Clinical Policy: Golimumab (Simponi, Simponi Aria)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.253
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Line of Business: Medicaid

Coding Implications
Revision Log

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

Description

Golimumab (Simponi®, Simponi Aria®) is a tumor necrosis (TNF) blocker.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Simponi is indicated for the treatment of:

- Adult patients with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in combination with methotrexate (MTX)
- Adult patients with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA) alone, or in combination with methotrexate
- Adult patients with active ankylosing spondylitis (AS)
- Adult and pediatric patients weighing at least 15 kg with moderate to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC)

Simponi Aria is indicated for the treatment of:

- Adult patients with moderately to severely active RA in combination with MTX
- Active PsA in patients 2 years of age and older
- Adult patients with active AS
- Active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (pJIA) in patients 2 years of age and older

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 Simponi and Simponi Aria are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Ankylosing Spondylitis (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of AS;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Failure of at least TWO non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) at up to maximally indicated doses, each used for ≥ 4 weeks unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced, all are contraindicated, or previously failed a biologic agent for AS;
5. Member meets ALL* of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a, b, and c, *see Appendix D*):

a. Failure of one adalimumab product (e.g., *Hadlima™, Simlandi®, Yusimry™, adalimumab-aaty, adalimumab-adaz, adalimumab-adbm, and adalimumab-fkjp are preferred*), unless the member has had a history of failure of two TNF blockers;
b. Failure of Taltz®;
c. If member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers, Xeljanz®/Xeljanz XR®, unless member has cardiovascular risk and benefits do not outweigh the risk of treatment;

**Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products, Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR, and Taltz*

6. 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*);
7. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
   a. Simponi: 50 mg SC once monthly;
   b. Simponi Aria: 2 mg/kg IV at weeks 0 and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 2 mg/kg every 8 weeks (*see Appendix F for dose rounding guidelines*).

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (must meet all)**:**
1. Diagnosis of pJIA as evidenced by ≥ 5 joints with active arthritis;
2. Request is for Simponi Aria;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
4. Age ≥ 2 years;
5. Member meets one of the following, unless previously failed a biologic agent for pJIA (a, b, c, or d):
   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 sulfasalazine or leflunomide 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. Documentation of high disease activity;
6. Failure of ALL* of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated (a, b, and c, *see Appendix D*):
   a. One adalimumab product (e.g., *Hadlima, Simlandi, Yusimry, adalimumab-aaty, adalimumab-adaz, adalimumab-adbm, and adalimumab-fkjp are preferred*), unless the member has had a history of failure of two TNF blockers;
   b. Actemra®;
   c. If member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers, Xeljanz, unless member has cardiovascular risk and benefits do not outweigh the risk of treatment;

**Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products, Actemra, and Xeljanz*

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 80 mg/m^2 IV at weeks 0 and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 80 mg/m^2 every 8 weeks (*see Appendix F for dose rounding guidelines*).

Approval duration: 12 months

C. Psoriatic Arthritis (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of PsA;
2. Prescribed in consultation with a dermatologist or rheumatologist;
3. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
   a. Age ≥ 2 years and request is for Simponi Aria;
   b. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. For members ≥ 18 years, failure of ALL* of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a, b, c, d, and e, *see Appendix D*):
   a. One adalimumab product (e.g., *Hadlima, Simlandi, Yusimry, adalimumab-aaty, adalimumab-adaz, adalimumab-adbm, and adalimumab-fkjp are preferred*), unless the member has had a history of failure of two TNF blockers;
   b. Otezla®;
   c. Taltz;
   d. One ustekinumab product (e.g., *Otulfi®, Pyzchiva® (branded), Selarsdi™, Steqeyma®, Yesintek™ are preferred*);
   e. If member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers, Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR, unless member has cardiovascular risk and benefits do not outweigh the risk of treatment;

   **Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products, Otezla, Taltz, ustekinumab products, and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR*
5. For members 6 to 17 years, failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of both of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a and b):
   a. Otezla;
   b. One ustekinumab product (e.g., *Otulfi®, Pyzchiva® (branded), Selarsdi™, Steqeyma®, Yesintek™ are preferred*);

   **Prior authorization may be required for Otezla and ustekinumab products*
6. 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*);
7. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
   a. Simponi: 50 mg SC once monthly;
   b. Simponi Aria (i or ii):
      i. Adults: 2 mg/kg IV at weeks 0 and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 2 mg/kg every 8 weeks (*see Appendix F for dose rounding guidelines*);
      ii. Pediatrics: 80 mg/m^2 IV at weeks 0 and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 80 mg/m^2 every 8 weeks (*see Appendix F for dose rounding guidelines*).

Approval duration: 12 months

D. Rheumatoid Arthritis (must meet all)**:**
1. Diagnosis of RA per American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria (*see Appendix G*);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Member meets one of the following, unless previously failed a biologic agent for RA (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;
5. Failure of ALL* of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (a, b, and c, *see Appendix D*):
   a. One adalimumab product (e.g., *Hadlima, Simlandi, Yusimry, adalimumab-aaty, adalimumab-adaz, adalimumab-adbm, and adalimumab-fkjp are preferred*), unless the member has had a history of failure of two TNF blockers;
   b. Actemra;
   c. If member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers, Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR, unless member has cardiovascular risk and benefits do not outweigh the risk of treatment;

   **Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products, Actemra, and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR*
6. Prescribed concomitantly with MTX, or another DMARD if intolerance or contraindication to MTX;
7. Documentation of one of the following baseline assessment scores (a or b):
   a. Clinical disease activity index (CDAI) score (*see Appendix H*);
   b. Routine assessment of patient index data 3 (RAPID3) score (*see Appendix I*);
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. Simponi: 50 mg SC once monthly;
   b. Simponi Aria: 2 mg/kg IV at weeks 0 and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 2 mg/kg every 8 weeks (*see Appendix F for dose rounding guidelines*).

Approval duration: 12 months

E. Ulcerative Colitis (must meet all)**:**
1. Diagnosis of UC;
2. Request is for Simponi (SC formulation);
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist;
4. If member is < 18 years old, then weight ≥ 15 kg;
5. Documentation of a Mayo Score ≥ 6, modified Mayo Score ≥ 5, or Mayo Endoscopic Score ≥ 2 (*see Appendix E*);

6. Failure of an 8-week trial of systemic corticosteroids, unless contraindicated, clinically significant adverse effects are experienced, or previously failed a biologic agent for UC;
7. For adults, failure of one of the following used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a or b):
   a. One adalimumab product (e.g., *Hadlima, Simlandi, Yusimry, adalimumab-aaty, adalimumab-adaz, adalimumab-adbm, and adalimumab-fkjp are preferred*), unless the member has had a history of failure of two TNF blockers;
   b. One ustekinumab product (e.g. *Otulfi®, Pyzchiva® (branded), Selarsdi™, Steqeyma®, Yesintek™ are preferred*);

   **Prior authorization may be required for adalimumab products and ustekinumab products*
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. Weight ≥ 15 kg to < 40 kg: 100 mg at Week 0, 50 mg at Week 2, followed by maintenance dose of 50 mg every 4 weeks;
   b. Weight ≥ 40 kg: 200 mg at Week 0, 100 mg at Week 2, followed by maintenance dose of 100 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 12 months

F. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
   a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
   b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

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

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
   a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
   b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B);*

2. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
   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 H*) or RAPID3 (*see Appendix I*) 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 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*);
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, c, or d):
   a. AS, PsA, RA (Simponi): 50 mg SC once monthly;
   b. AS, PsA, RA (Simponi Aria) Adults: 2 mg/kg IV every 8 weeks;*
   c. UC (Simponi) (i or ii):
      i. Weight ≥ 15 kg to < 40 kg: 50 mg SC every 4 weeks;
      ii. Weight ≥ 40 kg: 100 mg SC every 4 weeks;
   d. PJIA, PsA (Simponi Aria) Pediatrics: 80 mg/m^2 IV every 8 weeks.*

   **See Appendix F for dose rounding guidelines*

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**
1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
   a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
   b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: 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® and its biosimilars, Remicade® and its biosimilars, Simponi®], interleukin agents [e.g., Actemra® (IL-6RA) and its biosimilars,

Arcalyst® (IL-1 blocker), Bimzelx® (IL-17A and F antagonist), Cosentyx® (IL-17A inhibitor), Ilaris® (IL-1 blocker), Ilumya™ (IL-23 inhibitor), Kevzara® (IL-6RA), Kineret® (IL-1RA), Omvoh™ (IL-23 antagonist), Siliq™ (IL-17RA), Skyrizi™ (IL-23 inhibitor), Spevigo® (IL-36 antagonist), Stelara® (IL-12/23 inhibitor) and its biosimilars, Taltz® (IL-17A inhibitor), Tremfya® (IL-23 inhibitor)], Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) [e.g., Cibinqo™, Olumiant™, Rinvoq™, Xeljanz®/Xeljanz® XR,], anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies [Rituxan® and its biosimilars], selective co-stimulation modulators [Orencia®], integrin receptor antagonists [Entyvio®], tyrosine kinase 2 inhibitors [Sotyktu™], and sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor modulator [Velsipity™] because of the additive immunosuppression, increased risk of neutropenia, as well as increased risk of serious infections.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

6MP: 6-mercaptopurine
AS: ankylosing spondylitis
CDAI: clinical disease activity index
cJADAS: clinical juvenile arthritis disease activity score
DMARD: disease-modifying antirheumatic drug
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
JAKi: Janus kinase inhibitors
MTX: methotrexate
NSAID: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
PJIA: polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis
PsA: psoriatic arthritis
RA: rheumatoid arthritis
RAPID3: routine assessment of patient index data 3
TNF: tumor necrosis factor
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 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
corticosteroids	**UC** Prednisone 40 mg – 60 mg PO QD, then taper dose by 5 to 10 mg/week Budesonide (Uceris®) 9 mg PO QAM for up to 8 weeks	Varies
Cuprimine® (d-penicillamine)	**RA*** Initial dose: 125 or 250 mg PO QD Maintenance dose: 500 – 750 mg/day PO QD	1,500 mg/day

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
cyclosporine (Sandimmune®, Neoral®)	**RA** 2.5 – 4 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	4 mg/kg/day
hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®)	**RA*** Initial dose: 400 – 600 mg PO QD Maintenance dose: 200 – 400 mg PO QD	600 mg/day
leflunomide (Arava®)	**RA** Initial dose (for low risk hepatotoxicity or myelosuppression): 100 mg PO QD for 3 days Maintenance dose: 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 (Trexall®, Otrexup™, Rasuvo®, RediTrex®, 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
sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®)	**RA** Initial dose: 500 mg to 1,000 mg PO QD for the first week. Increase the daily dose by 500 mg each week up to a maintenance dose of 2 g/day. Maintenance dose: 2 gm/day PO in divided doses **pJIA*** 30-50 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	RA: 3 g/day pJIA: 2 g/day
Actemra® (tocilizumab)	**pJIA** • Weight < 30 kg: 10 mg/kg IV every 4 weeks or 162 mg SC every 3 weeks	PJIA: • IV: 10 mg/kg every 4 weeks

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	• Weight ≥ 30 kg: 8 mg/kg IV every 4 weeks or 162 mg SC every 2 weeks **RA** IV: 4 mg/kg every 4 weeks followed by an increase to 8 mg/kg every 4 weeks based on clinical response SC: Weight < 100 kg: 162 mg SC every other week, followed by an increase to every week based on clinical response Weight ≥ 100 kg: 162 mg SC every week	• SC: 162 mg every 2 weeks RA: IV: 800 mg every 4 weeks SC: 162 mg every week
Hadlima (adalimumab-bwwd), Simlandi (adalimumab-ryvk), Yusimry (adalimumab-aqvh), adalimumab-aaty (Yuflyma®), adalimumab-adaz (Hyrimoz®), adalimumab-fkjp (Hulio®), adalimumab-adbm (Cyltezo®)	**RA, AS, PsA** 40 mg SC every other week **pJIA** **Cyltezo, Hadlima, Hyrimoz:** Weight 10 kg (22 lbs) to < 15 kg (33 lbs): 10 mg SC every other week **Cyltezo, Hadlima, Hulio, Yuflyma:** Weight 15 kg (33 lbs) to < 30 kg (66 lbs): 20 mg SC every other week **Cyltezo, Hadlima, Hulio, Hyrimoz, Simlandi, Yuflyma, Yusimry:** Weight ≥ 30 kg (66 lbs): 40 mg SC every other week **UC** Initial dose: 160 mg SC on Day 1, then 80 mg SC on Day 15 Maintenance dose: 40 mg SC every other week starting on Day 29	40 mg every other week
Otezla® (apremilast)	**PsA** **Adults:** Initial dose: Day 1: 10 mg PO QAM Day 2: 10 mg PO QAM and 10 mg PO QPM Day 3: 10 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM	Adults: 60 mg/day Pediatric: *Weight ≥ 50 kg:* 60 mg/day *Weight 20 kg to < 50 kg:*

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	Day 4: 20 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM Day 5: 20 mg PO QAM and 30 mg PO QPM Maintenance dose: Day 6 and thereafter: 30 mg PO BID **Pediatric:** *Weight ≥ 50 kg:* Initial dose: Day 1: 10 mg PO QAM Day 2: 10 mg PO QAM and 10 mg PO QPM Day 3: 10 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM Day 4: 20 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM Day 5: 20 mg PO QAM and 30 mg PO QPM Maintenance dose: Day 6 and thereafter: 30 mg PO BID *Weight 20 kg to < 50 kg:* Initial dose: Day 1: 10 mg PO QAM Day 2: 10 mg PO QAM and 10 mg PO QPM Day 3: 10 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM Day 4: 20 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM Day 5: 20 mg PO QAM and 20 mg PO QPM Maintenance dose: Day 6 and thereafter: 20 mg PO BID	40 mg/day
Otulfi® (ustekinumab-aauz), Pyzchiva® (ustekinumab-ttwe), Selarsdi™ (ustekinumab-	**UC** Weight based dosing IV at initial dose: Weight ≤ 55 kg: 260 mg Weight > 55 kg to 85 kg: 390 mg Weight > 85 kg: 520 mg	UC: 90 mg every 8 weeks PsA: 45 mg every 12 weeks

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
aekn), Steqeyma® (ustekinumab-stba), Yesintek™ (ustekinumab-kfce)	Maintenance dose: 90 mg SC every 8 weeks **PsA** Weight based dosing SC at weeks 0 and 4, followed by maintenance dose every 12 weeks *Adult:* 45 mg SC at weeks 0 and 4, followed by 45 mg every 12 weeks *Pediatrics (age 6 years to 17 years):* Weight based dosing SC at weeks 0 and 4, then every 12 weeks thereafter **Otulfi, Pyzchiva, Yesintek:** Weight < 60 kg: 0.75 mg/kg **Otulfi, Pyzchiva, Selarsdi, Steqeyma, Yesintek:** Weight ≥ 60 kg: 45 mg	
Taltz® (ixekizumab)	**AS, PsA** Initial dose: 160 mg (two 80 mg injections) SC at week 0 Maintenance dose: 80 mg SC every 4 weeks **PsO** Initial dose: 160 mg (two 80 mg injections) SC at week 0, then 80 mg SC at weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 Maintenance dose: 80 mg SC every 4 weeks	80 mg every 4 weeks
Xeljanz® (tofacitinib)	**AS, PsA, RA** 5 mg PO BID	10 mg/day

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	pJIA • 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	
Xeljanz XR® (tofacitinib extended-release)	**AS, PsA, RA** 11 mg PO QD	11 mg/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.
**Off-label*

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings
- Contraindication(s): none reported
- Boxed warning(s): serious infections and malignancy

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 ESR/CRP levels
  - Improvements in activities of daily living
- TNF blockers:
  - Etanercept (Enbrel®), adalimumab (Humira®) and its biosimilars, infliximab (Remicade®) and its biosimilars (Avsola™, Renflexis™, Inflectra®), certolizumab pegol (Cimzia®), and golimumab (Simponi®, Simponi Aria®).

Appendix E: Mayo Score, Modified Mayo Score, or Mayo Endoscopic 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

Score	Decoding
6 – 10	Moderate activity
>10	Severe activity

- Modified Mayo Score: developed from the full Mayo score and evaluates ulcerative colitis stage, based on three parameters: stool frequency, rectal bleeding, and endoscopic evaluation. The modified Mayo Score gives a maximum overall score of 9. The FDA currently accepts the modified Mayo Score for the assessment of disease activity in pivotal UC clinical trials.
- Mayo Endoscopic Score: tool used to assess severity based on endoscopic findings during a colonoscopy and ranges from 0 to 3. A score of 2 or higher means there is moderate-to-severe inflammation.

Score	Decoding
0	Normal or inactive disease
1	Mild disease (erythema, decreased vascular pattern, mild friability)
2	Moderate disease (marked erythema, absent vascular pattern, moderate friability, erosions)
3	Severe disease (spontaneous bleeding, ulcerations)

Appendix F: Dose Rounding Guidelines

Weight-based Dose Range	Vial Quantity Recommendation
≤ 52.49 mg	1 vial of 50 mg/4 mL
52.5 to 104.99 mg	2 vials of 50 mg/4 mL
105 to 157.49 mg	3 vials of 50 mg/4 mL
157.5 to 209.99 mg	4 vials of 50 mg/4 mL
210 to 262.49 mg	5 vials of 50 mg/4 mL

Appendix G: 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.

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) *and* negative anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA)	0
	Low positive RF *or* low positive ACPA * *Low: < 3 x upper limit of normal*	2
	High positive RF *or* high positive ACPA * *High: ≥ 3 x upper limit of normal*	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 H: 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 I: 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

Appendix J: Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis Disease Activity
According to 2019 American College of Rheumatology/Arthritis Foundation Guideline for the Treatment of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, disease activity (moderate/high and low) as defined by the clinical Juvenile Disease Activity score based on 10 joints (cJADAS-10) is provided as a general parameter and should be interpreted within the clinical context.
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

cJADAS-10	Disease state interpretation
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 Maintenance Dose
Golimumab (Simponi)	AS PsA RA	50 mg SC once monthly	50 mg/month
	UC	Adults and pediatric patients 40 kg and greater: • Initial dose: 200 mg SC at Week 0, then 100 mg SC at Week 2 • Maintenance dose: 100 mg SC every 4 weeks Pediatric patients at least 15 kg to less than 40 kg: • Initial dose: 100 mg SC at Week 0, then 50 mg SC at Week 2 • Maintenance dose: 50 mg SC every 4 weeks	100 mg every 4 weeks
Golimumab (Simponi Aria)	AS PsA RA PJIA	Adults: Initial dose (AS, PsA, RA): 2 mg/kg IV at weeks 0 and 4 Adults: Maintenance dose (AS, PsA, RA): 2 mg/kg IV every 8 weeks Pediatrics: Initial dose (PsA, PJIA): 80 mg/m^2 IV at weeks 0 and 4 Pediatrics: Maintenance dose (PsA, PJIA): 80 mg/m^2 IV every 8 weeks	Adults (AS, PsA, RA): 2 mg/kg every 8 weeks Pediatrics (PsA, PJIA): 80 mg/m^2 every 8 weeks

VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Golimumab (Simponi)	Single-dose prefilled SmartJect® autoinjector: 50 mg/0.5 mL, 100 mg/1 mL Single-dose prefilled syringe: 50 mg/0.5 mL, 100 mg/1 mL
Golimumab (Simponi Aria)	Single-use vial: 50 mg/4 mL

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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
J1602	Injection, golimumab, 1 mg, for intravenous use
J3590, C9399	Unclassified drugs or biologicals (subcutaneous golimumab)

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
2Q 2021 annual review: added combination of bDMARDs under Section III; updated CDAI table with ">" to prevent overlap in classification of severity; references reviewed and updated.	02.23.21	05.21
Clarified pediatric PsA dosing; PJIA clarified dosing to include initial dosing schedule.	07.13.21	
Per August SDC and prior clinical guidance, for AS modified from trial of two to trial of all; for PsA added redirection to Enbrel, Otezla, Taltz, Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR; for RA added Actemra to redirect options and modified to require a trial of all; for Xeljanz redirection requirements added bypass for members with cardiovascular risk and qualified redirection to apply only for member that has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers; added Legacy WellCare line of business to policy (WCG.CP.PHAR.253 to be retired).	08.25.21	11.21
2Q 2022 annual review: for PJIA, added redirection to Actemra per February SDC; for RA, added redirection to Olumiant per February SDC; for AS, added redirection to Xeljanx if failed prior TNF blocker per August SDC and updated FDA labeling; for PsA, clarified that redirection applies only to age 18 or older; removed legacy Wellcare approval durations; reiterated requirement against combination use	02.21.22	05.22

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
with a bDMARD or JAKi from Section III to Sections I and II; references reviewed and updated.		
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	10.11.22	
2Q 2023 annual review: for AS, pJIA, PsA, and RA, added TNFi criteria to allow bypass if member has had history of failure of two TNF blockers; reference reviewed and updated.	02.08.23	05.23
Per July SDC: for AS, removed criteria requiring use of Cimzia and Enbrel; for PsA, pJIA, RA, removed criteria requiring use of Enbrel; added criteria requiring use of one adalimumab product and stating Yusimry, Hadlima, unbranded adalimumab-fkjp, and unbranded adalimumab-adaz as preferred; for UC, added requirement of Zeposia use after failure of one adalimumab product or history of failure of two TNF blockers; updated Appendix B with relevant therapeutic alternatives.	07.25.23	
Per December SDC, added adalimumab-adbm to listed examples of preferred adalimumab products; for RA removed redirection to Kevzara and Olumiant.	12.06.23	02.24
2Q 2024 annual review: updated Appendix D with removal of AS and nr-axSpA guideline supplemental information; added Bimzelx, Zymfentra, Omvoh, Tofidence, Sotyktu, Wezlana, and Velsipity to section III.B; references reviewed and updated.	01.22.24	05.24
Per June SDC, added Simlandi to listed examples of preferred adalimumab products. Per SDC, added unbranded adalimumab-aaty to listed examples of preferred adalimumab products.	07.23.24	08.24
2Q 2025 annual review: for UC initial criteria, added option for documentation of modified Mayo Score ≥ 5; removed redirection to preferred adalimumab products as adalimumab is not recommended due to low efficacy per 2024 AGA guidelines; revised redirection to Zeposia with bypass allowance stating member must use Zeposia unless member has had history of failure of biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drug or Janus kinase inhibitor as supported by 2024 AGA guidelines; for Appendix E, added supplemental information on modified Mayo Score; for pJIA: removed criteria for minimum cJADAS-10 score ≥ 8.5 for documentation of high disease activity and "baseline 10-joint clinical juvenile arthritis disease activity score" in initial criteria to align with competitor analysis; removed criteria for "member is responding positively to therapy as evidence by decrease in cJADAS-10 from baseline" in continued therapy; for Appendix J, added pJIA disease activity information per 2019 ACR guidelines; removed HCPCS code J3490 and added	01.23.25	05.25

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
HCPCS code J3590; updated section III.B with Spevigo and biosimilar verbiage; references reviewed and updated.		
Per April SDC: for PsA and UC, added criteria requiring use of one preferred Stelara biosimilar (Otulfi, Pyzchiva (branded), Selarsdi, Yesintek, and Steqeyma are preferred); for UC, removed criteria requiring use of preferred agent Zeposia; for UC, revised requirement to include option for step through preferred adalimumab product or preferred ustekinumab product.	04.23.25	06.25
For PsA, applied step therapy to Otezla for pediatric age redirection as Otezla has a newly approved pediatric extension for 6 years and older; for UC, added option for Mayo Endoscopic Score $\geq$ 2 to define moderate-to-severe UC; for AS, pJIA,RA, and UC, added bypass of conventional therapies if a member has failed a biologic agent to clarify intention of not stepping back from biologic agent to conventional therapy. RT4: reflected pediatric age extension for UC per PI. Extended initial approval durations to 12 months for chronic conditions.	08.05.25	11.25

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.