AETNA BETTER HEALTH®
Coverage Policy/Guideline

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Effective Date:	4/21/2025	Last Review Date:	3/26/2025

Applies to: ☒Illinois ☒Florida Kids ☒New Jersey ☒Maryland ☒Pennsylvania Kids ☒Virginia ☒Kentucky PRMD

Intent:

The intent of this policy/guideline is to provide information to the prescribing practitioner outlining the coverage criteria for Krystexxa under the patient's prescription drug benefit.

Description:

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
Krystexxa is indicated for the treatment of chronic gout in adult patient's refractory to conventional therapy.

Limitations of Use
Krystexxa is not recommended for the treatment of asymptomatic hyperuricemia.

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and not medically necessary.

Applicable Drug List:

Krystexxa

Policy/Guideline:

Documentation:

Submission of the following information is necessary to initiate the prior authorization review for continuation of therapy requests: documentation (e.g., chart notes, lab test results) of a response to therapy (e.g., serum uric acid levels < 6 mg/dL, reduction of tophi, reduction of symptoms and/or flares).

Criteria for Initial Approval:

Chronic gout

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members with a diagnosis of chronic gout when ALL of the following criteria are met:

A. Member is 18 years of age or older.
B. The requested medication will NOT be used concomitantly with oral urate-lowering therapies.
C. The member has at least 2 flares per year that were inadequately controlled by colchicine or NSAIDs or at least 1 gout tophus or gouty arthritis.

D. Member has had an inadequate response to or a clinical reason for not completing at least a three-month trial (see Appendix A) with the following medications at the medically appropriate maximum doses:
   1. Allopurinol or febuxostat
   2. Probenecid (alone or in combination with allopurinol or febuxostat)
E. The member meets one of the following criteria:
   1. The requested medication will be co-administered with weekly oral methotrexate and folic acid or folinic acid supplementation, or
   2. The member has a contraindication to or clinical reason to avoid oral methotrexate therapy (see Appendix B).

Continuation of Therapy:

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for continued treatment of chronic gout when ALL of the following criteria are met:

A. Member is 18 years of age or older.
B. The requested medication will NOT be used concomitantly with oral urate-lowering therapies.
C. The member meets one of the following:
   1. The requested medication will be co-administered with weekly oral methotrexate and folic acid or folinic acid supplementation, or
   2. The member has a contraindication to or clinical reason to avoid oral methotrexate therapy (see Appendix B).
D. Member has NOT had two consecutive uric acid levels above 6 mg/dL since starting treatment with Krystexxa.
E. Member is experiencing benefit from therapy (e.g., serum uric acid levels < 6 mg/dL, reduction of tophi, reduction of symptoms and/or flares).

Appendices:

Appendix A: Clinical reasons for not completing a three-month trial with allopurinol, febuxostat, and probenecid (examples, not all inclusive):

A. Member experienced a severe allergic reaction to the medication
B. Member experienced toxicity with the medication
C. Member could not tolerate the medication
D. Member's current medication regimen has a significant drug interaction
E. Member has severe renal dysfunction (allopurinol)
F. Member has known blood dyscrasias or uric acid kidney stones (probenecid)
G. Member has renal insufficiency (i.e., glomerular filtration rate 30 mL/minute or less) (probenecid)
H. Member has end stage renal impairment (febuxostat)
I. Member has a history of CVD or a new CV event (febuxostat)

Appendix B: Contraindications/clinical reasons to avoid oral methotrexate therapy (examples, not all inclusive):

A. Clinical diagnosis of alcohol use disorder, alcoholic liver disease, or other chronic liver disease
B. Breastfeeding
C. Blood dyscrasias (e.g., thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, significant anemia)
D. Elevated liver transaminases
E. History of intolerance or adverse event
F. Hypersensitivity
G. Interstitial pneumonitis or clinically significant pulmonary fibrosis
H. Myelodysplasia
I. Pregnancy or currently planning pregnancy
J. Renal impairment
K. Significant drug interaction

Approval Duration and Quantity Restrictions:

Approval: 12 months

References:

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4. Richette P, Doherty M, Pascual E, et al. 2016 updated EULAR evidence-based recommendations for the management of gout. Ann Rheum Dis. 2017;76:29-42.
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7. Sivera F, Andres M, Carmona L, et al. Multinational evidence-based recommendations for the diagnosis and management of gout: integrating systematic literature review and expert opinion of a broad panel of rheumatologists in the 3e initiative. Ann Rheum Dis. 2014;73(2):328-335.
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9. Febuxostat [package insert]. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.; May 2023.
10. FitzGerald JD, Dalbeth N, Mikuls T, et al. 2020 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Management of Gout [published correction appears in Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken). 2020 Aug;72(8):1187]. Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken). 2020;72(6):744-760.
11. Methotrexate [package insert]. Cranbury, NJ: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.; August 2021.