

Clinical Policy: Secukinumab (Cosentyx)

Reference Number: MDN.CP.PHAR.261

Effective Date: 04.01.22

Last Review Date: 12.22.22

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

Secukinumab (Cosentyx[®]) is an interleukin-17A (IL-17A) antagonist.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Cosentyx is indicated for the treatment of:

- Moderate to severe plaque psoriasis (PsO) in patients 6 years and older who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy
- Adults with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)
- Adults with active ankylosing spondylitis (AS)
- Adults with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) with objective signs of inflammation

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 Cosentyx is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Axial Spondyloarthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of AS or nr-axSpA;
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 \geq 4 weeks unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
5. For AS:
 - a. Failure of at least TWO of the following, each used for \geq 3 consecutive months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced: Enbrel[®], Humira[®], Cimzia[®];
 - b. If member has not responded or is intolerant to one or more TNF blockers, Xeljanz[®]/Xeljanz XR[®], unless member has cardiovascular risk and benefits do not outweigh the risk of treatment;

**Prior authorization is required for Enbrel, Humira, Cimzia, and Xeljanz/Xeljanz KR*

6. For nr-axSpA: Failure of Cimzia, used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated:

**Prior authorization is required for Cimzia*

**Prior authorization may be required for Cimzia, , Humira, and Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR*

7. Dose does not exceed 150 mg at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 150 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Plaque Psoriasis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of moderate-to-severe PsO as evidenced by involvement of one of the following (a or b):
 - a. $\geq 3\%$ of total body surface area;
 - . Hands, feet, scalp, face, or genital area;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist or rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 6 years;
4. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of methotrexate (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 cyclosporine or acitretin at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;
 - c. Member has intolerance or contraindication to MTX and cyclosporine, and failure of phototherapy, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Dose does not exceed the following:
 - a. Age ≥ 18 years: 300 mg at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 300 mg every 4 weeks;
 - b. Age 6 to 17 years and weight < 50 kg: 75 mg at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 75 mg every 4 weeks;
 - c. Age 6 to 17 years and weight ≥ 50 kg: 150 mg at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 150 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

C. Psoriatic Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of PsA;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist or rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 2 years;
5. 4. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized)
6. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. PsA alone: 150 mg at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 150 mg every 4 weeks;
 - b. PsA with PsO: 300 mg at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 300 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

D. Enthesitis-related Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of ERA;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
3. Age ≥ 4 years and < 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 clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
5. 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;
 - b. Member has intolerance or contraindication to MTX (see Appendix D), and failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of at least ONE conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (e.g., sulfasalazine, leflunomide) at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. If disease is polyarticular (≥ 5 joints ever involved), failure of the following, used for ≥ 3 consecutive months, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated: Enbrel®;
7. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized);
8. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Weight > 15 kg and < 50 kg: 75 mg at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 75 mg every 4 weeks;
 - b. Weight ≥ 50 kg: 150 mg at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 150 mg every 4 weeks. Approval duration: 6 months

D. 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 initial approval criteria;
2. 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, or c):
 - a. PsO alone (i, ii, or iii):
 - i. Age \geq 18 years: 300 mg every 4 weeks;
 - ii. Age 6 to 17 years and weight $<$ 50 kg: 75 mg every 4 weeks;
 - iii. Age 6 to 17 years and weight \geq 50 kg: 150 mg every 4 weeks;
 - b. PsA (i or ii):
 - i. 150 mg every 4 weeks;
 - ii. 300 mg every 4 weeks, if documentation supports inadequate response to a ? 3 consecutive month trial of 150 mg every 4 weeks or member has coexistent PsO;
 - c. AS, nr-axSpA (i or ii):
 - i. 150 mg every 4 weeks;
 - ii. For AS only: 300 mg every 4 weeks, if documentation supports inadequate response to a \geq 3 consecutive month trial of 150 mg every 4 weeks. **Approval duration: 12 months (If new dosing regimen, approve for 6 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

AS: ankylosing spondylitis

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

IL-17A: interleukin-17A

MTX: methotrexate

nr-axSpA: non-radiographic axial
spondyloarthritis

NSAID: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory
drug

PsA: psoriatic arthritis

PsO: plaque psoriasis

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 for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
acitretin (Soriatane®)	PsO 25 or 50 mg PO QD	50 mg/day
cyclosporine (Sandimmune®, Neoral®)	PsO 2.5 – 4 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	4 mg/kg/day
methotrexate (Rheumatrex®)	PsO 10 – 25 mg/week PO or 2.5 mg PO Q12 hr for 3 doses/week	30 mg/week
NSAIDs (e.g., indomethacin, ibuprofen, naproxen, celecoxib)	AS, nr-axSpA Varies	Varies
Enbrel® (etanercept)	AS, nr-axSpA 50 mg SC once weekly PsA 25 mg SC twice weekly or 50 mg SC once weekly	50 mg/week
Cimzia® (certolizumab)	AS, nr-axSpA Initial dose: 400 mg SC at 0, 2, and 4	400 mg every 4 weeks
	weeks	
	Maintenance dose: 200 mg SC every other week (or 400 mg SC every 4 weeks)	

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Otezla® (apremilast)	PsA Initial dose:	60 mg/day
	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	
	Maintenance dose:	
	Day 6 and thereafter: 30 mg PO BID	
Taltz® (ixekizumab)	AS, nr-axSpA, PsA Initial dose: 160 mg (two 80 mg injections) SC at week 0 Maintenance dose:	80 mg every 4 weeks
	80 mg SC every 4 weeks	
	PsO Initial dose:	
	160 mg (two 80 mg injections) SC at week 0, then 80 mg SC at weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 Maintenance dose:	
	80 mg SC every 4 weeks	
Xeljanz® (tofacitinib)	PsA 5 mg PO BID	10 mg/day
Xeljanz XR® (tofacitinib extended-release)	PsA 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): serious hypersensitivity reaction to secukinumab or to any of the excipients
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

Appendix C: 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
- PsA: According to the 2018 American College of Rheumatology and National Psoriasis Foundation guidelines, TNF inhibitors or oral small molecules (e.g., methotrexate, sulfasalazine, cyclosporine, leflunomide, apremilast) are preferred over other biologics (e.g., interleukin-17 inhibitors or interleukin-12/23 inhibitors) for treatment-naïve disease. TNF inhibitors are also generally recommended over oral small molecules as first-line therapy unless disease is not severe, member prefers oral agents, or TNF inhibitor therapy is contraindicated.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
PsO (with or without PsA)	<p>Adults: 300 mg SC at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4, followed by 300 mg SC every 4 weeks. (for some patients, a dose of 150 mg may be acceptable)</p> <p>Pediatric patients age 6 to 17 years and weight < 50 kg (PsO only): 75 mg SC at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 75 mg every 4 weeks</p> <p>Pediatric patients age 6 to 17 years and weight ≥ 50 kg (PsO only): 150 mg SC at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4, followed by maintenance dose of 150 mg every 4 weeks</p>	<p>Adults: 300 mg every 4 weeks</p> <p>Pediatric patients: 150 mg every 4 weeks</p>
PsA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With loading dose: 150 mg SC at week 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4, followed by 150 mg SC every 4 weeks • Without loading dose: 150 mg SC every 4 weeks. • If a patient continues to have active psoriatic arthritis, consider a dosage of 300 mg. 	300 mg every 4 weeks
AS, nr-axSpA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With loading dose: 150 mg SC at weeks 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4, followed by 150 mg SC every 4 weeks thereafter • Without loading dose: 150 mg SC every 4 weeks. • For AS only: if a patient continues to have active ankylosing spondylitis, consider a dosage of 300 mg. 	<p>AS: 300 mg every 4 weeks nr-axSpA: 150 mg every 4 weeks (after loading doses)</p>

VI. Product Availability

- Single-dose Sensoready[®] pen: 150 mg/mL
- Single-dose prefilled syringe: 75 mg/0.5 mL, 150 mg/mL
- Single-use vial: 150 mg

VII. References

1. Cosentyx Prescribing Information. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; May 2021. Available at: <https://www.cosentyx.com/>. Accessed June 4, 2021.
2. Boulos P, Dougados M, MacLeod SM, et al. Pharmacological Treatment of Ankylosing Spondylitis. *Drugs*. 2005; 65: 2111-2127.
3. Menter A, Gottlieb A, Feldman SR, Van Voorhees AS, Leonardi CL, Gordon KB, et al. American Academy of Dermatology. Guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis: Section 1. Overview of psoriasis and guidelines of care for the treatment of psoriasis with biologics. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2008; 58 (5):826-50.
4. Menter A, Korman NJ, Elmets CA, Feldman SR, Gelfand JM, Gordon KM, et al. American Academy of Dermatology. Guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis: section 4. Guidelines of care for the management and treatment of psoriasis with traditional systemic agents. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2009; 6(3):451-85.
5. Gossec L, Smolen JS, Ramiro S, et al European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) recommendations for the management of psoriatic arthritis with pharmacological therapies: 2015 update *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*. Published Online First: 07 December 2015. doi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2015-208337.
6. van der Heijde D, Ramiro S, Landewe R, et al. 2016 update of the ASAS-EULAR management recommendations for axial spondyloarthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2017;76:978-991. doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2016-210770.
7. Menter A, Strober BE, Kaplan DH, et al. Joint AAD-NPF guidelines of care for the management and treatment of psoriasis with biologics. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2019;80:1029-72. doi:10.1016/j.aad.201811.057.
8. Singh JA, Guyatt G, Ogdie A, et al. 2018 American College of Rheumatology/National Psoriasis Foundation Guideline for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis. *American College of Rheumatology*. 2019; 71(1):5-32. doi: 10.1002/art.40726
9. Ward MM, Deodhar A, Gensler LS, et al. 2019 update of the American College of Rheumatology/Spondylitis Association of America/Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network recommendations for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis and nonradiographic axial spondyloarthritis. *Arthritis & Rheumatology*. 2019. doi: 10.1002/art.41042.

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.

HCP Codes	Description
J3590	Unclassified biologics

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created, adapted from CP.PHAR.261	04.01.22	04.22
RT4: applied FDA-approved pediatric use extension down to 2 years of age for active PsA; for PsA, modified redirection to apply for age 18 or older; added newly approved indication for active ERA; for PsO, allowed phototherapy as alternative to systemic conventional DMARD if contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced; removed redirection to Enbrel and Actemra; updated redirections in section I per HFS PDL	12.22.22	

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. ©2016 Centene Corporation. All rights reserved. All materials are exclusively owned by Centene Corporation and are protected by United States copyright law and international copyright law. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, modified, distributed, displayed, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means, or otherwise published without the prior written permission of Centene Corporation. You may not alter or remove any trademark, copyright or other notice contained herein. Centene® and Centene Corporation® are registered trademarks exclusive12Q 2022 annual review: for AS, added redirection to Xeljanz if failed prior TNF blocker per August SDC and updated FDA labeling; RT4: applied FDA-approved pediatric use extension down to 2 years of age for active PsA; for PsA, modified redirection to apply for age 18 or older; added newly approved indication for active ERA; for PsO, allowed phototherapy as alternative to systemic conventional DMARD if contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced; references reviewed and updated.

y owned by Centene Corporation.