



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®
Coverage Policy/Guideline

Name: Skyrizi

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Effective Date: 11/15/2023

Last Review Date: 10/2023

Applies to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan
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Intent:

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

Description:

FDA-Approved Indications

- A. Treatment of moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis in adults who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy
- B. Active psoriatic arthritis in adults
- C. Moderately to severely active Crohn's disease in adults

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

Applicable Drug List:

Non-preferred: Skyrizi

Policy/Guideline:

Documentation for all indications:

The patient is unable to take ONE preferred anti-TNF (Enbrel or preferred adalimumab product) AND Kevzara, 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. Plaque psoriasis (PsO)

1. Initial requests:
 - i. Chart notes or medical record documentation of affected area(s) and body surface area (BSA) affected (if applicable).
 - ii. 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 of decreased body surface area (BSA) affected and/or improvement in signs and symptoms.

B. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)



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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.

C. Crohn's disease (CD)

Continuation requests: Chart notes or medical record documentation supporting positive clinical response to therapy or remission.

Prescriber Specialty:

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

- A. Plaque psoriasis: dermatologist
- B. Psoriatic arthritis: rheumatologist or dermatologist
- C. Crohn's disease: gastroenterologist

Criteria for Initial Approval:

A. Plaque psoriasis (PsO)

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for adult members who have previously received a biologic or targeted synthetic drug (e.g., Sotyktu, Otezla) indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.
2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for adult members for treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis when any of the following criteria is met:
 - i. Crucial body areas (e.g., hands, feet, face, neck, scalp, genitals/groin, intertriginous areas) are affected.
 - ii. At least 10% of the body surface area (BSA) is affected
 - iii. At least 3% of body surface area (BSA) is affected and the member meets any of the following criteria:
 - a. Member has had an inadequate response or intolerance to either phototherapy (e.g., UVB, PUVA) or pharmacologic treatment with methotrexate, cyclosporine or acitretin.
 - b. Member has a clinical reason to avoid pharmacologic treatment with methotrexate, cyclosporine and acitretin (see Appendix).

B. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for adult members who have previously received a biologic or targeted synthetic drug (e.g., Rinvoq, Otezla) indicated for active psoriatic arthritis.



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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), or another conventional synthetic drug (e.g., sulfasalazine).
 - c. Member has enthesitis or predominantly axial disease.
 - ii. Member has severe disease.

C. Crohn's disease (CD)

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for adult members for the treatment of moderately to severely active Crohn's disease.

Continuation of Therapy:

A. Plaque psoriasis (PsO)

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for all adult members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderate to severe plaque psoriasis and who achieve or maintain positive clinical response as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition when any of the following is met:

1. Reduction in body surface area (BSA) affected from baseline
2. Improvement in signs and symptoms from baseline (e.g., itching, redness, flaking, scaling, burning, cracking, pain)

B. 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 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



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5. Axial disease
6. Skin and/or nail involvement

C. Crohn's Disease (CD)

1. 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 Crohn's disease and who achieve or maintain remission.
2. 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 Crohn's disease 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:
 - i. Abdominal pain or tenderness
 - ii. Diarrhea
 - iii. Body weight
 - iv. Abdominal mass
 - v. Hematocrit
 - vi. Endoscopic appearance of the mucosa
 - vii. Improvement on a disease activity scoring tool (e.g., Crohn's Disease Activity Index [CDAI] score)

Other Criteria:

For all indications: 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.

Dosage and Administration:



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Approvals may be subject to dosing limits in accordance with FDA-approved labeling, accepted compendia, and/or evidence-based practice guidelines.

Appendix

Examples of Clinical Reasons to Avoid Pharmacologic Treatment with Methotrexate, Cyclosporine, Acitretin, or Leflunomide

1. Clinical diagnosis of alcohol use disorder, alcoholic liver disease or other chronic liver disease
2. Drug interaction
3. Risk of treatment-related toxicity
4. Pregnancy or currently planning pregnancy
5. Breastfeeding
6. Significant comorbidity prohibits use of systemic agents (e.g., liver or kidney disease, blood dyscrasias, uncontrolled hypertension)
7. Hypersensitivity
8. History of intolerance or adverse event

Approval Duration and Quantity Restrictions:

Approval:

Initial and Renewal Approval: 12 months

Quantity Level Limits:

Medication	Standard Limit	Exception Limit*	FDA-recommended dosing
Skyrizi 150 mg/mL single-dose prefilled syringe/pen	1 syringe/pen per 84 days	2 syringes/pens per 28 days	Plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 150 mg at weeks 0, 4, and every 12 weeks thereafter
Skyrizi 180 mg/1.2mL single-dose prefilled cartridge with on-body injector	1 cartridge per 56 days	N/A	



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Medication	Standard Limit	Exception Limit*	FDA-recommended dosing
Skyrizi 360 mg/2.4mL single-dose prefilled cartridge with on-body injector	1 cartridge per 56 days	N/A	Crohn's disease, maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 180 mg or 360 mg at week 12 (four weeks after the last intravenous induction dose), then every 8 weeks thereafter Crohn's disease, intravenous induction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 600 mg at weeks 0, 4, and 8
Skyrizi 600 mg/10mL single-dose vial	3 vials per 56 days	N/A	

*Coverage up to the exception limits may be provided with prior authorization

References:

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