/cycle | 4 vials/cycle | 7 vials/cycle  |
| 71 – 72 kg   | 155 – 159 lbs | 3 vials/cycle | 4 vials/cycle | 7 vials/cycle  |
| 73 – 80 kg   | 160 – 176 lbs | 3 vials/cycle | 4 vials/cycle | 8 vials/cycle  |
| 81 – 90 kg   | 177 – 198 lbs | 3 vials/cycle | 5 vials/cycle | 9 vials/cycle  |
| 91 – 100 kg  | 199 – 220 lbs | 3 vials/cycle | 5 vials/cycle | 10 vials/cycle |
| 101 – 110 kg | 221 – 242 lbs | 4 vials/cycle | 6 vials/cycle | 11 vials/cycle |
| 111 – 120 kg | 243 – 264 lbs | 4 vials/cycle | 6 vials/cycle | 12 vials/cycle |
| 121 – 122 kg | 265 – 269 lbs | 4 vials/cycle | 6 vials/cycle | 12 vials/cycle |
| 123 – 130 kg | 270 – 286 lbs | 4 vials/cycle | 7 vials/cycle | 13 vials/cycle |
| 131 – 132 kg | 287 – 290 lbs | 4 vials/cycle | 7 vials/cycle | 14 vials/cycle |
| 133 – 140 kg | 291 – 308 lbs | 5 vials/cycle | 7 vials/cycle | 14 vials/cycle |
| 141 – 150 kg | 309 – 330 lbs | 5 vials/cycle | 8 vials/cycle | 15 vials/cycle |

## Rationale

### Summary

Infliximab is a tumor necrosis factor (TNF $\alpha$ ) blocker. Tumor necrosis factor is an endogenous protein that regulates a number of physiologic processes, including the inflammation response associated with some autoimmune inflammatory diseases. Infliximab carries a boxed warning regarding the increased risk of serious infections and malignancies. Cases of leukopenia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, and pancytopenia, some with a fatal outcome, have also been reported in patients receiving infliximab. Cases of reactivation of hepatitis B virus (HBV) and tuberculosis or new tuberculosis infections have been observed in patients receiving infliximab. It is recommended that live vaccines not be given concurrently. It is recommended that all pediatric and adult patients be brought up to date with all vaccinations prior to initiating infliximab (1-6).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of infliximab while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

### References

|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 10 of 16      |

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|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 11 of 16      |

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## Policy History

| Date           | Action   |
|----------------|--|
| October 2011   | Revised ulcerative colitis section to be approvable for ages 6 and above and revised methotrexate requirements to allow for approval if the member has either shown intolerance to methotrexate or for whom methotrexate is contraindicated  |
| September 2012 | Annual review and reference update   |
| March 2013     | Annual editorial review and reference update<br>Addition to criteria to rule out or treat HBV infection prior to initiation of therapy; update of contraindicated concomitant therapy; added NO live vaccine within two weeks  |
| September 2013 | Annual editorial review  |
| September 2014 | Age limit lowered to 12 and older for diagnosis of RA and renewal limit to 18 months   |
| June 2015      | Annual review and reference update   |
| September 2016 | Annual editorial review and reference update.<br>Addition of Inflectra and not given concurrently with live vaccines per SME<br>Policy code changed from 5.09.02 to 5.50.02  |
| December 2016  | Change in approval lengths for initiation and continuation and quantity limits put in place based on diagnosis   |
| March 2017     | Annual review  |
| July 2017      | Annual review  |
| August 2017    | Addition of Renflexis and addition of new indications: axial spondyloarthritis, Behçet's syndrome, granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis), hidradenitis Suppurativa, pyoderma gangrenosum, sarcoidosis, Takayasu's arteritis, uveitis.<br>Addition of tried and fail requirements to the indications per SGM criteria |
| September 2017 | Annual review  |

# 5.50.002

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|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 12 of 16      |

---

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| December 2017  | Annual editorial review<br>Change of AS dosing from 8 cycles to 9 cycles<br>Addition of dosing to off-label uses<br>Addition of Appendix 1 & 2   |
| January 2018   | Addition of Ixifi  |
| March 2018     | Annual editorial review<br>Defined JIA dosing  |
| July 2018      | Addition of additional requirements to initiation criteria<br>For diagnosis of PsA: inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to a 3-month trial of at least ONE conventional DMARD<br>For diagnosis of PsO: Inadequate response, intolerance, or contraindication to either conventional systemic therapy (see Appendix 2) or phototherapy and if the patient is intolerant or contraindicated to either therapy then the other treatment option needs to be tried |
| August 2018    | Updated dosing chart   |
| September 2018 | Annual editorial review and reference update   |
| March 2019     | Annual review  |
| September 2019 | Annual review  |
| December 2019  | Annual review. Removed initial requirement for patient to have fistulizing Crohn's Disease. Addition of biosimilar Avsola  |
| March 2020     | Annual review and reference update   |
| June 2020      | Annual review  |
| September 2020 | Annual review and reference update   |
| December 2020  | Annual editorial review and reference update. Added Avsola, Inflectra, and Renflexis as preferred products. Added requirement that Remicade has to t/f at least two of the preferred products  |
| February 2021  | Clarifying language added to pharmacy benefit  |
| March 2021     | Annual editorial review. Clarification added to the t/f, intolerance, C/I to preferred products requirement indicating that it only applies to claims adjudicated through the pharmacy benefit. Updated Appendix 2.  |
| May 2021       | Exception for JIA added under PA duration  |
| June 2021      | Annual review  |
| January 2022   | Addition of infliximab as a preferred product for claims adjudicated through the pharmacy benefit. Editorial update.   |
| March 2022     | Annual review and reference update   |
| September 2022 | Annual review  |
| December 2022  | Annual review  |
| June 2023      | Annual review  |
| December 2023  | Annual review. Per FEP, changed preferred products to Avsola, Infliximab, and Remicade. Also removed Medex requirement. Added t/f requirement  |

# 5.50.002

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|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 13 of 16      |

---

of ONE preferred agent to initiation. Also per FEP, increased max dosage for UC to 10 mg/kg/cycle  
Annual review and reference update  
March 2024

## [Keywords](#)

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**This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on March 8, 2024 and is effective on April 1, 2024.**

|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 14 of 16      |

## Appendix 1 - List of Conventional Therapies

| Conventional Therapy Options for CD                            |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Mild to moderate disease – induction of remission:          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Oral budesonide, oral mesalamine</li> <li>b. Alternatives: metronidazole, ciprofloxacin</li> </ul>                   |
| 2. Mild to moderate disease – maintenance of remission:        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Azathioprine, mercaptopurine</li> <li>b. Alternatives: oral budesonide, methotrexate intramuscularly (IM)</li> </ul> |
| 3. Moderate to severe disease – induction of remission:        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prednisone, methylprednisolone intravenously (IV)</li> <li>b. Alternatives: methotrexate IM</li> </ul>               |
| 4. Moderate to severe disease – maintenance of remission:      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Azathioprine, mercaptopurine</li> <li>b. Alternative: methotrexate IM</li> </ul>                                     |
| 5. Perianal and fistulizing disease – induction of remission   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Metronidazole ± ciprofloxacin</li> </ul>   |
| 6. Perianal and fistulizing disease – maintenance of remission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. Azathioprine, mercaptopurine</li> <li>e. Alternative: methotrexate IM</li> </ul>                                     |

| Conventional Therapy Options for UC                     |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Mild to moderate disease – induction of remission:   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Oral mesalamine (e.g., Asacol, Lialda, Pentasa), balsalazide, olsalazine</li> <li>b. Rectal mesalamine (e.g., Canasa, Rowasa)</li> <li>c. Rectal hydrocortisone (e.g., Colocort, Cortifoam)</li> <li>d. Alternatives: prednisone, azathioprine, mercaptopurine, sulfasalazine</li> </ul> |
| 2. Mild to moderate disease – maintenance of remission: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Oral mesalamine, balsalazide, olsalazine, rectal mesalamine</li> <li>b. Alternatives: azathioprine, mercaptopurine, sulfasalazine</li> </ul>   |
| 3. Severe disease – induction of remission:             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prednisone, hydrocortisone IV, methylprednisolone IV</li> <li>b. Alternatives: cyclosporine IV, tacrolimus, sulfasalazine</li> </ul>   |
| 4. Severe disease – maintenance of remission:           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Azathioprine, mercaptopurine</li> <li>b. Alternative: sulfasalazine</li> </ul>   |
| 5. Pouchitis:   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Metronidazole, ciprofloxacin</li> <li>b. Alternative: rectal mesalamine</li> </ul>   |

|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 15 of 16      |

## Appendix 2 – List of DMARDs

### Conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs)

| Generic Name       | Brand Name                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| azathioprine       | Azasan, Imuran              |
| cyclophosphamide   | Cytosan                     |
| cyclosporine       | Neoral, Gengraf, Sandimmune |
| hydroxychloroquine | Plaquenil                   |
| leflunomide        | Arava                       |
| methotrexate       | Rheumatrex, Trexall         |
| mycophenolate      | Cellcept                    |
| sulfasalazine      | Azulfidine, Sulfazine       |

### Biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs)

| Generic Name       | Brand Name                          |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| abatacept          | Orencia                             |
| adalimumab         | Humira                              |
| anakinra           | Kineret                             |
| brodalumab         | Siliq                               |
| certolizumab       | Cimzia                              |
| etanercept         | Enbrel                              |
| golimumab          | Simponi/Simponi Aria                |
| guselkumab         | Tremfya                             |
| infliximab         | Remicade/Avsola/Inflectra/Renflexis |
| ixekizumab         | Taltz                               |
| risankizumab-rzaa  | Skyrizi                             |
| rituximab          | Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima     |
| sarilumab          | Kevzara                             |
| secukinumab        | Cosentyx                            |
| spesolimab-sbzo    | Spevigo                             |
| tildrakizumab-asmn | Ilumya                              |
| tocilizumab        | Actemra                             |
| ustekinumab        | Stelara                             |
| vedolizumab        | Entyvio                             |

### Targeted synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs)

| Generic Name    | Brand Name |
|-----------------|------------|
| apremilast      | Otezla     |
| baricitinib     | Olumiant   |
| deucravacitinib | Sotyktu    |

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|                    |                         |                              |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs      | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2024 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Gastrointestinal Agents | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 20, 2011  |
| <b>Subject:</b>    | Infliximab              | <b>Page:</b>                 | 16 of 16      |

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|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| tofacitinib | Xeljanz |
| upadactinib | Rinvoq  |

<http://www.remicade.com/hcp/ankylosing-spondylitis/infusion-instructions/instructions-for-use/dosing-guide-----dosing-calculator-for-AS>

<http://www.remicade.com/hcp/crohns-disease/dosing-dosing-calculator-for-crohns>

<http://reference.medscape.com/calculator/weight-dosing-weight-based-dosing-calculator>

<http://www.remicade.com/hcp/rheumatoid-arthritis/infusion-instructions/instructions-for-use/dosing-guide-dosing-calculator-for-RA>

**HEP B - Risk factors** – individuals born in geographic regions with HBsAg prevalence of  $\geq 2\%$  (Asia, Africa, South Pacific Islands, Middle East, Malta, Spain, Arctic, South America, Eastern Europe, Caribbean, Guatemala and Honduras), US born persons without Hep B vaccination history, household and sexual contacts of HBsAg-positive persons, injectable drug users (past or present), persons with multiple sexual partners or history of sexually transmitted disease, MSM (men who have sex with men), inmates, persons with chronically elevated ALT or AST, persons with HCV or HIV, renal dialysis patients, healthcare workers, all pregnant women and patients needing immunosuppressive or cytotoxic therapy.

Testing guidelines – serologic testing for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) is recommended for anyone possessing a risk factor listed above. There is no strict guideline for testing, it is just recommended for the aforementioned populations