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Effective Date: 04/11/2024

Xolair® (omalizumab)

HCPCS: J2357

Policy:

Requests must be supported by submission of chart notes and patient specific documentation.

- A. Coverage of the requested drug is provided when all the following are met:
 - a. FDA approved age
 - b. Diagnosis of uncontrolled moderate to severe allergic asthma
 - i. Positive skin test or in-vitro reactivity to a perennial aeroallergen
 - ii. Chronic administration of systemic corticosteroids or high dose inhaled corticosteroids (listed in table 1) in combination with
 - 1. Long acting inhaled β 2 agonist (LABA) modifier for at least 3 months fails to maintain adequate control
OR
 - 2. Leukotriene modifier for at least 3 months fails to maintain adequate control
OR
 - 3. Long acting muscarinic antagonists (LAMA) in adults and children 12 years of age and older for at least 3 months fails to maintain adequate control
 - iii. IgE level greater than 30 but less than 700 IU/mL for patients 12 years of age and older
OR
IgE level greater than 30 but less than 1,300 IU/mL for patients 6 years to less than 12 years of age
 - c. Diagnosis of chronic idiopathic urticaria (CIU)
 - i. Must have occurrence of almost daily hives and itching for at least 6 weeks
 - ii. Past trial and failure of all of the following for at least 2 months:
 - 1. Trial and failure of a second-generation antihistamine at the maximal tolerated dose
AND
 - 2. Trial and failure of one of the following at maximal dosing:
 - a) Another second-generation antihistamine
 - b) H2 antagonist
 - c) Leukotriene receptor antagonist
 - d) First generation antihistamine given at bedtime
 - e) Hydroxyzine
 - f) Doxepin
 - iii. Other diagnoses have been ruled out

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- d. Diagnosis of nasal polyps
 - i. Patient is currently receiving and will continue to receive the standard of care regimen
 - ii. Inadequate response to treatment with intranasal corticosteroids
 - iii. Baseline serum total IgE level of 30 IU/mL to 1,500 IU/mL prior to initiating treatment with Xolair
- e. Diagnosis of IgE-mediated food allergy
 - i. Documentation of clinical history of allergic reaction following consumption of at least one of the following: peanuts, milk, eggs, wheat, cashews, hazelnuts, and walnuts
 - ii. Documentation of a confirmed diagnosis of an allergy to either peanuts, milk, eggs, wheat, cashews, hazelnuts, or walnuts confirmed by one of the following:
 - 1. IgE specific antibodies greater than or equal to 6 kU_A/L
 - 2. Food-specific skin prick test (SPT)
 - iii. Provider attestation that the member will be on an allergen avoidant diet while on Xolair therapy
 - iv. Must have a current prescription for epinephrine and access to an epinephrine autoinjector while using Xolair
 - v. Serum total IgE level greater than 30 but less than or equal to 1850 IU/mL for patients 12 years of age and older
 - vi. Must not be used in combination with any other food allergy desensitization therapy
- f. Cannot be used in combination with other biologic agents indicated for any of the conditions listed in the policy and other targeted DMARDs
- g. For self-administration of Xolair prefilled syringe: the patient has received the first 3 doses under the guidance of a health care provider
 - i. After the first 3 doses under the guidance of a health care provider, the member will self-administer Xolair unless clinically unable to do so
- h. Trial and failure, contraindication, OR intolerance to the preferred drugs as listed in BCBSM/BCN's utilization management medical drug list and/or BCBSM/BCN's prior authorization and step therapy documents.

B. Quantity Limitations, Authorization Period and Renewal Criteria

- a. Quantity Limits: Align with FDA recommended dosing
- b. Authorization Period: One year at a time
- c. Renewal Criteria: Clinical documentation must be provided to confirm that current criteria are met and that the medication is providing clinical benefit

***Note: Coverage and approval duration may differ for Medicare Part B members based on any applicable criteria outlined in Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) or National Coverage Determinations (NCD) as determined by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). See the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/>. Determination of coverage of Part B drugs is based on medically accepted indications which have supported citations included or approved for inclusion determined by CMS approved compendia.

Background Information:

- Xolair is an anti-IgE antibody indicated for: moderate to severe persistent asthma in adults and pediatric 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; chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps (CRSwNP) in adult patients 18 years of age and older with inadequate response to nasal corticosteroids as add-on maintenance treatment; IgE-mediated food allergy in adult and pediatric patients aged 1 year and older for the reduction of allergic reactions (type I), including anaphylaxis, that may occur with accidental exposure to one or more foods; and chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU) in adults and adolescents 12 years of age and older who remain symptomatic despite H1 antihistamine treatment. Xolair is not indicated for Not indicated for acute bronchospasm or status asthmaticus, the emergency treatment of allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, or other forms of urticaria.

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- Uncontrolled Moderate to Severe Allergic Asthma

- Per the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) 2023 guidelines, severe asthma is a subset of difficult-to-treat asthma that is uncontrolled despite adherence with maximal optimized high-dose inhaled corticosteroid (ICS)-LABA treatment and management of contributory factors, or that worsens when high-dose treatment is decreased. Severe asthma requires treatment with high dose ICS plus a second controller (and/or systemic corticosteroids) to prevent it from becoming uncontrolled or which remains uncontrolled despite therapy. Add-on treatment for severe asthma include LAMA, leukotriene receptor antagonist (LTRA), low dose azithromycin (adults) and biologic agents for severe allergic or severe type 2 asthma. Type 2 inflammation is found in a majority of people with severe asthma and is characterized by production of cytokines such as interleukin and can also include immunoglobulin E (IgE)-mediated events involving mast cells and basophils (in particular, mast cells, eosinophils, T lymphocytes, macrophages, neutrophils, and epithelial cells). Anti-IgE monoclonal antibodies reduce the levels of circulating IgE and inhibit the binding of IgE to mast cells to prevent activation of the allergic cascade and decrease inflammation.
- The GINA 2023 guidelines stepwise approach recommend those in STEP 5 to add therapy with LAMAs such as tiotropium, to refer for phenotypic assessment for biologic therapy (anti-IgE therapy, anti-IL5 therapy, or anti-IL4 therapy, or anti-thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP) therapy) and to consider high-dose maintenance ICS-formoterol with as-needed low-dose ICS-formoterol as a reliever. Using ICS-formoterol as MART (maintenance and rescue therapy) as recommended by the 2023 GINA guidelines allows for budesonide products to reach high-dose per Table 1.
- The IgE levels in the coverage criteria are based on the efficacy data from the clinical trials of these medications and where they were found to be most effective.
- Review response to biologic therapy after 4 months of treatment. If the patient had a good response, the need for each medication should re-evaluated, but do not completely stop inhaled therapy. Consider gradually decreasing or stopping oral steroids first.

- Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria

- Per the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), the Global Allergy and Asthma European Network (GA²LEN) and its Urticaria and Angioedema Centers of Reference and Excellence (UCAREs and ACAREs), the European Dermatology Forum (EDF; EuroGuiDerm), and the Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology guideline for the definition, classification, diagnosis, and management of urticaria (2022) that is endorsed by the American Academy of Dermatology and the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, chronic urticaria is defined as the occurrence of wheals, angioedema, or both for more than 6 weeks. Chronic urticaria can come with daily or almost daily signs and symptoms or an intermittent/recurrent course.
- The above guidelines recommend a 2nd generation H₁-antihistamine as first-line treatment for all types of urticaria and recommend up dosing of a 2nd generation H₁-antihistamine up to fourfold in patients with chronic urticaria unresponsive to a standard-dosed 2nd generation H₁-antihistamine as second-line treatment before other treatments are considered. It is recommended to add omalizumab for the treatment of patients with chronic urticaria unresponsive to high-dose 2nd generation H₁-antihistamines
- In the United States approximately 1.5 million people suffer from chronic idiopathic urticaria (CIU). CIU is characterized by red, swollen, itchy and sometimes painful hives on the skin that spontaneously present and re-occur for more than 6 weeks. Up to 40% of these patients may also experience angioedema. Xolair is the only other drug besides H₁-antihistamines that is FDA approved for treatment of CIU.

- Nasal Polyps

- Chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps (CRSwNP, also referred to as nasal polyposis or nasal polyps) is a chronic inflammatory disease of the nasal passage lining or sinuses that leads to bilateral, benign soft tissue growth referred to as nasal polyps. It affects 5-12% of the general population worldwide, often occurring with other immunologic conditions such as allergies and/or asthma. The polyps are characterized by elevated eosinophil levels and are most commonly seen in the third and fourth decade of life.
- The cornerstone of treatment for nasal polyps is intranasal corticosteroids as well as nasal saline sprays or irrigation. Systemic corticosteroids may also be used short term (10-15 days) to reduce severe polyp inflammation and symptoms like impaired sense of smell or severe nasal blockage.
- For patients with refractory disease that has not responded to intranasal and oral corticosteroids, biologic therapy and/or functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS) may be considered. Surgery must be followed with maintenance therapy with intranasal corticosteroids and other appropriate therapies to prevent recurrence of polyps. No comparative studies or guidelines are available that recommend one treatment option over another for refractory cases.
- Maintenance therapies are initiated once symptoms have been controlled to minimize inflammation and prevent the regrowth of nasal polyps after surgery. The mainstay of maintenance treatment is intranasal glucocorticoids. Leukotriene inhibitors may also be of benefit as adjunctive therapy, particularly if allergic rhinitis or aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease are suspected contributing factors.

- IgE-Mediated Food Allergy

- The 2010 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Food Allergies in the United States recommend suspecting a food allergy in patients presenting with anaphylaxis upon ingestion of food within minutes to hours of ingesting food; in infants, young children, and selected older children diagnosed with certain disorders, such as moderate to severe atopic dermatitis, eosinophilic esophagitis, enterocolitis, enteropathy, and food protein-induced allergic proctocolitis; and in adults diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis. Guidelines state the causative food must be identified through one of the following tests: skin prick tests, intradermal tests, total serum IgE, allergen-specific IgE, atrophy patch test, food elimination diets, or oral food challenges. In clinical trials for Xolair, the diagnosis of food allergy was confirmed through serum specific IgE levels or positive SPT for the following foods: peanuts, milk, eggs, wheat, cashews, hazelnuts, and walnuts. Patients must have had a 4 mm wheal or greater than saline control on SPT or a serum specific IgE greater than or equal to 6 kU_A/L in combination with clinical history of allergic reaction following consumption of peanuts and two other foods to be enrolled in the clinical trial.
- Xolair does not provide a cure for food allergies but reduces the risk of potentially life-threatening accidental exposure to food allergens. Xolair was superior to placebo in increasing the reaction threshold for peanut, cashew, egg, and milk. Sixty-seven percent of the participants who received Xolair were able to successfully consume at least 600 mg of peanut protein (cumulative dose, 1044 mg, equivalent to approximately 4 peanuts). This protection still requires ongoing dosing of Xolair as well as continued avoidance of allergenic foods. Despite the reduced risk of life-threatening reactions, Xolair does have several serious warnings related to its use, including anaphylaxis. Because of the risk of anaphylaxis, patients should still have a current prescription for epinephrine and access to an epinephrine autoinjector.
- Xolair requires patients have total IgE levels of 30 but less than or equal to 1850 IU/mL to adequately dose them based on their body weight. Xolair should not be used for IgE-mediated food allergy in those with total IgE levels less than 30 IU/mL or greater than 1850 IU/mL.

- Xolair has not been studied and there is no data to support use in combination with other medications used for desensitization of food allergy.
- Xolair prefilled syringes for self-administration by certain patients or their caregiver have been approved for all of the indications as the healthcare administered product. Xolair prefilled syringes were previously for clinician administration only. Xolair's lyophilized powder in single-dose vials can still only be administered by a healthcare provider. Patients should receive 3 doses of Xolair under the guidance of a healthcare provider due to risk of anaphylaxis before transitioning to self-administration.
- Xolair has not been studied and there is no data to support use in combination with other biologic agents and targeted disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) indicated for any of Xolair's approved indications.

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Policy History		
#	Date	Change Description
3.4	Effective Date: 04/11/2024	Updated to add the new indication of IgE-mediated food allergy
3.3	Effective Date: 10/12/2023	Annual review of policy; no changes were made to the criteria.
3.2	Effective Date: 10/06/2022	Updated criteria to require those who are clinically able to do so, to self-administer Xolair prefilled syringe after the three doses under the supervision of a healthcare provider
3.1	Effective Date: 10/07/2021	For asthma indication: Updated LABA and LAMA requirement to LABA or LAMA
3.0	Effective Date: 08/12/2021	Criteria updated – Self-administration after three doses provided under the guidance a healthcare provider to apply to all indications.
2.9	Effective Date: 06/10/2021	Policy update to include criteria for asthma and self administration of Xolair. The criteria for asthma was previously part of the Biologics for Asthma Policy which will be retired
2.8	Effective Date: 02/04/2021	Policy update to include nasal polyp indication and related criteria
2.7	Effective Date: 10/08/2020	Annual Review
2.6	Effective Date: 08/13/2020	Criteria updated for Fasentra
2.5	Effective Date: 4/16/2020	Criteria update for step therapy to reference dosing chart for inhaled corticosteroids.
2.4	Effective Date: 12/05/2019	Updated policy criteria to include Fasentra self-administered product
2.3	Effective Date: 11/7/2019	Criteria update to authorization period and FDA approved age
2.2	Effective Date: 08/15/2019	Updated criteria to account for new self-injectable Nucala formulation
2.1	Effective Date: 05/09/2019	Updated CIU criteria based on new guideline recommendations
2.0	Effective Date: 02/14/2019	Updated criteria for allergic asthma

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1.9	Effective Date: 11/01/2018	Criteria update (included prescriber specialty to CIU) updated pricing, and added Fasenra to cost comparison										
1.8	Effective Date: 02/12/2018	UM medical management system update for BCNA and MAPPO <table border="1" data-bbox="483 268 1365 478"> <thead> <tr> <th>Line of Business</th> <th>PA Required in Medical Management System (Yes/No)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BCBS</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BCN</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAPPO</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BCNA</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Line of Business	PA Required in Medical Management System (Yes/No)	BCBS	Yes	BCN	Yes	MAPPO	Yes	BCNA	Yes
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1.7	Effective Date: 11/09/2017	CIU Criteria Update										
1.6	Effective Date: 02/09/2017	Criteria Update										
1.5	Effective Date: 07/01/2016	UM medical management system update for BCN <table border="1" data-bbox="483 682 1365 892"> <thead> <tr> <th>Line of Business</th> <th>PA Required in Medical Management System (Yes/No)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BCBS</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BCN</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAPPO</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BCNA</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Line of Business	PA Required in Medical Management System (Yes/No)	BCBS	Yes	BCN	Yes	MAPPO	No	BCNA	No
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1.1	Effective Date: 02/13/2014	Criteria Update										
1.0	Effective Date: 07/05/2005	New Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Custom/clinical formulary: N/A - Part D: Part D Specialty - Part D Formulary Chapter: Miscellaneous Pulmonary Agents - Recommended criteria and QL 										

* The prescribing information for a drug is subject to change. To ensure you are reading the most current information it is advised that you reference the most updated prescribing information by visiting the drug or manufacturer website or <http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/index.cfm>.

Table 1: Comparative cumulative daily dosing of inhaled corticosteroids (mcg/day)

Inhaled Corticosteroid	Ages 12 and up			Ages 6-11		
	Low Dose	Medium Dose	High Dose	Low Dose	Medium Dose	High Dose
Beclometasone dipropionate HFA	100 – 200	>200 – 400	>400	50 – 100	>100 – 200	>200
Budesonide DPI	200 – 400	>400 – 800	>800	100 – 200	>200 – 400	>400
Budesonide nebulas	NA	NA	NA	250 – 500	>500 – 1,000	>1,000
Ciclesonide HFA	80 – 160	>160 – 320	>320	80	>80 – 160	>160
Fluticasone furoate DPI	100	NA	200	NA	NA	NA
Fluticasone propionate DPI	100 – 250	>250 – 500	>500	100 – 200	>200 – 400	>400
Fluticasone propionate HFA	100 – 250	>250 – 500	>500	100 – 200	>200 – 500	>500
Mometasone furoate	110 – 220	>220 – 440	>440	110	≥220 - <440	≥440
Triamcinolone acetonide	400 – 1,000	>1,000 – 2,000	>2,000	400 – 800	>800 – 1,200	>1,200

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