



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®
Coverage Policy/Guideline

Name: Orencia

Page: 1 of 8

Effective Date: 2/1/2024

Last Review Date: 11/2023

Applies to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky PRMD

Intent:

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

Description:

A. FDA-Approved Indications

1. Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis in adults
2. Moderately to severely active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis in patients 2 years of age or older
3. Active psoriatic arthritis in adults
4. Prophylaxis of acute graft versus host disease (aGVHD), in combination with a calcineurin inhibitor and methotrexate, in adults and pediatric patients 2 years of age and older undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) from a matched or 1 allele-mismatched unrelated-donor

B. Compendial Uses

1. Oligoarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis
2. Chronic graft versus host disease
3. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicity

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

Applicable Drug List:

Non-preferred: Orencia

Policy/Guideline:

Documentation for all indications:

The patient is unable to take TWO preferred products (a preferred adalimumab product, Enbrel, Kevzara, Otezla or Rinvoq), where indicated, for the given diagnosis due to a trial and inadequate treatment response or intolerance, or a contraindication. Documentation is required for approval.

Documentation:

A. **Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)**

1. Initial requests:



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®
Coverage Policy/Guideline

Name: Orencia

Page: 2 of 8

Effective Date: 2/1/2024

Last Review Date: 11/2023

Applies to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky PRMD

- i. Chart notes, medical record documentation, or claims history supporting previous medications tried (if applicable), including response to therapy. If therapy is not advisable, documentation of clinical reason to avoid therapy.
 - ii. Laboratory results, chart notes, or medical record documentation of biomarker testing (i.e., rheumatoid factor [RF], anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide [anti-CCP], and C-reactive protein [CRP] and/or erythrocyte sedimentation rate [ESR]) (if applicable).
2. Continuation requests: Chart notes or medical record documentation supporting positive clinical response.

B. Articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)

1. Initial requests: Chart notes, medical record documentation, or claims history supporting previous medications tried (if applicable), including response to therapy.
2. Continuation requests: Chart notes or medical record documentation supporting positive clinical response.

C. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)

1. Initial requests: Chart notes, medical record documentation, or claims history supporting previous medications tried (if applicable), including response to therapy. If therapy is not advisable, documentation of clinical reason to avoid therapy.
2. Continuation requests: Chart notes or medical record documentation supporting positive clinical response.

D. Chronic graft versus host disease: For initial requests: Chart notes, medical record documentation, or claims history supporting previous medications tried (if applicable), including response to therapy. If therapy is not advisable, documentation of clinical reason to avoid therapy.

Prescriber Specialty:

This medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with one of the following:

- A. Rheumatoid arthritis and articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis: rheumatologist
- B. Psoriatic arthritis: rheumatologist or dermatologist
- C. Prophylaxis of acute graft versus host disease (aGVHD), chronic GVHD, and immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicity: oncologist or hematologist

Criteria for Initial Approval:

A. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®
Coverage Policy/Guideline

Name: Orencia

Page: 3 of 8

Effective Date: 2/1/2024

Last Review Date: 11/2023

Applies to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky PRMD

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for adult members who have previously received a biologic or targeted synthetic drug indicated for moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis.
2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for adult members for treatment of moderately to severely active RA when all of the following criteria are met:
 - i. Member meets either of the following criteria:
 - a. Member has been tested for either of the following biomarkers and the test was positive:
 1. Rheumatoid factor (RF)
 2. Anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (anti-CCP)
 - b. Member has been tested for ALL of the following biomarkers:
 1. RF
 2. Anti-CCP
 3. C-reactive protein (CRP) and/or erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)
 - ii. Member meets either of the following criteria:
 - a. Member has experienced an inadequate response to at least a 3-month trial of methotrexate despite adequate dosing (i.e., titrated to at least 15 mg/week).
 - b. Member has an intolerance or contraindication to methotrexate (see Appendix A).

B. Articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members 2 years of age and older who have previously received a biologic or targeted synthetic drug indicated for moderately to severely active articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis.
2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for members 2 years of age and older for treatment of moderately to severely active articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis when any of the following criteria is met:
 - i. Member has had an inadequate response to methotrexate or another conventional synthetic drug (e.g., leflunomide, sulfasalazine, hydroxychloroquine) administered at an adequate dose and duration.
 - ii. Member has had an inadequate response to a trial of scheduled non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and/or intra-articular glucocorticoids (e.g., triamcinolone hexacetonide) and one of the following risk factors for poor outcome:
 - a. Involvement of ankle, wrist, hip, sacroiliac joint, and/or temporomandibular joint (TMJ)
 - b. Presence of erosive disease or enthesitis



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®
Coverage Policy/Guideline

Name: Orencia

Page: 4 of 8

Effective Date: 2/1/2024

Last Review Date: 11/2023

Applies to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky PRMD

- c. Delay in diagnosis
- d. Elevated levels of inflammation markers
- e. Symmetric disease
- iii. Member has risk factors for disease severity and potentially a more refractory disease course (see Appendix B) and member also meets one of the following:
 - a. High-risk joints are involved (e.g., cervical spine, wrist, or hip).
 - b. Has high disease activity.
 - c. Is judged to be at high risk for disabling joint disease.

C. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for adult members who have previously received a biologic or targeted synthetic drug indicated for active psoriatic arthritis.
2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for adult members for treatment of active psoriatic arthritis when either of the following criteria is met:
 - i. Member has mild to moderate disease and meets one of the following criteria:
 - a. Member has had an inadequate response to methotrexate, leflunomide, or another conventional synthetic drug (e.g., sulfasalazine) administered at an adequate dose and duration.
 - b. Member has an intolerance or contraindication to methotrexate or leflunomide (see Appendix A), or another conventional synthetic drug (e.g., sulfasalazine).
 - c. Member has enthesitis or predominantly axial disease.
 - ii. Member has severe disease.

D. Prophylaxis of acute graft versus host disease

Authorization of 1 month may be granted for prophylaxis of acute graft versus host disease in members 2 years of age and older when both of the following criteria are met:

1. Member is undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) from a matched or 1 allele-mismatched unrelated-donor.
2. The requested medication will be used in combination with a calcineurin inhibitor (e.g., cyclosporine, tacrolimus) and methotrexate.

E. Chronic graft versus host disease

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of chronic graft versus host disease when either of the following criteria is met:

1. Member has experienced an inadequate response to systemic corticosteroids.
2. Member has an intolerance or contraindication to corticosteroids.



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®
Coverage Policy/Guideline

Name: Orencia

Page: 5 of 8

Effective Date: 2/1/2024

Last Review Date: 11/2023

Applies to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky PRMD

F. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicity

Authorization of 1 month may be granted for treatment of immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicity when the member has cardiac toxicity.

Continuation of Therapy:

A. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for all adult members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderately to severely active RA and who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response as evidenced by disease activity improvement of at least 20% from baseline in tender joint count, swollen joint count, pain, or disability.

B. Articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for all members 2 years of age and older (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderately to severely active articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis and who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition when there is improvement in any of the following from baseline:

1. Number of joints with active arthritis (e.g., swelling, pain, limitation of motion)
2. Number of joints with limitation of movement
3. Functional ability

C. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for all adult members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for psoriatic arthritis and who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition when there is improvement in any of the following from baseline:

1. Number of swollen joints
2. Number of tender joints
3. Dactylitis
4. Enthesitis
5. Axial disease
6. Skin and/or nail involvement



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®
Coverage Policy/Guideline

Name: Orencia

Page: 6 of 8

Effective Date: 2/1/2024

Last Review Date: 11/2023

Applies to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky PRMD

D. Prophylaxis of acute graft versus host disease, chronic graft versus host disease, and immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicity

All members (including new members) requesting authorization for continuation of therapy must meet all initial authorization criteria.

Other Criteria:

Member has had a documented negative tuberculosis (TB) test (which can include a tuberculosis skin test [PPD], an interferon-release assay [IGRA], or a chest x-ray)* within 6 months of initiating therapy for persons who are naïve to biologic drugs or targeted synthetic drugs associated with an increased risk of TB.

* If the screening testing for TB is positive, there must be further testing to confirm there is no active disease. Do not administer the requested medication to members with active TB infection. If there is latent disease, TB treatment must be started before initiation of the requested medication.

Member cannot use the requested medication concomitantly with any other biologic drug or targeted synthetic drug.

Appendix A: Examples of Contraindications to Methotrexate or Leflunomide

1. Clinical diagnosis of alcohol use disorder, 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 currently planning pregnancy
10. Renal impairment
11. Significant drug interaction

Appendix B: Risk factors for articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis

1. Positive rheumatoid factor
2. Positive anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies
3. Pre-existing joint damage



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®
Coverage Policy/Guideline

Name: Orencia Page: 7 of 8

Effective Date: 2/1/2024 Last Review Date: 11/2023

Applies to:

<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan
<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky PRMD

Approval Duration and Quantity Restrictions:

Approval:

Initial Approval: Prophylaxis of acute graft versus host disease and immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicity = 1 month; others = 12 months

Renewal Approval: Prophylaxis of acute graft versus host disease and immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicity = 1 month; others = 12 months

Quantity Level Limit:

Medication	Standard Limit	Exception Limit*
Orencia (abatacept) subcutaneous injection: 50 mg per 0.4 mL syringe	4 syringes per 28 days	N/A
Orencia (abatacept) subcutaneous injection: 87.5 mg per 0.7 mL syringe	4 syringes per 28 days	N/A
Orencia (abatacept) subcutaneous injection: 125 mg per mL syringe/autoinjector	4 syringes per 28 days	N/A
Orencia (abatacept) intravenous: 250 mg single-use vial	4 vials every 28 days	16 vials per 29 days

*Exception limits apply to loading doses.

References:

- Orencia [package insert]. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb; December 2021.
- Smolen JS, Landewé R, Bijlsma J, et al. EULAR recommendations for the management of rheumatoid arthritis with synthetic and biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: 2019 update. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2020;79:685-699.
- Singh JA, Saag KG, Bridges SL Jr, et al. 2015 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2016;68(1):1-26.
- Saag KG, Teng GG, Patkar NM, et al. American College of Rheumatology 2008 recommendations for the use of nonbiologic and biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs in rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2008;59(6):762-784.
- Ringold S, Angeles-Han S, Beukelman T, et al. 2019 American College of Rheumatology/Arthritis Foundation Guideline for the Treatment of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: Therapeutic Approaches for Non-Systemic Polyarthritis, Sacroiliitis, and Enthesitis. *American College of Rheumatology.* 2019;1-18.



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®
Coverage Policy/Guideline

Name: Orencia Page: 8 of 8

Effective Date: 2/1/2024 Last Review Date: 11/2023

Applies to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky PRMD

6. Singh JA, Guyatt G, Ogdie A, et al. 2018 American College of Rheumatology/National Psoriasis Foundation Guideline for the Treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2018;71:5-32.
7. Testing for TB Infection. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved on June 15, 2022 from: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/tbtesttypes.htm>.
8. The NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium® © 2022 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed June 7, 2022.
9. Aletaha D, Neogi T, Silman, et al. 2010 Rheumatoid arthritis classification criteria: an American College of Rheumatology/European League Against Rheumatism collaborative initiative. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2010;62(9):2569-81.
10. Smolen JS, Aletaha D. Assessment of rheumatoid arthritis activity in clinical trials and clinical practice. In: UpToDate, Post TW (Ed), UpToDate, Waltham, MA. Available with subscription. URL: www.uptodate.com. Accessed March 19, 2021.
11. Fraenkel L, Bathon JM, England BR, et al. 2021 American College of Rheumatology guideline for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Care Res.* 2021;0:1-16.
12. Onel KB, Horton DB, Lovell DJ, et al. 2021 American College of Rheumatology guideline for the treatment of juvenile idiopathic arthritis: therapeutic approaches for oligoarthritis, temporomandibular joint arthritis, and systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2022;74(4):553-569.
13. Gossec L, Baraliakos X, Kerschbaumer A. EULAR recommendations for the management of psoriatic arthritis with pharmacological therapies: 2019 update. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2020;79(6):700-712.
14. Coates LC, Soriano ER, Corp N, et al. Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA): updated treatment recommendations for psoriatic arthritis 2021. *Nat Rev Rheumatol.* 2022;18(8):465-479.