

## SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT

### KEVZARA (sarilumab)

#### POLICY

##### I. INDICATIONS

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered a covered benefit provided that all the approval criteria are met and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

##### FDA-Approved Indication

Kevzara is indicated for treatment of adult patients with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to one or more disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs)

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and are not a covered benefit.

##### II. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

##### **Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)**

- A. Authorization of 24 months may be granted for members who have previously received Kevzara or any other biologic DMARD or targeted synthetic DMARD (e.g., Xeljanz) indicated for moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis.
- B. Authorization of 24 months may be granted for treatment of moderately to severely active RA when any of the following criteria is met:
  1. Member has experienced an inadequate response to at least a 3-month trial of methotrexate despite adequate dosing (i.e., titrated to 20 mg/week).
  2. Member has an intolerance or contraindication to methotrexate (see Appendix).

##### III. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY

Authorization of 24 months may be granted for all members (including new members) who meet all initial authorization criteria and achieve or maintain positive clinical response after at least 3 months of therapy with Kevzara as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of RA.

##### IV. OTHER

Member has a pretreatment tuberculosis (TB) screening with a TB skin test or an interferon gamma release assay (e.g., QFT-GIT, T-SPOT.TB).

Note: Members who have received Kevzara or any other biologic DMARD or targeted synthetic DMARD (e.g., Xeljanz) are exempt from requirements related to TB screening in this Policy.

Reference number
1957-A

## V. APPENDIX: Examples of Contraindications to Methotrexate

1. Alcoholism, alcoholic liver disease or other chronic liver disease
2. Breastfeeding
3. Blood dyscrasias (e.g., thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, significant anemia)
4. Elevated liver transaminases
5. History of intolerance or adverse event
6. Hypersensitivity
7. Interstitial pneumonitis or clinically significant pulmonary fibrosis
8. Myelodysplasia
9. Pregnancy or planning pregnancy (male or female)
10. Renal impairment
11. Significant drug interaction

## VI. REFERENCES

1. Kevzara [package insert]. Bridgewater, NJ: Sanofi-aventis, U.S. LLC /Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; April 2018.
2. Genovese MC, Fleischmann R, Kivitz AJ, et al. Sarilumab plus methotrexate in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis and inadequate response to methotrexate: results of a phase III study. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* June 2015;67(6):1424-37.
3. Strand V, Reaney M, Chen C, et al. Sarilumab improves patient-reported outcomes in rheumatoid arthritis patients with inadequate response/intolerance to tumour necrosis factor inhibitors. *RMD Open.* 2017; 3:e000416. doi: 10.1136/rmdopen-2016-000416.