Medical Drug Clinical Criteria

Subject:	Orencia (abatacept)		
Document #:	CC-0078	**Publish Date**:	05/01/2025
Status:	Revised	**Last Review Date**:	11/15/2024

Table of Contents

Overview

This document addresses the use of Orencia (abatacept), a selective costimulation modulator which inhibits T cell (T lymphocyte) activation. Abatacept is approved for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis and psoriatic arthritis. It is available in intravenous and subcutaneous injection formulations.

Rheumatoid Arthritis: The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) guidelines recommend disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) monotherapy as first-line treatment in individuals with RA with moderate to high disease activity. Methotrexate (MTX) monotherapy, titrated to a dose of at least 15 mg, is recommended over hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, and leflunomide. Methotrexate monotherapy is also recommended over monotherapy with biologics (tumor necrosis factor inhibitors [TNFi], IL-6 inhibitors, abatacept) or JAK inhibitors. For individuals taking maximally tolerated doses MTX who are not at target, the addition of a biologic or JAK inhibitor is recommended. Non-TNFi biologics or JAK inhibitors are conditionally recommended over TNFi in individuals with heart failure.

Psoriatic Arthritis: The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) guidelines recommend that initial treatment of patients with active severe PsA or concomitant psoriasis should include a TNFi biologic over an oral small molecule (OSM; including methotrexate, sulfasalazine, cyclosporine, leflunomide, and apremilast). For initial therapy, OSMs are preferred over IL-17 and ustekinumab; and may be considered over TNFi biologics in mild to moderate disease without comorbid conditions or in those who prefer oral therapy. Recommendations involving biologics over OSMs as first line therapy are conditional and based on low quality evidence. Evidence cited includes indirect comparisons of placebo-controlled trials, studies with open-label design, and extrapolation from studies in plaque psoriasis. Furthermore, most pivotal trials for TNFi biologics included a study population that were DMARD experienced. Overall, there is a lack of definitive evidence for the safety and efficacy of biologic drugs over conventional therapy for the initial treatment of most patients with psoriatic arthritis. The ACR guidelines also include recommendations for patients whose disease remains active despite treatment with an OSM. Here, TNFi biologics are recommended over other therapies including IL-17 inhibitors, ustekinumab, tofacitinib, and abatacept. When TNFi biologics are not used, IL-17 inhibitors are preferred over ustekinumab; both of which are preferred over tofacitinib and abatacept. For disease that remains active despite TNFi monotherapy, switching to a different TNFi is recommended over other therapies.

Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) guidelines provide recommendations for juvenile idiopathic arthritis, including systemic disease (SJIA) and JIA with polyarthritis (PJIA). SJIA is an autoinflammatory condition marked by intermittent fever, rash, and arthritis. PJIA is marked by the presence of more than four affected joints in the first six months of illness. For SJIA, NSAIDs or glucocorticoids are conditionally recommended as initial monotherapy, depending on whether macrophage activation syndrome (MAS) is present or not. IL-1 inhibitors (anakinra or canakinumab), or tocilizumab are also conditionally recommended as initial therapy or to achieve inactive disease, with no preferred agent. For SJIA without MAS, IL-1 inhibitors (anakinra or canakinumab) and tocilizumab are strongly recommended for inadequate response to or intolerance of NSAIDs and/or glucocorticoids (ACR 2021). For children with active polyarthritis, biologic therapy including TNFi, abatacept, or tocilizumab +/- DMARD is recommended following initial DMARD therapy (preferably methotrexate) (ACR 2019).

Graft Versus Host Disease (GVHD): Acute GVHD is a common complication of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) that frequently occurs soon after transplantation. This occurs when immune cells from the donor recognize and attack the transplant recipient, manifesting in an immune reaction present in the skin, gastrointestinal tract, and/or liver. While transplant recipients receive intensive immunosuppressive regimens, GVHD is associated with a significant decrease in survival and may not respond to treatment. There is no standard GVHD prophylaxis regimen, and clinical practice varies by institution. Agents for pharmacologic prophylaxis include methotrexate, calcineurin inhibitors (cyclosporine or tacrolimus), and mycophenolate mofetil. Orencia is FDA approved for the prophylaxis of acute GVHD in combination with a calcineurin inhibitor and methotrexate, in adults and pediatric patients 2 years of age and older undergoing HSCT from a matched or 1 allele-mismatched unrelated- donor. It is administered via intravenous infusion starting the day before transplantation (Day -1), followed by administration on days 5, 14, and 28 after transplantation. Orencia is not

FDA approved for the treatment of acute or chronic GVHD, but the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines provide a 2A recommendation for its use in the treatment of steroid-refractory chronic GVHD.

Clinical Criteria

When a drug is being reviewed for coverage under a member's medical benefit plan or is otherwise subject to clinical review (including prior authorization), the following criteria will be used to determine whether the drug meets any applicable medical necessity requirements for the intended/prescribed purpose.

Orencia (abatacept)

Initial requests for Orencia (abatacept) may be approved if the following criteria are met:

I. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) when each of the following criteria are met:
   A. Individual is 18 years of age or older with moderate to severe RA; **AND**
   B. Documentation is provided that individual has had an inadequate response to methotrexate titrated to maximally tolerated dose (ACR 2021); **OR**
   C. Documentation is provided that if methotrexate is not tolerated, individual has had an inadequate response to, or is intolerant of other conventional therapy (sulfasalazine, leflunomide, or hydroxychloroquine); **OR**
   D. Documentation is provided that individual has a contraindication to methotrexate, sulfasalazine, leflunomide, and hydroxychloroquine;

OR

II. Polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (PJIA) when each of the following criteria are met:
   A. Individual has moderate to severe PJIA; **AND**
   B. Individual is 6 years of age and older for administration of intravenous infusion, or 2 years of age and older for administration of subcutaneous injection; **AND**
   C. Individual has had an inadequate response to, or is intolerant of conventional therapy [nonbiologic DMARDs, such as methotrexate)] (ACR 2019); **OR**
   D. Individual has a contraindication to methotrexate;

OR

III. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) when each of the following criteria are met:
   A. Individual is 2 years of age or older with moderate to severe PsA; **AND**
   B. Individual has had an inadequate response to, or is intolerant of conventional therapy [nonbiologic DMARDs (such as methotrexate, sulfasalazine, cyclosporine or leflunomide)] (ACR 2019); **OR**
   C. Individual has a contraindication to methotrexate, sulfasalazine, cyclosporine, and leflunomide;

OR

IV. Acute Graft Versus Host Disease (GVHD), prophylaxis, when each of the following criteria are met:
   A. Individual is 2 years of age or older using for prophylaxis of acute GVHD; **AND**
   B. Individual will be undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) from a matched or 1 allele-mismatched unrelated donor; **AND**
   D. Individual is using Orencia (abatacept) in combination with a calcineurin inhibitor and methotrexate;

OR

V. Chronic Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) when each of the following criteria are met (NCCN 2A):
   A. Individual has a diagnosis of steroid-refractory chronic GVHD; **AND**
   B. Individual is initiating abatacept in combination with systemic corticosteroids;

OR

VI. Immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy-related toxicities when each of the following criteria are met (NCCN 2A):
   A. Individual is undergoing immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy for a cancer diagnosis; **AND**
   B. Individual is experiencing immunotherapy-related myocarditis unresponsive to high-dose systemic corticosteroids; **OR**
   C. Individual is experiencing immunotherapy-related concomitant myositis and myocarditis.

Continuation requests for Orencia (abatacept) may be approved if the following criteria are met:

I. Individual has been receiving and is maintained on a stable dose of Orencia; **AND**
II. There is confirmation of clinically significant improvement or stabilization in clinical signs and symptoms of the disease.

Requests for Orencia (abatacept) may not be approved if the following criteria are met:

I. In combination with topical or oral JAK inhibitors, ozanimod, etrasimod, apremilast, deucravacitinib, or any of the following biologic immunomodulators: TNF antagonists, IL-23 inhibitors, IL-17 inhibitors, vedolizumab, ustekinumab, IL-1 inhibitors, IL-6 inhibitors, rituximab or natalizumab; **OR**

II. Tuberculosis, other active serious infections, or a history of recurrent infections [repeat testing not required for ongoing authorization]; **OR**
III. If initiating therapy, individual has not had a tuberculin skin test (TST) or a Centers for Disease Control (CDC-) and Prevention -recommended equivalent to evaluate for latent tuberculosis (unless switching therapy from another targeted immune modulator and no new risk factors); **OR**
IV. When the above criteria are not met and for all other indications.

Step Therapy

Note: When Orencia is deemed approvable based on the clinical criteria above, the benefit plan may have additional criteria requiring the use of a preferred[1] agent or agents.

Orencia Step Therapy

A list of the preferred targeted immune modulators by indication is available here.

Commercial requests for diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis:

Requests for Orencia may be approved if the following criteria are met:
I. Individual has been receiving and is maintained on a stable dose of Orencia; **OR**
II. Individual has had a trial and inadequate response or intolerance to TWO preferred agents; **OR**
III. Individual has either concomitant clinical condition:
  A. Demyelinating disease; **OR**
  B. Heart failure with documented left ventricular dysfunction.

Commercial requests for diagnosis of Polyarticular Idiopathic Juvenile Arthritis:

Requests for Orencia may be approved if the following criteria are met:

I. Individual has been receiving and is maintained on a stable dose of Orencia; **OR**
II. Individual has had a trial and inadequate response or intolerance to ONE preferred agent; **OR**
III. Individual has either concomitant clinical condition:
  A. Demyelinating disease; **OR**
  B. Heart failure with documented left ventricular dysfunction.

Medicaid (CA, NJ, OH) requests for diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis:

Requests for Orencia may be approved if the following criteria are met:

I. Individual has been receiving and is maintained on a stable dose of Orencia; **OR**
II. Individual has had a trial and inadequate response or intolerance to ONE preferred agent; **OR**
III. Individual has either concomitant clinical condition:
  A. Demyelinating disease; **OR**
  B. Heart failure with documented left ventricular dysfunction.

[1]Preferred, as used herein, refers to agents that were deemed to be clinically comparable to other agents in the same class or disease category but are preferred based upon clinical evidence and cost effectiveness.

Quantity Limits

Orencia (abatacept) Quantity Limits

Drug	Limit
Orencia 250 mg/vial (for IV use)	4 vials per 28 days
Orencia 50 mg/0.4 mL, 87.5 mg/0.7 mL, 125 mg/mL prefilled syringe/ClickJect™ autoinjector (for S.C. use)	4 syringes/autoinjectors per 28 days
Override Criteria	
*Initiation of intravenous therapy: For RA, PJIA, or PsA, May approve 4 (four) additional vials (250 mg/vial) in the first 28 days (4 weeks) of treatment. For GVHD, May approve up to 4 vials (250 mg/vial) per infusion for a total of 4 (four) infusions starting the day before transplantation (day -1), followed by administration on days 5, 14, and 28 after transplantation.	

Coding

The following codes for treatments and procedures applicable to this document are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure, diagnosis or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement

policy. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member.

HCPCS

J0129	Injection, abatacept, 10 mg [Orencia]

ICD-10 Diagnosis

D89.811-D89.813	Graft-versus-host disease
I40.8-I40.9	Acute myocarditis
L40.50-L40.59	Arthropathic psoriasis
M05.00-M05.9	Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor
M06.00-M06.09	Rheumatoid arthritis without rheumatoid factor
M06.4	Inflammatory polyarthropathy
M06.80-M06.9	Other specified and unspecified rheumatoid arthritis
M08.00-M08.09	Unspecified juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
M08.20-M08.29	Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis with systemic onset
M08.3	Juvenile rheumatoid polyarthritis (seronegative)
M08.40-M08.48	Pauciarticular juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
M60.80-M60.9	Other myositis

Document History

Revised: 11/15/2024
Document History:

- 05/01/2025 – Step therapy table updates.
- 04/01/2025 – Step therapy table updates.
- 02/03/2025 – Step therapy and step therapy table updates.
- 11/15/2024 – Annual Review: Update use in immunotherapy-related toxicities per NCCN. Step therapy update effective 1/1/2025. Coding Reviewed: Added ICD-10-CM D89.811-D89.813, I40.8-I40.9, M60.80-M60.9.
- 09/10/2024 – Step therapy table updates.
- 03/01/2024 – Administrative update to add documentation.
- 11/17/2023 – Annual Review: Add immunotherapy-related toxicities and chronic graft-versus-host disease per NCCN; add new pediatric indication for psoriatic arthritis; update contraindication to prior therapy language for clarity; clarify repeat TB testing requirements; include etrasimod in combination exclusion; add continuation of use language; wording and formatting updates. Coding Reviewed: No changes.
- 11/18/2022 – Annual Review: Update combination exclusion use to include additional agents and specify biologic immunomodulators; include additional DMARD examples per guidelines; wording and formatting updates. Coding Reviewed: No changes.
- 09/30/2022 – Step therapy table updates.
- 02/25/2022 – Select Review: Add new indication for prophylaxis of acute graft versus host disease to clinical criteria and quantity limit per label; wording and formatting updates. Coding Reviewed: No changes.
- 11/19/2021 – Annual Review: Clarify tuberculosis testing requirements; update RA criteria to align with guidelines; remove option of prior TNF trial for consistency; update references; update exclusion list for combination use. Coding Reviewed: No changes.
- 10/25/2021 – Updated step therapy table. Administrative update to step therapy.
- 11/20/2020 – Annual Review: Add continuation of use section; update tuberculosis testing language. Coding reviewed: No changes.
- 10/29/2020 – Administrative update to add drug specific quantity limits.
- 03/02/2020 – Add step therapy for Commercial Medical Benefit effective 7/1/2020.
- 11/15/2019 – Annual Review: Update references; wording and formatting changes; update combination therapy criteria for consistency with other agents. Coding reviewed: No Changes.
- 11/16/2018 – Annual Review: Initial P&T review of Orencia Clinical Guideline. Update clinical criteria to delete "active" disease wording. Update criteria to delete requirement agent is being used "to reduce signs and symptoms, maintain clinical response", etc. Add examples of conventional therapy to approval criteria for clarity. Wording and formatting changes to criteria for consistency. HCPCS and ICD-10 coding review: no changes.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Tuberculosis (TB). Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/tb/risk-factors/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/risk.htm. Last updated: March 12, 2024.
2. DailyMed. Package inserts. U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health website. http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/about.cfm. Accessed: September 23, 2024.
3. DrugPoints® System [electronic version]. Truven Health Analytics, Greenwood Village, CO. Updated periodically.
4. Lexi-Comp ONLINE™ with AHFS™, Hudson, Ohio: Lexi-Comp, Inc.; 2024; Updated periodically.
5. Fraenkel L, Bathon JM, England BR et al. 2021 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis. Arthritis Care & Research. 2021;73(7):924-939.
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. 2019; 71(1): 5-32.
7. Ringold S, Weiss PF, Beukelman T, et al. 2013 Update of the 2011 American College of Rheumatology recommendations for the treatment of juvenile idiopathic arthritis: recommendations for the medical therapy of children with systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis and tuberculosis screening among children receiving biologic medications. Arthritis Rheum. 2013; 65(10):2499-2512.
8. Ringold S, Angeles-Han ST, 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. Arthritis Rheum. 2019; 71(6):846-863.
9. 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 Rheum. 2022; 74(4):553-569.
10. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™. © 2024 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. For additional information visit the NCCN website: http://www.nccn.org/index.asp. Accessed on September 23, 2024.
    a. Management of Immunotherapy-related Toxicities. V1.2024. Revised December 7, 2023.
    b. Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation. V2.2024. Revised August 30, 2024.

Federal and state laws or requirements, contract language, and Plan utilization management programs or polices may take precedence over the application of this clinical criteria.

CC-0078
Orencia (abatacept)

Commercial Medical Benefit

Rheumatoid Arthritis*, Psoriatic Arthritis, Polyarticular Idiopathic Juvenile Arthritis		
Effective Date	**Preferred Agents**	**Non-Preferred Agents**
01/01/2025	Preferred infliximab product^ Simponi Aria	Orencia

*Note: Rinvoq and Xeljanz/XR are the preferred Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitors. JAK inhibitor clinical criteria requires a trial and inadequate response or intolerance to one or more tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonist agents**.**
^Refer to CC-0062 Tumor Necrosis Factor Antagonists policy for preferred infliximab product(s).

Medicaid Medical Benefit

Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis		
Effective Date	**Preferred Agents**	**Non-Preferred Agents**
03/1/2025 – CA, NJ, OH 04/1/2025 – DC, MD, NV, NY, TN, VA, WI, WNY 05/01/2025 - GA 06/1/2025 - AR	Avsola	Orencia

Medicare Medical Benefit [Currently step therapy does not apply]

Effective Date	Preferred Agents	Non-Preferred Agents
N/A	N/A	N/A