Overview
Actemra is an interleukin-6 (IL-6) receptor antagonist. Endogenous IL-6 is induced by inflammatory stimuli and mediates a variety of immunological responses. Inhibition of IL-6 receptors by Actemra leads to a reduction in cytokine and acute phase reactant production.

Coverage Guidelines

Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
Authorization may be granted for members new to AllWays Health Partners who are currently receiving treatment with Actemra, excluding when the product is obtained as samples or via manufacturer’s patient assistance programs

OR

Authorization may be granted when the following criteria is met:
1. The member has a diagnosis of moderate to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
2. If requesting under the Medical Benefit: the member has experienced an intolerance, inadequate response or contraindication to Remicade and Simponi Aria
3. If requesting under the Pharmacy Benefit: the member has experienced intolerance, inadequate response or contraindication to Enbrel, Humira and Rinvoq
4. The meets one of the following:
   a. The member has experienced an inadequate response to at least a 3-month trial of methotrexate despite adequate dosing (i.e., titrated to 20 mg/week).
   b. The member has an intolerance or contraindication to methotrexate (see Appendix).

Active Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (pJIA)
Authorization may be granted for members new to AllWays Health Partners who have previously received Actemra excluding when these products have been obtained via physician samples or patient assistant program

OR

Authorization may be granted when the following criteria is met:

a. The member has a diagnosis of polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (pJIA)

b. The member experienced an intolerance, inadequate response, or contraindication to BOTH methotrexate AND an NSAID (see Appendix A)

c. ONE of the following:
   a. If requesting under the Medical Benefit - the member has had intolerance, inadequate response (defined as a 3-month trial) or contraindication to Remicade
   b. If requesting under the Pharmacy Benefit - the member has had intolerance, inadequate response (defined as a 3-month trial) or contraindication to Enbrel and Humira

Active Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (sJIA)

Authorization may be granted for members new to AllWays Health Partners who have previously received Actemra excluding when these products have been obtained via physician samples or patient assistant program.

OR

Authorization may be granted for treatment of active sJIA when any TWO of the following criteria are met:

1. The member has an inadequate response to at least a 2-week trial of corticosteroids.
2. The member has an inadequate response to at least a 3-month trial of methotrexate
3. The member has an inadequate response to at least a 3-month trial with NSAIDS

Giant Cell Arteritis

Authorization may be granted for members diagnosed with Giant Cell Arteritis

Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)- (Intravenous Use ONLY)

Authorization be granted for treatment of severe or life-threatening chimeric antigen receptor T cell-induced cytokine release syndrome when documentation of diagnosis is submitted.

Continuation of Therapy

Reauthorization will be granted when supporting improvement in member’s condition

• For diagnosis of Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS): reauthorization will not be granted

Limitations

1. Initial approvals and reauthorizations for all diagnoses will be granted for 24 months, excluding CRS.
2. Initial approvals for CRS will be granted for a total of 4 doses.
3. For all indications: Member has a pretreatment tuberculosis (TB) screening with a TB skin test or an interferon gamma release assay (e.g., QFT-GIT, T-SPOT.TB).
   a. Note: Members who have received Actemra or any other biologic DMARD or targeted synthetic DMARD (e.g., Xeljanz) are exempt from requirements related to TB screening in this Policy.

Appendix

Examples of Contraindications to Methotrexate
1. Alcoholism, 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 planning pregnancy (male or female)
10. Renal impairment
11. Significant drug interaction

References
1. Actemra (tocilizumab) [prescribing information]. South San Francisco, CA: Genentech Inc; June 2019

Review History
11/20/2019 – Added Rinvoq as a trial for RA and Skyrizi for PS. Added started and stabilized criteria. Approval duration switched to 4 doses.
11/18/2020 – Reviewed; Updated for 2021 strategy to be implemented 1/1/2021.
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