| Effective Date: 12/2018 |
| --- |
| Reviewed: 12/18, 7/19, 4/20, 3/21, 2/22, 1/23, 12/23, 01/24<br>Pharmacy Scope: Medicaid<br>Medical Scope: Commercial , Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP) |

**SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT**

# FASENRA (benralizumab)

## POLICY

### Policy Statement:

Fasenra (benralizumab) is covered under the Pharmacy Benefit for Medicaid members and covered under the Medical Benefit for Commercial and MMP members when used within the following guidelines. Use outside of these guidelines may result in non-payment unless approved under an exception process.

## 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
Fasenra is indicated for the add-on maintenance treatment of patients with severe asthma aged 12 years and older, and with an eosinophilic phenotype.

*Limitations of Use:*

- Not for treatment of other eosinophilic conditions
- Not for relief of acute bronchospasm or status asthmaticus

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

## II. DOCUMENTATION

Submission of the following information is necessary to initiate the prior authorization review:

A. Initial requests:
   1. Documentation of baseline blood eosinophil count and components of severity that classify asthma as severe
   2. Baseline documentation of one of the following:
      a. Use of systemic corticosteroids
      b. Use of inhaled corticosteroids
      c. Number of hospitalizations, ER visits, or unscheduled visits to healthcare provider due to asthma condition
      d. Forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1)

B. Continuation of therapy requests: documentation of improved asthma control

## III. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of asthma when all of the following criteria are met:

A. Member is 12 years of age or older.
B. Fasenra is prescribed by, or in consultation with, a pulmonologist or allergist/immunologist.
C. Member has clinically documented severe asthma (see Appendix).
D. Member has asthma with an eosinophilic phenotype with documentation of blood eosinophil count of ≥150 cells per μL within 6 weeks of starting therapy.
E. Member is adherent to current treatment with both of the following medications at optimized doses for at least 3 months:
    1. Inhaled corticosteroid
    2. Additional controller medication (long acting beta$_2$-agonist, long-acting muscarinic antagonists, , leukotriene modifier), unless contraindicated or not tolerated
F. Must NOT be used for either of the following:
    1. Treatment of other eosinophilic conditions (e.g., allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis/mycosis, Churg-Strauss syndrome, hypereosinophilic syndrome, etc.)
    2. Relief of acute bronchospasm or status asthmaticus;
G. Member has inadequate asthma control with two or more exacerbations in the previous year requiring additional medical treatment (e.g., oral corticosteroids, emergency department or urgent care visits, or hospitalizations).
H. Baseline measurements of at least one of the following for assessment of clinical status:
    1. Use of systemic corticosteroids
    2. Use of inhaled corticosteroids
    3. Number of hospitalizations, ER visits, or unscheduled visits to healthcare provider due to condition
    4. Forced expiratory volume in 1 second ($FEV_1$)
I. Member will not use Fasenra concomitantly with other anti-IgE, anti-IL4, anti-IL5, or IgG2 lambda monoclonal antibody agents (e.g., Dupixent, Fasenra, Nucala, Xolair, Tezspire)
J. Member will use Fasenra as add-on maintenance treatment.
K. MMP members who have previously received this medication within the past 365 days are not subject to Step Therapy Requirements.

## IV. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of asthma when all of the following criteria are met:

A. Member is 12 years of age or older.
B. Fasenra is prescribed by, or in consultation with, a pulmonologist or allergist/immunologist.
C. Member is tolerating treatment.
D. Improvement in asthma symptoms or asthma exacerbations as evidenced by a decrease in one or more of the following:
   a. Use of systemic corticosteroids
   b. Two-fold or greater decrease in inhaled corticosteroid use for at least 3 days
   c. Hospitalizations
   d. ER visits
   e. Unscheduled visits to healthcare provider; OR
   f. Improvement from baseline in forced expiratory volume in 1 second ($FEV_1$); AND
E. Member will use Fasenra as add-on maintenance treatment.
F. Member will not use Fasenra concomitantly with other anti-IgE, anti-IL4, anti-IL5, or IgG2 lambda monoclonal antibody agents (e.g., Dupixent, Fasenra, Nucala, Xolair, Tezspire

## II. QUANTITY LIMIT

Fasenra has a quantity limit of 1 syringe per 56 days, with post-limit of 3 syringes per 84 days.

Per §§ 42 CFR 422.101, this clinical medical policy only applies to INTEGRITY in the absence of National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD)

## III. DOSAGE/ADMINISTRATION:

| **Indication** | **Dose** | **Maximum dose (1 billable unit = *1* mg)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Severe Asthma with eosinophilic phenotype | 30 mg administered subcutaneously, every 4 weeks for the first three doses and then once every 8 weeks thereafter<br>NOTE:<br>• Fasenra single-dose pre-filled syringe is for administration by a healthcare provider.<br>• Fasenra Pen single-dose autoinjector is intended for | Loading: 30 mg (30 units) every 28 days x 3 doses<br>Maintenance: 30 mg (30 units) every 56 days |

| | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | administration by patients/caregivers. Patients/caregivers may inject after proper training in subcutaneous injection technique, and after the healthcare provider determines it is appropriate. | |

## IV. HCPCS code

| HCPCS/CPT Code | Description |
| --- | --- |
| J0517 | Injection, benralizumab, 1mg |

## V. APPENDIX

**Components of Severity for Classifying Asthma as Severe may include any of the following (not all-inclusive):**

1. Symptoms throughout the day
2. Nighttime awakenings, often 7x/week
3. Short-acting beta agonist (SABA) use for symptom control occurs several times per day
4. Extremely limited normal activities
5. Lung function (percent predicted FEV1) <60%
6. Exacerbations requiring oral systemic corticosteroids are generally more frequent and intense relative to moderate asthma

**References:**

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5. Goldman M, Hirsch I, Zangrilli JG, et al. The association between blood eosinophil count and benralizumab efficacy for patients with severe, uncontrolled asthma: subanalyses of the Phase III

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6. The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention, 2017. Available from: www.ginasthma.org.
7. Chung KF, Wenzel SE, Brozek JL, et al. International ERS/ATS Guidelines on Definition, Evaluation, and Treatment of Severe Asthma. Eur Respir J 2014; 43: 343-373.