

# STANDARD MEDICARE PART B MANAGEMENT

**REMICADE (infliximab)**  
**AVSOLA (infliximab-axxq)**  
**INFLECTRA (infliximab-dyyb)**  
**RENFLEXIS (infliximab-abda)**

## POLICY

### I. INDICATIONS

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered a covered benefit provided that all the approval criteria are met and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

#### A. REMICADE

##### 1. FDA-Approved Indications

- i. Crohn's disease
  - a. Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in adult patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
  - b. Reducing the number of draining enterocutaneous and rectovaginal fistulas and maintaining fistula closure in adult patients with fistulizing disease
- ii. Pediatric Crohn's disease  
Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in pediatric patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- iii. Ulcerative colitis  
Reducing signs and symptoms, inducing and maintaining clinical remission and mucosal healing, and eliminating corticosteroid use in adult patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- iv. Pediatric ulcerative colitis  
Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in pediatric patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- v. Rheumatoid arthritis in combination with methotrexate  
Reducing signs and symptoms, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function in patients with moderately to severely active disease
- vi. Ankylosing spondylitis  
Reducing signs and symptoms in patients with active disease
- vii. Psoriatic arthritis  
Reducing signs and symptoms of active arthritis, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function
- viii. Plaque Psoriasis

Treatment of adult patients with chronic severe (i.e., extensive and/or disabling) plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy and when other systemic therapies are medically less appropriate

## 2. Compendial Uses

- i. Adult onset Still's disease
- ii. Arthritis/arthropathy in Crohn's disease
- iii. Axial spondyloarthritis
- iv. Behcet's disease
- v. Gastrointestinal tract transplantation organ rejection
- vi. Giant cell arteritis
- vii. Graft versus host disease
- viii. Granulomatosis with polyangiitis
- ix. Hidradenitis suppurativa
- x. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis
- xi. Kawasaki disease
- xii. Necrobiosis lipoidica diabetorum
- xiii. Pyoderma gangrenosum
- xiv. Rheumatoid arthritis as monotherapy
- xv. Severe, refractory SAPHO syndrome
- xvi. Sarcoidosis
- xvii. Subcorneal pustular dermatosis
- xviii. Synovitis
- xix. Takayasu's arteritis
- xx. Uveitis
- xxi. Immune checkpoint inhibitor toxicity

## B. **AVSOLA**

### 1. FDA-Approved Indications

- i. Crohn's disease
  - a. Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in adult patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
  - b. Reducing the number of draining enterocutaneous and rectovaginal fistulas and maintaining fistula closure in adult patients with fistulizing disease
- ii. Pediatric Crohn's disease  
Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in pediatric patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- iii. Ulcerative colitis  
Reducing signs and symptoms, inducing and maintaining clinical remission and mucosal healing, and eliminating corticosteroid use in adult patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- iv. Pediatric ulcerative colitis  
Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in pediatric patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- v. Rheumatoid arthritis in combination with methotrexate  
Reducing signs and symptoms, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function in patients with moderately to severely active disease
- vi. Ankylosing spondylitis

Reference number
1979-A

- Reducing signs and symptoms in patients with active disease
- vii. Psoriatic arthritis
  - Reducing signs and symptoms of active arthritis, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function
- viii. Plaque Psoriasis
  - Treatment of adult patients with chronic severe (i.e., extensive and/or disabling) plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy and when other systemic therapies are medically less appropriate

2. Compendial Uses  
Same as Remicade. See Section I.A.2.

### C. INFLECTRA

1. FDA-Approved Indications
  - i. Crohn's disease
    - a. Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in adult patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
    - b. Reducing the number of draining enterocutaneous and rectovaginal fistulas and maintaining fistula closure in adult patients with fistulizing disease
  - ii. Pediatric Crohn's disease
    - Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in pediatric patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
  - iii. Ulcerative colitis
    - Reducing signs and symptoms, inducing and maintaining clinical remission and mucosal healing, and eliminating corticosteroid use in adult patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
  - iv. Pediatric ulcerative colitis
    - Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in pediatric patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
  - v. Rheumatoid arthritis in combination with methotrexate
    - Reducing signs and symptoms, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function in patients with moderately to severely active disease
  - vi. Ankylosing spondylitis
    - Reducing signs and symptoms in patients with active disease
  - vii. Psoriatic arthritis
    - Reducing signs and symptoms of active arthritis, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function
  - viii. Plaque Psoriasis
    - Treatment of adult patients with chronic severe (i.e., extensive and/or disabling) plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy and when other systemic therapies are medically less appropriate
2. Compendial Uses  
Same as Remicade. See Section I.A.2.

### D. RENFLEXIS

1. FDA-Approved Indications
  - i. Crohn's disease

Reference number
1979-A

- a. Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in adult patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- b. Reducing the number of draining enterocutaneous and rectovaginal fistulas and maintaining fistula closure in adult patients with fistulizing disease
- ii. Pediatric Crohn's disease  
Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in pediatric patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- iii. Ulcerative colitis  
Reducing signs and symptoms, inducing and maintaining clinical remission and mucosal healing, and eliminating corticosteroid use in adult patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- iv. Pediatric ulcerative colitis  
Reducing signs and symptoms and inducing and maintaining clinical remission in pediatric patients with moderately to severely active disease who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy
- v. Rheumatoid arthritis in combination with methotrexate  
Reducing signs and symptoms, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function in patients with moderately to severely active disease
- vi. Ankylosing spondylitis  
Reducing signs and symptoms in patients with active disease
- vii. Psoriatic arthritis  
Reducing signs and symptoms of active arthritis, inhibiting the progression of structural damage, and improving physical function
- viii. Plaque Psoriasis  
Treatment of adult patients with chronic severe (i.e., extensive and/or disabling) plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy and when other systemic therapies are medically less appropriate

- 2. Compendial Uses  
Same as Remicade. See Section I.A.2.

All other indications will be assessed on an individual basis. Submissions for indications other than those enumerated in this policy should be accompanied by supporting evidence from Medicare approved compendia.

## II. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

### A. Crohn's disease

Authorization of 24 months may be granted for treatment of Crohn's disease

### B. Ulcerative colitis

Authorization of 24 months may be granted for treatment of ulcerative colitis

### C. Rheumatoid arthritis

Authorization of 24 months may be granted for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis when any of the following criteria are met:

- i. The member has previously received any other biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) (e.g., Humira) or targeted synthetic DMARD (e.g., Xeljanz) indicated for rheumatoid arthritis.

- ii. The member had an inadequate response to methotrexate or there is a clinical reason to avoid treatment with methotrexate (e.g., renal or hepatic impairment).
- D. Ankylosing spondylitis and axial spondyloarthritis**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for treatment of active ankylosing spondylitis and axial spondyloarthritis.
- E. Psoriatic arthritis**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for treatment of psoriatic arthritis.
- F. Plaque psoriasis**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for treatment of plaque psoriasis.
- G. Adult onset Still's disease**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of adult onset Still's disease.
- H. Arthritis/arthropathy in Crohn's disease**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of arthritis or arthropathy in a member with Crohn's disease.
- I. Behcet's disease**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of Behcet's disease.
- J. Gastrointestinal tract transplantation organ rejection**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of gastrointestinal tract transplantation organ rejection.
- K. Giant cell arteritis**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of giant cell arteritis.
- L. Graft versus host disease**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of graft versus host disease.
- M. Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis)**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of granulomatosis with polyangiitis.
- N. Hidradenitis suppurativa**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of hidradenitis suppurativa.
- O. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of juvenile idiopathic arthritis.
- P. Kawasaki disease**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of Kawasaki disease.
- Q. Necrobiosis lipoidica diabetorum**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of necrobiosis lipoidica diabetorum.
- R. Pyoderma gangrenosum**  
Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of pyoderma gangrenosum.

**S. SAPHO syndrome**

Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of SAPHO syndrome.

**T. Sarcoidosis**

Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of sarcoidosis.

**U. Subcorneal pustular dermatosis**

Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of subcorneal pustular dermatosis.

**V. Synovitis**

Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of synovitis.

**W. Takayasu's disease**

Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of Takayasu's disease.

**X. Uveitis**

Authorization of 24 months may be granted for the treatment of uveitis.

**Y. Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Toxicity**

Authorization of 1 month may be granted for the treatment of immune checkpoint inhibitor toxicity.

**III. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY****A. Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Toxicity**

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

**B. All other indications**

All members (including new members) requesting authorization for continuation of therapy must be currently receiving therapy with the requested agent.

Authorization for 24 months may be granted when all of the following criteria are met:

1. The member is currently receiving therapy with Avsola, Remicade, Inflectra, or Renflexis
2. The requested medication is being used to treat an indication enumerated in Section II
3. The member is receiving benefit from therapy

**IV. REFERENCES**

1. Remicade [package insert]. Horsham, PA: Janssen Biotech, Inc.; June 2018.
2. Avsola [package insert]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen; December 2019.
3. Inflectra [package insert]. Lake Forest, IL: Hospira, a Pfizer Company; July 2018.
4. Renflexis [package insert]. Kenilworth, NJ. Merck & Co., Inc; November 2017.
5. van der Heijde D, Sieper J, Maksymowych WP, et al. 2010 Update of the international ASAS recommendations for the use of anti-TNF agents in patients with axial spondyloarthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2011;70:905-908.
6. Micromedex Solutions [database online]. Ann Arbor, MI: Truven Health Analytics Inc. Updated periodically. [www.micromedexsolutions.com](http://www.micromedexsolutions.com) [available with subscription]. Accessed December 30, 2016.
7. Talley NJ, Abreu MT, Achkar J, et al. An evidence-based systematic review on medical therapies for inflammatory bowel disease. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2011;106(Suppl 1):S2-S25.

Reference number
1979-A

8. 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.
9. Smolen JS, Landewé R, Breedveld FC, et al. EULAR recommendations for the management of rheumatoid arthritis with synthetic and biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: 2013 update. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2014;73:492-509.
10. 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.
11. Menter A, Korman NJ, Elmets CA, et al. Guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Section 6: Guidelines of care for the treatment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis: case-based presentations and evidence-based conclusions. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2011;65(1):137-174.
12. Gossec L, Smolen JS, Ramiro S, et al. European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) recommendations for the management of psoriatic arthritis with pharmacological therapies; 2015 update. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2016;75(3):499-510.
13. Gladman DD, Antoni C, P Mease, et al. Psoriatic arthritis: epidemiology, clinical features, course, and outcome. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2005;64(Suppl II):ii14–ii17.
14. Peluso R, Lervolino S, Vitiello M, et al. Extra-articular manifestations in psoriatic arthritis patients. *Clin Rheumatol*. 2014 May 8. [Epub ahead of print].
15. Braun J, van den Berg R, Baraliakos X, et al. 2010 update of the ASAS/EULAR recommendations for the management of ankylosing spondylitis. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2011;70:896–904.
16. Beukelman T, Patkar NM, Saag KG, et al. 2011 American College of Rheumatology recommendations for the treatment of juvenile idiopathic arthritis: initiation and safety monitoring of therapeutic agents for the treatment of arthritis and systemic features. *Arthritis Care Res*. 2011;63(4):465-482.
17. 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 & Rheumatism*. 2013;65:2499-2512.
18. Ward MM, Deodhar A, Akl EA, et al. American College of Rheumatology/Spondylitis Association of America/Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network 2015 recommendations for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis and nonradiographic axial spondyloarthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2015: 10.1002/art.39298. [Epub ahead of print].
19. The NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium® © 2019 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. Available at: <https://www.nccn.org>. Accessed August 23, 2019.