Clinical Policy: Omalizumab (Xolair)

Reference Number: DE.PHAR.01
Effective Date: 01.23
Last Review Date: 01.23
Line of Business: Medicaid

Coding Implications
Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Omalizumab (Xolair®) is an anti-immunoglobulin E (IgE) antibody

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Xolair is indicated for:

- Moderate to severe persistent asthma in patients 6 years of age and older with a positive skin test or in vitro reactivity to a perennial aeroallergen and symptoms that are inadequately controlled with inhaled corticosteroids
- Nasal polyps in adult patients 18 years of age and older with inadequate response to nasal corticosteroids, as add-on maintenance treatment
- Chronic idiopathic urticaria (CIU) in adults and adolescents 12 years of age and older who remain symptomatic despite H1 antihistamine treatment

Limitation(s) of use: Xolair is not indicated for the relief of acute bronchospasm or status asthmaticus, treatment of other allergic conditions, or treatment of other forms of urticaria.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that Xolair is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Moderate to Severe Persistent Asthma (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of asthma;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist, immunologist, or pulmonologist;
3. Age ≥ 6 years;
4. Member has experienced ≥ 2 exacerbations within the last 12 months, requiring any of the following despite adherent use of controller therapy (i.e., medium- to high-dose inhaled corticosteroid [ICS] plus either a long acting beta-2 agonist [LABA] or leukotriene modifier [LTRA] if LABA contraindication/intolerance):
   a. Oral/systemic corticosteroid treatment (or increase in dose if already on oral corticosteroid);
   b. Urgent care visit or hospital admission;
   c. Intubation;

5. Positive skin test or in vitro reactivity to a perennial aeroallergen (*see Appendix D*);
6. IgE level ≥ 30 IU/mL;
7. Xolair is prescribed concurrently with an ICS plus either a LABA or LTRA;
8. Xolair is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair®, Fasenra®, Nucala®, or Dupixent®;
9. Dose does not exceed 375 mg administered every 2 weeks (*see Appendix E and F for dosing based on pre-treatment IgE level, weight, and age*).

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of CIU;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist, immunologist, or allergist;
3. Age ≥ 12 years;
4. Failure of both of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a and b):
   a. Two antihistamines (including one second generation antihistamine – e.g., cetirizine, levocetirizine, fexofenadine, loratadine, desloratadine) at maximum indicated doses, each used for ≥ 2 weeks;
   b. A LTRA in combination with an antihistamine at maximum indicated doses for ≥ 2 weeks;
5. Xolair is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala, or Dupixent;
6. Dose does not exceed 300 mg every 4 weeks

Approval duration: 6 months

C. Nasal Polyps (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of chronic rhinosinusitis with documentation of all of the following (a, b, and c):
   a. Presence of nasal polyps;
   b. Disease is bilateral;
   c. Member has experienced signs and symptoms (e.g., nasal congestion/blockage/ obstruction, loss of smell, rhinorrhea) for ≥ 12 weeks;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist, immunologist, or otolaryngologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Member has required the use of systemic corticosteroids for symptom control within the last 2 years, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced *(see Appendix B for examples)*;
5. Failure of maintenance therapy with at least three intranasal corticosteroids each used for ≥ 4 weeks, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (see *Appendix B for examples*);
6. Xolair is prescribed concurrently with an intranasal corticosteroid, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (see *Appendix B for examples*);
7. Xolair is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala, or Dupixent;
8. Dose does not exceed 600 mg every 2 weeks (*see Appendix G for dosing based on pre-treatment IgE level and weight*).

Approval duration: 6 months

D. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Moderate to Severe Persistent Asthma (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Demonstrated adherence to asthma controller therapy (an ICS plus either a LABA or LTRA) as evidenced by proportion of days covered (PDC) of 0.8 in the last 6 months (i.e., member has received asthma controller therapy for at least 5 of the last 6 months);
3. Member is responding positively to therapy (examples may include but are not limited to: reduction in exacerbations or corticosteroid dose, improvement in forced expiratory volume over one second since baseline, reduction in the use of rescue therapy);
4. Xolair is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala, or Dupixent;
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 375 mg every 2 weeks (*see Appendix E and F for dosing based on pre-treatment IgE level, weight, and age*).

Approval duration:
Medicaid – 12 months

B. Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Xolair is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala, or Dupixent;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 300 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration:
Medicaid – 12 months

C. Nasal Polyps (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Demonstrated adherence to an intranasal corticosteroid, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
3. Member is responding positively to therapy (examples may include but are not limited to: reduced nasal polyp size, reduced need for systemic corticosteroids, improved sense of smell, improved quality of life);
4. Xolair is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala, or Dupixent;
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 600 mg every 2 weeks (*see Appendix G for dosing based on pre-treatment IgE level and weight*).

Approval duration:
Medicaid – 12 months

D. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**
1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
   Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or
2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents;

B. Acute bronchospasm or status asthmaticus.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

AAAAI: American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology
CIU: chronic idiopathic urticaria
EAACI: European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
EDF: European Dermatology Forum
EPR3: Expert Panel Report 3
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
GA2LEN: Global Allergy and Asthma European Network
GINA: Global Initiative for Asthma
ICS: inhaled corticosteroids
IgE: immunoglobulin E
LABA: long-acting beta-agonist
LTRA: leukotriene modifier
PDC: proportion of days covered
WAO: World Allergy Organization

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Asthma – ICS (medium – high dose)		
Qvar® (beclomethasone)	> 100 mcg/day 40 mcg, 80 mcg per actuation 1-4 actuations BID	4 actuations BID
budesonide (Pulmicort®)	> 200 mcg/day 90 mcg, 180 mcg per actuation 2-4 actuations BID	2 actuations BID
Alvesco® (ciclesonide)	> 80 mcg/day 80 mcg, 160 mcg per actuation 1-2 actuations BID	2 actuations BID
Aerospan® (flunisolide)	≥ 320 mcg/day 80 mcg per actuation 2-4 actuations BID	2 actuations BID

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Flovent® (fluticasone propionate)	>176 mcg/day 44-250 mcg per actuation 2-4 actuations BID	2 actuations BID
Arnuity Ellipta® (fluticasone furoate)	200 mcg/day (≥ 12 years only) 100 mcg, 200 mcg per actuation 1 actuation QD	1 actuation QD
Asmanex® (mometasone)	≥ 220 mcg/day HFA: 100 mcg, 200 mcg per actuation Twisthaler: 110 mcg, 220 mcg per actuation 1-2 actuations QD to BID	2 inhalations BID
Asthma - LABA		
Serevent® (salmeterol)	50 mcg per dose 1 inhalation BID	1 inhalation BID
Asthma – Combination products (ICS + LABA)		
Dulera® (mometasone/ formoterol)	100/5 mcg, 200/5 mcg per actuation 2 actuations BID	4 actuations per day
Breo Ellipta® (fluticasone/vilanterol)	100/25 mcg, 200/25 mcg per actuation 1 actuation QD	1 actuation QD
Advair® (fluticasone/ salmeterol)	Diskus: 100/50 mcg, 250/50 mcg, 500/50 mcg per actuation HFA: 45/21 mcg, 115/21 mcg, 230/21 mcg per actuation 1 actuation BID	1 actuation BID
fluticasone/salmeterol (Airduo RespiClick®)	55/13 mcg, 113/14 mcg, 232/14 mcg per actuation 1 actuation BID	1 actuation BID
Symbicort® (budesonide/ formoterol)	80 mcg/4.5 mcg, 160 mcg/4.5 mcg per actuation 2 actuations BID	2 actuations BID
Asthma - LTRA		
montelukast (Singulair®)	4 to 10 mg PO QD	10 mg per day
zafirlukast (Accolate®)	10 to 20 mg PO BID	40 mg per day
zileuton ER (Zyflo® CR)	1,200 mg PO BID	2,400 mg per day
Zyflo® (zileuton)	600 mg PO QID	2,400 mg per day
Asthma – Oral corticosteroids		
dexamethasone (Decadron®)	0.75 to 9 mg/day PO in 2 to 4 divided doses	Varies
methylprednisolone (Medrol®)	40 to 80 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies
prednisolone (Millipred®, Orapred ODT®)	40 to 80 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
prednisone (Deltasone®)	40 to 80 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies
CIU		
hydroxyzine (Vistaril®)	Adult: 25 mg PO TID to QID Age ≥ 6 years: 50 mg-100 mg/day in divided doses	Adult: Will vary according to condition Age ≥ 6 years: 50 mg-100 mg/day in divided doses
diphenhydramine (Benadryl®)	Adult: 25 mg to 50 mg PO TID to QID Pediatric: 12.5 mg to 25 mg PO TID to QID or 5 mg/kg/day or 150 mg/m²/day	Adult: Will vary according to condition Children: 300 mg/day
chlorpheniramine (Aller-Chlor®)	Immediate Release: 4 mg PO every 4 to 6 hours Extended Release: 12 mg PO every 12 hours	Do not exceed 24 mg/day
cetirizine (Zyrtec®)	5 to 10 mg PO QD	10 mg/day
levocertirizine (Xyzal®)	2.5 mg to 5 mg PO QD	5 mg/day
loratadine (Claritin®)	10 mg PO QD	10 mg/day
desloratadine (Clarinex®)	5 mg PO QD	Will vary according to condition
fexofenadine (Allegra®)	60 mg PO BID or 180 mg QD	180 mg/day
Nasal polyps		
Oral corticosteroids		
dexamethasone (Decadron®)	0.75 to 9 mg/day PO in 2 to 4 divided doses	Varies
methylprednisolone (Medrol®)	4 to 48 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies
prednisolone (Millipred®, Orapred ODT®)	5 to 60 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies
prednisone (Deltasone®)	5 to 60 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies
Intranasal corticosteroids		
beclomethasone (Beconase AQ®, Qnasl®)	1-2 sprays IN BID	2 sprays/nostril BID
budesonide (Rhinocort® Aqua, Rhinocort®)	128 mcg IN QD or 200 mcg IN BID	1-2 inhalations/nostril/ day
flunisolide	2 sprays IN BID	2 sprays/nostril TID
fluticasone propionate (Flonase®)	1-2 sprays IN BID	2 sprays/nostril BID
mometasone (Nasonex®)	2 sprays IN BID	2 sprays/nostril BID

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Omnaris®, Zetonna® (ciclesonide)	Omnaris: 2 sprays IN QD Zetonna: 1 spray IN QD	Omnaris: 2 sprays/ nostril/day Zetonna: 2 sprays/ nostril/day
triamcinolone (Nasacort®)	2 sprays IN QD	2 sprays/ nostril/day
Xhance™ (fluticasone propionate)	1 to 2 sprays (93 mcg/spray) to nostril IN BID	744 mcg/day

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): hypersensitivity
- Boxed warning(s): anaphylaxis

Appendix D: General Information

- Allergic asthma:
  - The definition of moderate to severe allergy varied among the clinical trials. The definition most often used was a patient who required oral systemic steroid bursts or unscheduled physician office visits for "uncontrolled" asthma exacerbations despite maintenance inhaled steroid use. Patients in the clinical trials most often were required to have an FEV1 between 40% and 80% of predicted. No patients were enrolled with an FEV1 greater than 80% of predicted.
  - Xolair has been shown to be marginally effective in decreasing the incidence of asthma exacerbations in patients who have met all the criteria described above.
  - Xolair provides little therapeutic benefit over existing therapies. Use in patients on inhaled corticosteroids or chronic oral steroids plus or minus a second controller agent decreased asthma exacerbation by 0.5 to 1 per year. Use of rescue beta- agonists declined by 1 inhalation per day. Small changes in pulmonary function tests were also seen. An analysis of unpublished data indicated that hospital admissions declined by 3 per hundred patient years, emergency department (ED) visits by 2 per hundred patient years, and unscheduled physician office visits by 14 per one hundred patient years.
  - The 2007 National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR3) Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma recommend Xolair may be considered as adjunct therapy for patients 12 years and older with allergies and Step 5 or 6 (severe) asthma whose symptoms have not been controlled by ICS and LABA.
  - The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) guidelines recommend Xolair be considered as adjunct therapy for patients 6 years of age and older with exacerbations or poor symptom control despite taking at least high dose ICS/LABA and who have allergic biomarkers or need maintenance oral corticosteroids. Xolair may also be considered if the patient is uncontrolled on Step 4 treatment (medium dose ICS/LABA).

  - The four perennial aeroallergens most commonly tested for in the clinical trials were dog dander, cat dander, cockroach, and house dust mite.
  - Serious and life-threatening allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) in patients after treatment with Xolair have been reported. Usually these reactions occur within two hours of receiving a Xolair subcutaneous injection. However, these new reports include patients who had delayed anaphylaxis—with onset two to 24 hours or even longer- after receiving Xolair treatment. Anaphylaxis may occur after any dose of Xolair (including the first dose), even if the patient had no allergic reaction to the first dose.
  - Patients could potentially meet asthma criteria for both Xolair and Nucala, though there is insufficient data to support the combination use of multiple asthma biologics. The combination has not been studied. Approximately 30% of patients in the Nucala MENSA study also were candidates for therapy with Xolair.
  - PDC is a measure of adherence. PDC is calculated as the sum of days covered in a time frame divided by the number of days in the time frame. To achieve a PDC of 0.8, a member must have received their asthma controller therapy for 144 days out of the last 180 days, or approximately 5 months of the last 6 months.
- CIU:
  - CIU is classified as spontaneous onset of wheals, angioedema, or both, for more than 6 weeks due to an unknown cause.
  - Clinical studies have shown that Xolair 150 mg and 300 mg significantly improved the signs and symptoms of chronic idiopathic urticaria compared to placebo in patients who had remained symptomatic despite the use of approved dose of H_1- antihistamine.
  - The Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters representing various American allergy organizations include Xolair in combination with H1-antihistamines as a fourth line treatment option following a stepwise approach starting with a second generation antihistamine. This is followed by one or more of the following: a dose increase of the second generation antihistamine, or the addition of another second generation antihistamine, H2-antagonist, LTRA, or first generation antihistamine. Treatment with hydroxyzine or doxepin can be considered in patients whose symptoms remain poorly controlled.
  - The EAACI/GA2LEN/EDF/AAAAI/WAO Guideline for the Management of Urticaria include Xolair in combination with H_1-antihistamines as a third line treatment option in patients who have failed to respond to higher doses of H_1-antihistamines.
  - Xolair is the first medicine in its class approved for CIU since non-sedating antihistamines.
  - The use of over-the-counter H_1 antihistamines may not be a benefit to the treatment of CIU. Credit will be given for their use, but will not be covered under plan.
  - Anaphylaxis has occurred as early as after the first dose of Xolair, but also occurred beyond 1 year after beginning regularly administered treatment.
- Nasal polyps: Both pivotal studies evaluating the use of Xolair in nasal polyps (NCT03280550, NCT03280537) were performed in patients with chronic rhinosinusitis.

- Idiopathic anaphylaxis: A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in 19 patients with frequent episodes (≥ 6/year) of idiopathic anaphylaxis found Xolair to have no significant difference compared to placebo in the number of anaphylactic episodes at 6 months (Carter MC et al).

Appendix E: Age ≥ 12 Years: Asthma Dosing Based on Pre-treatment IgE and Body Weight†

Pre-treatment serum IgE IU/mL	Dosing Frequency	Body Weight			
		30-60 kg	> 60-70 kg	> 70-90 kg	> 90-15 kg
≥ 30-100	Q 4 weeks	150 mg	150 mg	150 mg	300 mg
> 100-200		300 mg	300 mg	300 mg	225 mg
> 200-300		300 mg	225 mg	225 mg	300 mg
> 300-400	Q 2 weeks	225 mg	225 mg	300 mg	Insufficient Data to Recommend a Dose
> 400-500		300 mg	300 mg	375 mg	
> 500-600		300 mg	375 mg		
> 600-700		375 mg			

†The manufacturer recommends dose adjustments for significant body weight changes during treatment.

Appendix F: Age 6 to < 12 Years: Asthma Dosing Based on Pre-treatment IgE and Body Weight†

Pre-treatment serum IgE IU/mL	Dosing Frequency	Body Weight									
		20-25 kg	> 25-30 kg	> 30-40 kg	> 40-50 kg	> 50-60 kg	> 60-70 kg	> 70-80 kg	> 80-90 kg	> 90-125 kg	> 125-150 kg
≥ 30-100	Q 4 weeks	75	75	75	150	150	150	150	150	300	300
> 100-200		150	150	150	300	300	300	300	300	225	300
> 200-300		150	150	225	300	300	225	225	225	300	375
> 300-400		225	225	300	225	225	225	300	300	Insufficient Data to Recommend a Dose	
> 400-500		225	300	225	225	300	300	375	375		
> 500-600		300	300	225	300	300	375				
> 600-700		300	225	225	300	375					
> 700-800	Q 2 weeks	225	225	300	375						
> 800-900		225	225	300	375						
> 900-1,000		225	300	375							
> 1,000-1,100		225	300	375							
> 1,100-1,200		300	300								
> 1,200-1,300		300	375								

†The manufacturer recommends dose adjustments for significant body weight changes during treatment.

Appendix G: Age ≥ 18 Years: Nasal Polyps Dosing Based on Pre-treatment IgE and Body Weight†

Pre- treatment serum IgE IU/mL	Dosing Frequency	Body Weight							
		> 30-40 kg	> 40-50 kg	> 50-60 kg	> 60-70 kg	> 70-80 kg	> 80-90 kg	> 90-125 kg	> 125-150 kg
≥ 30-100	Q 4 weeks	75	150	150	150	150	150	300	300
> 100-200		150	300	300	300	300	300	450	600
> 200-300		225	300	300	450	450	450	600	375
> 300-400		300	450	450	450	600	600	450	525
> 400-500		450	450	600	600	375	375	525	600

Pre- treatment serum IgE IU/mL	Dosing Frequency	Body Weight							
		> 30-40 kg	> 40-50 kg	> 50-60 kg	> 60-70 kg	> 70-80 kg	> 80-90 kg	> 90-125 kg	> 125-150 kg
> 500-600		450	600	600	375	450	450	600	
> 600-700		450	600	375	450	450	525		
> 700-800	Q 2 weeks	300	375	450	450	525	600		
> 800-900		300	375	450	525	600			
> 900-1,000		375	450	525	600				
> 1,000-1,100		375	450	600					
> 1,100-1,200		450	525	600					
> 1,200-1,300		450	525						
> 1,300- 1,500		525	600						

Insufficient Data to Recommend a Dose

†The manufacturer recommends dose adjustments for significant body weight changes during treatment.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Asthma*	75 to 375 mg SC every 2 or 4 weeks based on serum total IgE level (IU/mL) measured before the start of treatment, and body weight (kg). Adjust doses for significant changes in body weight during treatment Xolair is not approved for use in patients weighing more than 150 kg (*see Appendix E and F*) Do not administer more than 150 mg (contents of one vial) per injection site. Divide doses of more than 150 mg amongst two or more injection sites	375 mg/2 weeks
CIU	150 mg or 300 mg SC every 4 weeks	300 mg/4 weeks
Nasal polyps*	75 to 600 mg SC every 2 or 4 weeks based on serum total IgE level (IU/mL) measured before the start of treatment, and body weight (kg). Adjust doses for significant changes in body weight during treatment	600 mg/2 weeks

**For patients with both asthma and nasal polyps, dosing determination should be based on the primary diagnosis for which Xolair is being prescribed.*

VI. Product Availability

- Single-dose vial: 150 mg
- Single-dose prefilled syringes: 75 mg/0.5 mL, 150 mg/mL

VII. References

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14. ClinicalTrials.gov. A clinical trial of omalizumab in participants with chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps (POLYP 2). Available at: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03280537. Accessed September 24, 2021.
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16. Han JK, Bosson JV, Cho SH, et al. Multidisciplinary consensus on a stepwise treatment algorithm for management of chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps. Int Forum Allergy Rhinol. 2021;1-10. Available at: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/alr.22851. Accessed September 24, 2021.

Coding Implications
Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J2357	Injection, omalizumab, 5 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	01.23	01.23

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. "Health Plan" means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note:
For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.