

Clinical Policy: Tofacitinib (Xeljanz, Xeljanz XR)

Reference Number: DE.PHAR.267

Effective Date: 01.23

Last Review Date: 01.23

Line of Business: Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Tofacitinib (Xeljanz[®], Xeljanz[®] XR) is a Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Xeljanz and Xeljanz XR are indicated for the treatment of:

- Adult patients with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNF blockers.
- Adult patients with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA) who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNF blockers.
- Adult patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC) who have had an inadequate response or who are intolerant to tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blockers.
- Adult patients with active ankylosing spondylitis who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNF blockers.

Xeljanz is additionally indicated for active polyarticular course juvenile idiopathic arthritis (pcJIA) in patients 2 years of age and older who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more TNF blockers.

Limitation(s) of use: Use of Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR in combination with biologic DMARDs or potent immunosuppressants such as azathioprine and cyclosporine is not recommended.

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 Xeljanz and Xeljanz XR are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Polyarticular Course Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of pcJIA as evidenced by ≥ 5 joints with active arthritis;
2. Request is for Xeljanz immediate-release tablets or oral solution;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
4. Age ≥ 2 years;
5. Documented baseline 10-point clinical juvenile arthritis disease activity score (cJADAS-10) (*see Appendix I*);
6. Member meets one of the following (a, b, c, or d):

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- a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of MTX at up to maximally indicated doses;
 - b. Member has intolerance or contraindication to MTX (*see Appendix D*), and failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of leflunomide or sulfasalazine at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;
 - c. For sacroiliitis/axial spine involvement (i.e., spine, hip), failure of a ≥ 4 week trial of an NSAID at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
 - d. Documented presence of high disease activity as evidenced by cJADAS-10 > 8.5 (*see Appendix I*);
7. Member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers (e.g., *Enbrel[®] is preferred*), unless contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for TNF blockers*
 8. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
 9. Dose does not exceed 10 mg (2 tablets or 10 mL) per day.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Psoriatic Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of PsA;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist or rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. For Xeljanz XR requests: failure of an adequate trial of at least two preferred* FDA-approved drugs for the indication and/or drugs that are considered the standard of care within the same drug class on the PDL, when such agents exist, at maximum indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effect are experienced, or all are contraindicated;
**Generic is preferred, if available, and brand is not the preferred agent*
5. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
6. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Xeljanz: 10 mg (2 tablets) per day;
 - b. Xeljanz XR: 11 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: 6 months

C. Rheumatoid Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of RA per American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria (*see Appendix F*);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. For Xeljanz XR requests: failure of an adequate trial of at least two preferred* FDA-approved drugs for the indication and/or drugs that are considered the standard of care within the same drug class on the PDL, when such agents exist, at maximum indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effect are experienced, or all are

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contraindicated;

**Generic is preferred, if available, and brand is not the preferred agent*

5. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of MTX at up to maximally indicated doses;
 - b. Member has intolerance or contraindication to MTX (*see Appendix D*), and failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of at least ONE conventional DMARD, (e.g., sulfasalazine, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine) at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
6. Documentation of one of the following baseline assessment scores (a or b):
 - a. Clinical disease activity index (CDAI) score (*see Appendix G*);
 - b. Routine assessment of patient index data 3 (RAPID3) score (*see Appendix H*);
7. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
8. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Xeljanz: 10 mg (2 tablets) per day;
 - b. Xeljanz XR: 11 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: 6 months

D. Ulcerative Colitis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of UC;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. For Xeljanz XR requests: failure of an adequate trial of at least two preferred* FDA-approved drugs for the indication and/or drugs that are considered the standard of care within the same drug class on the PDL, when such agents exist, at maximum indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effect are experienced, or all are contraindicated;
**Generic is preferred, if available, and brand is not the preferred agent*
5. Documentation of a Mayo Score ≥ 6 (*see Appendix E*);
6. Failure of an 8-week trial of systemic corticosteroids, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
7. Member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers, unless contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for TNF blockers*
8. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
9. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Xeljanz: 20 mg (2 tablets) per day;
 - b. Xeljanz XR: 22 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: 6 months

E. Ankylosing Spondylitis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of AS;

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2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. For Xeljanz XR requests: failure of an adequate trial of at least two preferred* FDA-approved drugs for the indication and/or drugs that are considered the standard of care within the same drug class on the PDL, when such agents exist, at maximum indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effect are experienced, or all are contraindicated;
**Generic is preferred, if available, and brand is not the preferred agent*
5. Failure of at least TWO non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) at up to maximally indicated doses, each used for \geq 4 weeks unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse events are experienced;
6. Member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers (e.g., *Enbrel[®] is preferred*), unless contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for TNF blockers*
7. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
8. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Xeljanz: 10 mg (2 tablets) per day;
 - b. Xeljanz XR: 11 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: 6 months

F. 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. All Indications in Section I (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. For RA: Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. A decrease in CDAI (*see Appendix G*) or RAPID3 (*see Appendix H*) score from baseline;
 - ii. Medical justification stating inability to conduct CDAI re-assessment, and submission of RAPID3 score associated with disease severity that is similar to initial CDAI assessment or improved;
 - b. For psJIA: Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by a decrease in cJADAS-10 from baseline (*see Appendix I*);
 - c. For all other indications: Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);

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4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Xeljanz (i, ii, or iii):
 - i. AS, RA, or PsA: 10 mg (2 tablets) per day;
 - ii. UC: 20 mg (2 tablets) per day;
 - iii. pcJIA: 10 mg (2 tablets or 10 mL) per day;
 - b. Xeljanz XR (i or ii):
 - i. AS, RA, or PsA: 11 mg (1 tablet) per day;
 - ii. UC: 22 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. 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. Combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) or potent immunosuppressants, including but not limited to any tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists [e.g., Cimzia[®], Enbrel[®], Humira[®], Simponi[®], Avsola[™], Inflectra[™], Remicade[®], Renflexis[™]], interleukin agents [e.g., Arcalyst[®] (IL-1 blocker), Ilaris[®] (IL-1 blocker), Kineret[®] (IL-1RA), Actemra[®] (IL-6RA), Kevzara[®] (IL-6RA), Stelara[®] (IL-12/23 inhibitor), Cosentyx[®] (IL-17A inhibitor), Taltz[®] (IL-17A inhibitor), Siliq[™] (IL-17RA), Ilumya[™] (IL-23 inhibitor), Skyrizi[™] (IL-23 inhibitor), Tremfya[®] (IL-23 inhibitor)], Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) [e.g., Xeljanz[®]/Xeljanz[®] XR, Cibinqo[™], Olumiant[™], Rinvoq[™]], anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies [Rituxan[®], Riabni[™], Ruxience[™], Truxima[®], Rituxan Hycela[®]], selective co-stimulation modulators [Orencia[®]], and integrin receptor antagonists [Entyvio[®]] because of the additive immunosuppression, increased risk of neutropenia, as well as increased risk of serious infections;
- C. Alopecia areata (ICD10: L63), also referred to as patchy hairloss.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

AS: Ankylosing Spondylitis

CDAI: clinical disease activity index

cJADAS: clinical juvenile arthritis disease activity score

DMARDs: disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

JAK: Janus kinase

MTX: methotrexate

pcJIA: polyarticular course juvenile idiopathic arthritis;

RA: rheumatoid arthritis

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RAPID3: routine assessment of patient index data 3

PsA: psoriatic arthritis
UC: ulcerative colitis

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
azathioprine (Azasan [®] , Imuran [®])	RA 1 mg/kg/day PO QD or divided BID	2.5 mg/kg/day
Cuprimine [®] (d-penicillamine)	RA* <u>Initial dose:</u> 125 or 250 mg PO QD <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 500 – 750 mg/day PO QD	1,500 mg/day
cyclosporine (Sandimmune [®] , Neoral [®])	RA 2.5 – 4 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	4 mg/kg/day
hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil [®])	RA* <u>Initial dose:</u> 400 – 600 mg/day PO QD <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 200 – 400 mg/day PO QD	600 mg/day
leflunomide (Arava [®])	RA 100 mg PO QD for 3 days, then 20 mg PO QD PJIA* Weight < 20 kg: 10 mg every other day Weight 20 - 40 kg: 10 mg/day Weight > 40 kg: 20 mg/day	20 mg/day
methotrexate (Rheumatrex [®])	RA 7.5 mg/week PO, SC, or IM or 2.5 mg PO Q12 hr for 3 doses/week PJIA* 10 – 20 mg/m ² /week PO, SC, or IM	30 mg/week
NSAIDs (e.g., indomethacin, ibuprofen, naproxen, celecoxib)	AS Varies	Varies
Ridaura [®] (auranofin)	RA 6 mg PO QD or 3 mg PO BID	9 mg/day (3 mg TID)

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Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®)	RA 2 g/day PO in divided doses PJIA* 30-50 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	RA: 3 g/day PJIA: 2 g/day
NSAIDs (e.g., indomethacin, ibuprofen, naproxen, celecoxib)	AS, PJIA* Varies	Varies
Cimzia® (certolizumab)	AS <u>Initial dose:</u> 400 mg SC at 0, 2, and 4 weeks <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 200 mg SC every other week (or 400 mg SC every 4 weeks)	400 mg every 4 weeks
Enbrel® (etanercept)	AS 50 mg SC once weekly RA, PsA 25 mg SC twice weekly or 50 mg SC once weekly PJIA Weight < 63 kg: 0.8 mg/kg SC once weekly Weight ≥ 63 kg: 50 mg SC once weekly	50 mg/week

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.

*Off-label

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): none reported
- Boxed warning(s):
 - Serious infections: There is an increased risk of serious bacterial, fungal, viral, and opportunistic infections leading to hospitalization or death, including tuberculosis (TB). Mortality: Rheumatoid arthritis patients 50 years and older with at least one cardiovascular risk factor treated with Xeljanz 10 twice daily had a higher rate of all-cause mortality, including sudden CF death, compared to those treated with Xeljanz 5 mg given twice daily or TNF blockers in a large, ongoing, post marketing study. Malignancies: Lymphoma and other malignancies, as well as Epstein Barr Virus-associated post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder has been observed. Lymphomas and lung cancer, which are a subset of all malignancies in RA Safety Study 1, were observed at a higher rate in patients treated with Xeljanz 5 mg twice a day and Xeljanz 10 mg twice a day compared to those treated with TNF blockers.
 - Cardiovascular events: RA patients who were 50 years of age and older with at least one cardiovascular risk factor treated with Xeljanz 5 mg twice daily or Xeljanz 10 mg twice daily had a higher rate of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) defined

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- as cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction (MI), and non-fatal stroke, compared to those treated with TNF blockers.
- Thrombosis: Thrombosis, including pulmonary embolism, deep venous thrombosis, and arterial thrombosis have occurred in patients treated with Xeljanz and other Janus kinase inhibitors used to treat inflammatory conditions.
 - A large, ongoing postmarketing safety study observed an increase in incidence of thrombosis events in rheumatoid arthritis patients who were 50 years of age and older with at least one CV risk factor treated with Xeljanz 10 mg twice daily compared to Xeljanz 5 mg twice daily or TNF blockers.

Appendix D: General Information

- Definition of failure of MTX or DMARDs
 - Child-bearing age is not considered a contraindication for use of MTX. Each drug has risks in pregnancy. An educated patient and family planning would allow use of MTX in patients who have no intention of immediate pregnancy.
 - Social use of alcohol is not considered a contraindication for use of MTX. MTX may only be contraindicated if patients choose to drink over 14 units of alcohol per week. However, excessive alcohol drinking can lead to worsening of the condition, so patients who are serious about clinical response to therapy should refrain from excessive alcohol consumption.
- Examples of positive response to therapy may include, but are not limited to:
 - Reduction in joint pain/swelling/tenderness
 - Improvement in erythrocyte sedimentation rates/C-reactive protein (ESR/CRP) levels
 - Improvements in activities of daily living

Appendix E: Mayo Score

- Mayo Score: evaluates ulcerative colitis stage, based on four parameters: stool frequency, rectal bleeding, endoscopic evaluation and Physician's global assessment. Each parameter of the score ranges from zero (normal or inactive disease) to 3 (severe activity) with an overall score of 12.

Score	Decoding
0 – 2	Remission
3 – 5	Mild activity
6 – 10	Moderate activity
>10	Severe activity

- The following may be considered for medical justification supporting inability to use an immunomodulator for ulcerative colitis:
 - Documentation of Mayo Score 6 – 12 indicative of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis.

Appendix F: The 2010 ACR Classification Criteria for RA

Add score of categories A through D; a score of ≥ 6 out of 10 is needed for classification of a patient as having definite RA.

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A	Joint involvement	Score
	1 large joint	0
	2-10 large joints	1
	1-3 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)	2
	4-10 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)	3
	> 10 joints (at least one small joint)	5
B	Serology (at least one test result is needed for classification)	
	Negative rheumatoid factor (RF) <i>and</i> negative anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA)	0
	Low positive RF <i>or</i> low positive ACPA <i>* Low: < 3 x upper limit of normal</i>	2
	High positive RF <i>or</i> high positive ACPA <i>* High: ≥ 3 x upper limit of normal</i>	3
C	Acute phase reactants (at least one test result is needed for classification)	
	Normal C-reactive protein (CRP) and normal erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)	0
	Abnormal CRP or abnormal ESR	1
D	Duration of symptoms	
	< 6 weeks	0
	≥ 6 weeks	1

Appendix G: Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) Score

The Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) is a composite index for assessing disease activity in RA. CDAI is based on the simple summation of the count of swollen/tender joint count of 28 joints along with patient and physician global assessment on VAS (0–10 cm) Scale for estimating disease activity. The CDAI score ranges from 0 to 76.

CDAI Score	Disease state interpretation
≤ 2.8	Remission
> 2.8 to ≤ 10	Low disease activity
> 10 to ≤ 22	Moderate disease activity
> 22	High disease activity

Appendix H: Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID3) Score

The Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID3) is a pooled index of the three patient-reported ACR core data set measures: function, pain, and patient global estimate of status. Each of the individual measures is scored 0 – 10, and the maximum achievable score is 30.

RAPID3 Score	Disease state interpretation
≤ 3	Remission
3.1 to 6	Low disease activity
6.1 to 12	Moderate disease activity
> 12	High disease activity

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Appendix I: Clinical Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score based on 10 joints (cJADAS-10)

The cJADAS10 is a continuous disease activity score specific to JIA and consisting of the following three parameters totaling a maximum of 30 points:

- Physician's global assessment of disease activity measured on a 0-10 visual analog scale (VAS), where 0 = no activity and 10 = maximum activity;
- Parent global assessment of well-being measured on a 0-10 VAS, where 0 = very well and 10 = very poor;
- Count of joints with active disease to a maximum count of 10 active joints*

*ACR definition of active joint: presence of swelling (not due to currently inactive synovitis or to bony enlargement) or, if swelling is not present, limitation of motion accompanied by pain, tenderness, or both

cJADAS-10	Disease state interpretation
≤ 1	Inactive disease
1.1 to 2.5	Low disease activity
2.51 to 8.5	Moderate disease activity
> 8.5	High disease activity

V. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Tofacitinib immediate-release (Xeljanz)	pcJIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 kg ≤ body weight < 20 kg: 3.2 mg (3.2 mL oral solution) PO BID • 20 kg ≤ body weight < 40 kg: 4 mg (4 mL oral solution) PO BID • Body weight ≥ 40 kg: 5 mg PO BID 	10 mg/day
	PsA	5 mg PO BID	
	RA		
	AS		
	UC	<u>Induction:</u> 10 mg PO BID for 8 weeks, up to 16 weeks <u>Maintenance:</u> 5 mg PO BID	Induction: 20 mg/day Maintenance: 10 mg/day
Tofacitinib extended-release (Xeljanz XR)	PsA	11 mg PO QD	11 mg/day
	RA		
	AS		
	UC	<u>Induction:</u> 22 mg PO QD for 8 weeks, up to 16 weeks <u>Maintenance:</u> 11 mg PO QD	Induction: 22 mg/day Maintenance: 11 mg/day

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VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Tofacitinib immediate- release (Xeljanz)	Tablets: 5 mg, 10 mg Oral solution: 1 mg/mL
Tofacitinib extended-release (Xeljanz XR)	Tablets: 11 mg, 22 mg

VII. References

1. Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR Prescribing Information. New York, NY: Pfizer Labs; December 2021. Available at: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2021/203214s028,208246s013,213082s003lbl.pdf. Accessed February 21, 2022.
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Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	09.22	11.22

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

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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.

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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.

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