

POLICY: Inflammatory Conditions – Entyvio Intravenous Utilization Management Medical Policy

- Entyvio® (vedolizumab intravenous infusion – Takeda)

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/1/2021**LAST REVISION DATE:** 04/09/2025**COVERAGE CRITERIA FOR:** All Aspirus Medicare Plans

OVERVIEW

Entyvio intravenous (IV), an integrin receptor antagonist, is indicated for the following uses:¹

1. **Crohn's disease**, in adults with moderately to severely active disease.
2. **Ulcerative colitis**, in adults with moderately to severely active disease.

Therapy begins with Entyvio 300 mg IV at Week 0 and Week 2. At Week 6, or at any scheduled Entyvio IV infusion in patients with a clinical response or remission, therapy can be switched to Entyvio SC. The recommended dose of Entyvio SC is 108 mg SC once every 2 weeks. In the pivotal studies evaluating Entyvio, all patients had previously tried corticosteroids and/or conventional agents for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Guidelines

Guidelines for the treatment of inflammatory conditions recommend use of Entyvio.

- **Crohn's Disease:** The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) has updated guidelines (2018) for Crohn's disease.² Entyvio is among the recommendations for treatment of patients with moderate to severe disease or moderate to high risk disease (for induction of remission as well as maintenance of this remission). Guidelines from the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) [2021] include Entyvio among the therapies for moderate to severe Crohn's disease, for induction and maintenance of remission.⁵
- **Ulcerative Colitis:** The AGA (2024) and ACG (2019) have clinical practice guidelines on the management of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis in adults.^{3,4} AGA recognizes all of the FDA-approved advanced therapies as potential options for adults with moderate to severe ulcerative colitis.³ Advanced therapies include the biologics and targeted synthetic small molecule drugs. In general, the AGA recommends starting with advanced therapies and/or immunomodulators. Immunomodulators are recommended in the setting of maintenance of clinical remission induced by corticosteroids. The ACG recommend TNF inhibitors, Entyvio® (vedolizumab IV infusion/subcutaneous injection), Stelara® (ustekinumab IV infusion/subcutaneous injection), or Xeljanz®/Xeljanz® XR (tofacitinib tablets, tofacitinib extended-release tablets) for induction treatment of moderate to severe disease.⁴ The guidelines also

recommend that any drug that effectively treats induction should be continued for maintenance.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for medical benefit coverage of Entyvio intravenous. Approval is recommended for those who meet the **Criteria** and **Dosing** for the listed indications. Extended approvals are allowed if the patient continues to meet the Criteria and Dosing. Requests for doses outside of the established dosing documented in this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis by a clinician (i.e., Medical Director or Pharmacist). All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Entyvio intravenous as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, initial approval requires Entyvio intravenous to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

Automation: None.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Entyvio intravenous is recommended in those who meet one of the following:

FDA-Approved Indications

-
- 1. Crohn's Disease.** Approve for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):
 - A) Initial Therapy. Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):
 - i. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND
 - ii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a, b, c, or d):
 - a) Patient has tried or is currently taking systemic corticosteroids, or corticosteroids are contraindicated in this patient; OR
 - b) Patient has tried one conventional systemic therapy for Crohn's disease; OR

Note: Examples of conventional systemic therapy for Crohn's disease include azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine, or methotrexate. An exception to the requirement for a trial of or contraindication to steroids or a trial of one other conventional systemic agent can be made if the patient has already tried at least one biologic other than the requested drug. A biosimilar of the requested biologic does not count. Refer to [Appendix](#) for examples of biologics used for Crohn's disease. These patients who have already received a biologic are not required to "step back" and try another agent. A trial of mesalamine does not count as a systemic therapy for Crohn's disease.

- c) Patient has enterocutaneous (perianal or abdominal) or rectovaginal fistulas; OR
 - d) Patient had ileocolonic resection (to reduce the chance of Crohn's disease recurrence); AND
 - iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist.
- B) Patient is Currently Receiving Entyvio Intravenous or Subcutaneous. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Patient has been established on the requested drug for at least 6 months; AND
Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with the requested drug is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).
 - ii. Patient meets at least ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) When assessed by at least one objective measure, patient experienced a beneficial clinical response from baseline (prior to initiating the requested drug); OR
Note: Examples of objective measures include fecal markers (e.g., fecal lactoferrin, fecal calprotectin), serum markers (e.g., C-reactive protein), imaging studies (magnetic resonance enterography [MRE], computed tomography enterography [CTE]), endoscopic assessment, and/or reduced dose of corticosteroids.
 - b) Compared with baseline (prior to initiating the requested drug), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased pain, fatigue, stool frequency, and/or blood in stool.

Dosing. Approve ONE of the following dosage regimens (A or B):

- A) Approve BOTH of the following (i and ii):
 - i. The dose is 300 mg as an intravenous infusion at Week 0, 2, and 6; AND
 - ii. Subsequent doses are separated by at least 8 weeks; OR
- B) The dose is 300 mg as an intravenous infusion administered at Week 0 and 2.

2. Ulcerative Colitis. Approve for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

- A) Initial Therapy. Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):
 - i. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND
 - ii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) Patient has had a trial of ONE systemic therapy; OR
Note: Examples include 6-mercaptopurine, azathioprine, cyclosporine, tacrolimus, or a corticosteroid such as prednisone or methylprednisolone. A trial of a mesalamine product does not count as a systemic therapy for ulcerative colitis. A trial of a biologic also counts as a trial of one systemic agent for

ulcerative colitis. Refer to [Appendix](#) for examples of biologics used for ulcerative colitis.

b) Patient meets BOTH of the following [(1) and (2)]:

(1) Patient has pouchitis; AND

(2) Patient has tried an antibiotic, probiotic, corticosteroid enema, or mesalamine enema; AND

Note: Examples of antibiotics include metronidazole and ciprofloxacin. Examples of corticosteroid enemas include hydrocortisone enema.

iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist.

2. Patient is Currently Receiving Entyvio Intravenous or Subcutaneous. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):

i. Patient has been established on Entyvio intravenous or subcutaneous for at least 6 months; AND

Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with Entyvio intravenous or subcutaneous is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).

ii. Patient meets at least ONE of the following (a or b):

a) When assessed by at least one objective measure, patient experienced a beneficial clinical response from baseline (prior to initiating the requested drug); OR

Note: Examples of assessment for inflammatory response include fecal markers (e.g., fecal calprotectin), serum markers (e.g., C-reactive protein), endoscopic assessment, and/or reduced dose of corticosteroids.

b) Compared with baseline (prior to initiating the requested drug), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased pain, fatigue, stool frequency, and/or decreased rectal bleeding.

Dosing. Approve ONE of the following dosage regimens (A or B):

A) Approve BOTH of the following (i and ii):

i. The dose is 300 mg as an intravenous infusion administered at Week 0, 2, and 6; AND

ii. Subsequent doses are separated by at least 8 weeks; OR

B) The dose is 300 mg as an intravenous infusion administered at Week 0 and 2.

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Entyvio intravenous is not recommended in the following situations:

1. Concurrent Use with a Biologic or with a Targeted Synthetic Oral Small Molecule Drug.

This medication should not be administered in combination with another biologic or with a targeted synthetic oral small molecule drug used for an inflammatory condition (see [Appendix](#) for examples). Combination therapy is generally not recommended due to a

potentially higher rate of adverse events and lack of controlled clinical data supporting additive efficacy.

Note: This does NOT exclude the use of conventional synthetic DMARDs (e.g., methotrexate, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine, or sulfasalazine) in combination with this medication.

2. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

REFERENCES

1. Entyvio intravenous infusion [prescribing information]. Deerfield, IL: Takeda; April 2024.
2. Lichtenstein GR, Loftus EV, Isaacs KL, et al. ACG clinical guideline: management of Crohn's disease in adults. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2018;113(4):481-517.
3. Singh S, Loftus EV Jr, Limketkai BN, et al. AGA Living Clinical Practice Guideline on Pharmacological Management of Moderate-to-Severe Ulcerative Colitis. *Gastroenterology*. 2024 Dec;167(7):1307-1343.
4. Rubin DT, Ananthakrishnan AN, Siegel CA, et al. ACG clinical guideline: ulcerative colitis in adults. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2019;114(3):384-413.
5. Feuerstein JD, Ho EY, Shmidt E, et al. AGA clinical practice guidelines on the medical management of moderate to severe luminal and perianal fistulizing Crohn's disease. *Gastroenterology*. 2021;160(7):2496-2508.

HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	06/28/2023
Early Annual Revision	Ulcerative Colitis: For a patient currently taking, it was clarified this applies to the intravenous or subcutaneous formulation. A note was added to clarify that a mesalamine product does not count as a systemic therapy for ulcerative colitis.	10/11/2023
Early Annual Revision	Crohn's Disease: For a patient currently taking, it was clarified this applies to the intravenous or subcutaneous formulation.	04/24/2024
Selected Revision	Conditions Not Recommended for Approval: Concurrent use with a Biologic or with a Targeted Synthetic Oral Small Molecule Drug was changed to as listed (previously oral small molecule drug was listed as Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drug).	09/11/2024
Aspirus P&T Review	Policy reviewed and approved by Aspirus P&T committee. Annual review process	09/16/2024
Annual Revision	Crohn's Disease: Updated dosing to add option of approval for 300 mg intravenous infusion administered at Week 0 and 2. Ulcerative Colitis: Updated dosing to add option of approval for 300 mg intravenous infusion administered at Week 0 and 2.	04/09/2025

APPENDIX

	Mechanism of Action	Examples of Indications*
Biologics		
Adalimumab SC Products (Humira®, biosimilars)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, CD, JIA, PsO, PsA, RA, UC
Cimzia® (certolizumab pegol SC injection)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, CD, nr-axSpA, PsO, PsA, RA
Etanercept SC Products (Enbrel®, biosimilars)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, JIA, PsO, PsA, RA
Infliximab IV Products (Remicade®, biosimilars)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, CD, PsO, PsA, RA, UC
Zymfentra® (infliximab-dyyb SC injection)	Inhibition of TNF	CD, UC
Simponi®, Simponi Aria® (golimumab SC injection, golimumab IV infusion)	Inhibition of TNF	SC formulation: AS, PsA, RA, UC
		IV formulation: AS, PJIA, PsA, RA
Tocilizumab Products (Actemra® IV, biosimilar; Actemra SC, biosimilar)	Inhibition of IL-6	SC formulation: PJIA, RA, SJIA
		IV formulation: PJIA, RA, SJIA
Kevzara® (sarilumab SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-6	RA
Orencia® (abatacept IV infusion, abatacept SC injection)	T-cell costimulation modulator	SC formulation: JIA, PSA, RA
		IV formulation: JIA, PsA, RA
Rituximab IV Products (Rituxan®, biosimilars)	CD20-directed cytolytic antibody	RA
Kineret® (anakinra SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-1	JIA [^] , RA
Omvoh® (mirikizumab IV infusion, SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-23	CD, UC
Ustekinumab Products (Stelara® IV, biosimilar; Stelara SC, biosimilar)	Inhibition of IL-12/23	SC formulation: CD, PsO, PsA, UC
		IV formulation: CD, UC
Siliq® (brodalumab SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-17	PsO
Cosentyx® (secukinumab SC injection; secukinumab IV infusion)	Inhibition of IL-17A	SC formulation: AS, ERA, nr-axSpA, PsO, PsA
		IV formulation: AS, nr-axSpA, PsA
Taltz® (ixekizumab SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-17A	AS, nr-axSpA, PsO, PsA
Bimzelx® (bimekizumab-bkzx SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-17A/17F	PsO, AS, nr-axSpA, PsA
Ilumya® (tildrakizumab-asmn SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-23	PsO
Skyrizi® (risankizumab-rzaa SC injection, risankizumab-rzaa IV infusion)	Inhibition of IL-23	SC formulation: CD, PSA, PsO, UC
		IV formulation: CD, UC
Tremfya® (guselkumab SC injection, guselkumab IV infusion)	Inhibition of IL-23	SC formulation: CD, PsA, PsO, UC
		IV formulation: CD, UC
Entyvio® (vedolizumab IV infusion, vedolizumab SC injection)	Integrin receptor antagonist	CD, UC
Oral Therapies/Targeted Synthetic Oral Small Molecule Drugs		
Otezla® (apremilast tablets)	Inhibition of PDE4	PsO, PsA
Cibinqo™ (abrocitinib tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AD
Olumiant® (baricitinib tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	RA, AA
Litfulo® (ritdecitinib capsules)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AA
Leqselvi® (deuruxolitinib tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AA
Rinvoq® (upadacitinib extended-release tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AD, AS, nr-axSpA, RA, PsA, UC
Rinvoq® LQ (upadacitinib oral solution)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	PsA, PJIA
Sotyktu® (deucravacitinib tablets)	Inhibition of TYK2	PsO
Xeljanz® (tofacitinib tablets/oral solution)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	RA, PJIA, PsA, UC
Xeljanz® XR (tofacitinib extended-release tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	RA, PsA, UC
Zeposia® (ozanimod tablets)	Sphingosine 1 phosphate receptor modulator	UC
Velsipity® (etrasimod tablets)	Sphingosine 1 phosphate receptor modulator	UC

* Not an all-inclusive list of indications. Refer to the prescribing information for the respective agent for FDA-approved indications; SC – Subcutaneous; TNF – Tumor necrosis factor; AS – Ankylosing spondylitis; CD – Crohn’s disease; JIA – Juvenile idiopathic arthritis; PsO – Plaque psoriasis; PsA – Psoriatic arthritis; RA – Rheumatoid arthritis; UC – Ulcerative colitis; nr-axSpA – Non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis; IV – Intravenous, PJIA – Polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis; IL – Interleukin; SJIA – Systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis; [^] Off-label use of Kineret in JIA supported in guidelines; ERA – Enthesitis-related arthritis; DMARD – Disease-modifying antirheumatic drug; PDE4 – Phosphodiesterase 4; JAK – Janus kinase; AD – Atopic dermatitis; AA – Alopecia areata; TYK2 – Tyrosine kinase 2.