

Clinical Policy: Golimumab (Simponi, Simponi Aria)

Reference Number: MDN.CP.PHAR.253

Effective Date: 04.01.22

Last Review Date: 04.22

Line of Business: Meridian IL 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 patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis who have demonstrated corticosteroid dependence or who have had an inadequate response to or failed to tolerate oral aminosalicylates, oral corticosteroids, azathioprine, or 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP) for:
 - inducing and maintaining clinical response
 - improving endoscopic appearance of the mucosa during induction
 - inducing clinical remission
 - achieving and sustaining clinical remission in induction responders

Simponi Aria is indicated for the treatment of:

- Adult patients with moderately to severely active RA in combination with methotrexate
- 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 \geq 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 contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Failure of TWO of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced: Cimzia[®], Enbrel[®], Humira[®], Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR[®];
**Prior authorization may be required for Cimzia, Enbrel, Humira, and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR*
6. 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: 6 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. Documented baseline 10-joint clinical juvenile arthritis disease activity score (cJADAS-10) (*see Appendix J*);
6. Member meets one of the following (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. Documented presence of high disease activity as evidenced by a cJADAS-10 > 8.5 (*see Appendix J*);
7. Failure of TWO of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a, b, and c):
 - a. Enbrel[®];
 - b. Humira[®];
 - c. Xeljanz[®]/Xeljanz XR[®];
**Prior authorization may be required for Enbrel, Humira, and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR*
8. Dose does not exceed 80 mg/m² IV at weeks 0 and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 80 mg/m² every 8 weeks (*see Appendix F for dose rounding guidelines*).

Approval duration: 6 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. Failure of TWO of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (a, b, c, and d):
 - a. Cimzia[®];
 - b. Enbrel[®];
 - c. Humira[®];
 - d. Xeljanz[®]/Xeljanz XR[®];

**Prior authorization may be required for Cimzia, Enbrel, Humira, and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR*
5. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Simponi: 50 mg SC once monthly;
 - b. Simponi Aria:
 - 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/m² IV at weeks 0 and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 80 mg/m² every 8 weeks (*see Appendix F for dose rounding guidelines*).

Approval duration: 6 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 (a or b):
 - a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of MTX at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
 - b. If intolerance or contraindication to MTX (*see Appendix D*), 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 contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Failure of TWO of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (a, b, c, and d):
 - a. Cimzia[®];
 - b. Enbrel[®];
 - c. Humira[®];
 - d. Xeljanz[®]/Xeljanz XR[®];

**Prior authorization may be required for Cimzia, Enbrel, Humira, 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. 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: 6 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. Age ≥ 18 years;
5. Documentation of a Mayo Score ≥ 6 (*see Appendix E*);
6. Failure of an 8-week trial of systemic corticosteroids, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
7. Failure of BOTH of the following, each used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced: Humira[®], Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR[®];
**Prior authorization may be required for Humira and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR*
8. Dose does not exceed 200 mg at week 0, 100 mg at week 2, followed by maintenance dose of 100 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

F. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

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

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met all initial approval criteria;
2. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - 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 pJIA: Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by a decrease in cJADAS-10 from baseline (*see Appendix J*);
 - c. For all other indications: Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, c, or d):
 - a. RA, PsA, AS (Simponi): 50 mg SC once monthly;
 - b. UC (Simponi): 100 mg SC every 4 weeks;
 - c. AS, PsA, RA (Simponi Aria) Adults: 2 mg/kg IV every 8 weeks;*

- d. PJIA, PsA (Simponi Aria) Pediatrics: 80 mg/m² 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. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.

Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or

2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): 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 of biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs), including any tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists [Cimzia[®], Enbrel[®], Simponi[®], Avsola[™], Inflectra[™], Remicade[®], Renflexis[™]], interleukin agents [Arcalyst[®] (IL-1 blocker), Ilaris[®] (IL-1 blocker), Kineret[®] (IL-1RA), Actemra[®] (IL-6RA), Kevzara[®] (IL-6RA), Stelara[®] (IL-12/23 inhibitor), Cosentyx[®] (IL-17A inhibitor), Taltz[®] (IL-17A inhibitor), Siliq[™] (IL-17RA), Ilumya[™] (IL-23 inhibitor), Skyrizi[™] (IL-23 inhibitor), Tremfya[®] (IL-23 inhibitor)], janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) [Xeljanz[®]/Xeljanz[®] XR, Rinvoq[™]], anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies [Rituxan[®], Riabni[™], Ruxience[™], Truxima[®], and Rituxan Hycela[®]], selective co-stimulation modulators [Orencia[®]], or integrin receptor antagonists [Entyvio[®]] because of the possibility of increased immunosuppression, neutropenia and increased risk of infection.

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

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 budesonide (Uceris [®]) 9 mg PO QD	Varies
Cuprimine [®] (d-penicillamine)	RA* <u>Initial dose:</u> 125 or 250 mg PO QD <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 500 – 750 mg/day PO QD	1,500 mg/day
cyclosporine (Sandimmune [®] , Neoral [®])	RA 2.5 – 4 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	4 mg/kg/day
hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil [®])	RA* <u>Initial dose:</u> 400 – 600 mg PO QD <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 200 – 400 mg PO QD	600 mg/day
leflunomide (Arava [®])	RA 100 mg PO QD for 3 days, then 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 (Rheumatrex [®])	RA 7.5 mg/week PO, SC, or IM or 2.5 mg PO Q12 hr for 3 doses/week UC* 15 – 25 mg/week IM or SC 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 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)	RA	IV: 800 mg every 4 weeks SC: 162 mg every week

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	<p>IV: 4 mg/kg every 4 weeks followed by an increase to 8 mg/kg every 4 weeks based on clinical response</p> <p>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</p>	
Enbrel [®] (etanercept)	<p>AS 50 mg SC once weekly</p> <p>PsA, RA 25 mg SC twice weekly or 50 mg SC once weekly</p> <p>pJIA Weight < 63 kg: 0.8 mg/kg SC once weekly Weight ≥ 63 kg: 50 mg SC once weekly</p>	50 mg/week
Cimzia [®] (certolizumab)	<p>AS <u>Initial dose:</u> 400 mg SC at 0, 2, and 4 weeks <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 200 mg SC every other week (or 400 mg SC every 4 weeks)</p>	400 mg every 4 weeks
Kevzara [®] (sarilumab)	<p>RA 200 mg SC once every two weeks</p>	200 mg/2 weeks
Otezla [®] (apremilast)	<p>PsA <u>Initial dose:</u> 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</p> <p><u>Maintenance dose:</u> Day 6 and thereafter: 30 mg PO BID</p>	60 mg/day

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Taltz [®] (ixekizumab)	AS, PsA <u>Initial dose:</u> 160 mg (two 80 mg injections) SC at week 0 <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 80 mg SC every 4 weeks PsO <u>Initial dose:</u> 160 mg (two 80 mg injections) SC at week 0, then 80 mg SC at weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 80 mg SC every 4 weeks	80 mg every 4 weeks
Xeljanz [®] (tofacitinib)	PsA, RA 5 mg PO BID pJIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	PJIA, PsA, RA: 10 mg/day
Xeljanz XR [®] (tofacitinib extended-release)	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

Appendix E: Mayo 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
6 – 10	Moderate activity
>10	Severe activity

- The following may be considered for medical justification supporting inability to use an immunomodulator for ulcerative colitis:
 - Documentation of Mayo Score 6 – 12 indicative of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis.

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) <i>and</i> negative anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA)	0
	Low positive RF <i>or</i> low positive ACPA <i>* Low: < 3 x upper limit of normal</i>	2
	High positive RF <i>or</i> high positive ACPA <i>* High: ≥ 3 x upper limit of normal</i>	3
C	Acute phase reactants (at least one test result is needed for classification)	

B	Serology (at least one test result is needed for classification)	
	Negative rheumatoid factor (RF) <i>and</i> negative anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA)	0
	Low positive RF <i>or</i> low positive ACPA <i>* Low: < 3 x upper limit of normal</i>	2
	High positive RF <i>or</i> high positive ACPA <i>* High: ≥ 3 x upper limit of normal</i>	3
D	Normal C-reactive protein (CRP) and normal erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)	0
	Abnormal CRP or abnormal ESR	1
	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: Clinical Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score based on 10 joints (cJADAS-10)

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
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 Dose
Golimumab (Simponi)	AS	50 mg SC once monthly	50 mg/month
	PsA		
	RA		
	UC	<u>Initial dose:</u> 200 mg SC at week 0, then 100 mg SC at week 2 <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 100 mg SC every 4 weeks	100 mg every 4 weeks
Golimumab (Simponi Aria)	AS	<u>Adults: Initial dose (AS, PsA, RA):</u> 2 mg/kg IV at weeks 0 and 4 <u>Adults: Maintenance dose (AS, PsA, RA):</u> 2 mg/kg IV every 8 weeks <u>Pediatrics: Initial dose (PsA, PJIA):</u> 80 mg/m ² IV at weeks 0 and 4 <u>Pediatrics: Maintenance dose (PsA, PJIA):</u> 80 mg/m ² IV every 8 weeks	Adults (AS, PsA, RA): 2 mg/kg every 8 weeks
	PsA		
	RA		
	PJIA		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

VII. References

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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

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created, adapted from CP.PHAR.253	04.01.22	04.22

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.

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