Policy: MBP 76.0
Section: Medical Benefit Pharmaceutical Policy
Subject: Actemra IV (tocilizumab)

I. Policy:
Actemra IV (tocilizumab)

II. Purpose/Objective:
To provide a policy of coverage regarding Actemra IV (tocilizumab)

III. Responsibility:
A. Medical Directors
B. Medical Management
C. Pharmacy Department

IV. Required Definitions
1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than the department requiring/authoring the policy.
3. Revised – the date the policy was implemented.
4. Devised – the date the policy was devised.
5. Reviewed – the date the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.

V. Additional Definitions
Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member’s condition, illness, disease or injury;
b. provided for the diagnosis and the direct care and treatment of the Member’s condition, illness disease or injury;
c. in accordance with current standards good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community;
d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member’s Health Care Provider; and

Medical Business Segment
Medical Necessity shall mean a service or benefit that is compensable under the Medical Assistance Program and if it meets any one of the following standards:

(i) the service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition or disability.

(ii) the service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or development effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.

(iii) the service or benefit will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for members of the same age
DESCRIPTION:
Actemra IV (tocilizumab) is a humanized interleukin-6 receptor—inhibiting monoclonal antibody. It competes for both membrane-bound and soluble forms of the human interleukin-6 receptor, thus inhibiting the binding of interleukin to its receptors and leading to the blockade of interleukin-6 signaling through the soluble and membrane-bound interleukin-6 receptors. Interleukin-6 is a pro-inflammatory cytokine commonly expressed in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Indications which Do Not Require Prior Authorization for use:
Claims submitted with the following diagnosis for use Do Not require prior authorization for use:
• Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell-induced severe or life-threatening cytokine release syndrome (CRS)

CRITERIA FOR USE: Requires Prior Authorization by Medical Director or Designee

GRANDFATHER PROVISION – Members already established on therapy are eligible for approval as long as there is medical record documentation that the safety and effectiveness of use for the prescribed indication is supported by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval or adequate medical and scientific evidence in the medical literature.

Actemra IV (tocilizumab) will be considered medically necessary when all of the following criteria are met:
1. Adults with moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis:
   • Medical record documentation that member is 18 years of age or greater AND
   • Prescription written by a rheumatologist AND
   • Physician provided documentation of a diagnosis of moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis (made in accordance with the American College of Rheumatology Criteria for the Classification of Diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis); AND
   • Medical record documentation that Actemra is not being used concurrently with a TNF blocker or other biologic agent AND
   • Medical record documentation of a therapeutic failure on, contraindication to or intolerance to 12 weeks of Humira*, Rinvoq*, OR Xeljanz*

   *Requires prior authorization

2. Active systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (SJIA).
   • Prescription written by a rheumatologist AND
   • Patient is 2 years of age or older AND
   • Medical record documentation of a diagnosis of systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis AND
   • Medical record documentation that Actemra is not being used concurrently with a TNF blocker or other biologic agent AND

3. Active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (PJIA)
   • Medical record documentation that member is 2 years of age or greater AND
   • Prescription written by a rheumatologist; AND
   • Medical record documentation of a diagnosis active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis or juvenile rheumatoid arthritis AND
   • Medical record documentation that Actemra is not being used concurrently with a TNF blocker or other biologic agent AND
   • Physician provided documentation of a therapeutic failure on, contraindication to or intolerance to a minimum 4 month trial of Humira*

   *Requires prior authorization

AUTHORIZATION DURATION: Approval will be given for an initial duration of six (6) months. For continuation of coverage, medical record documentation of clinical improvement or a lack of progression in the signs and symptoms of the targeted disease state at six (6) months of Actemra therapy is required.

After the initial six (6) month approval, subsequent approvals for coverage will be for a duration of one (1) year. Reevaluation of coverage will be every one (1) year requiring medical record documentation of continued or sustained improvement in the signs and symptoms of the targeted disease while on Actemra therapy.
LINE OF BUSINESS:
Eligibility and contract specific benefit limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supersede this policy.

This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

Devised: 3/10/10

Revised: 11/11 (added indication); 7/13 (indication added); 9/13; 2/14 (update auth period), 8/14, 11/18/14 (P&T); 12/31/14 (formulary alts updated for PJIA and RA), 9/15/15 (removed joint counts), 9/19/17 (CAR, CRS added), 9/18/18 (formulary alts updated), 1/21/20 (RA form alt)

Reviewed: 11/18/14, 9/28/16, 7/31/17, 8/30/18, 1/19/21