# PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

**POLICY:** Inflammatory Conditions – Orencia Subcutaneous Prior Authorization Policy
- Orencia® (abatacept subcutaneous injection – Bristol Myers Squibb)

**REVIEW DATE:** 09/11/2024

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***INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE***

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## CIGNA NATIONAL FORMULARY COVERAGE:

## OVERVIEW

Orencia subcutaneous, a selective T-cell costimulation modulator, is indicated for the following uses:[1]
- **Rheumatoid arthritis**, in adults with moderately to severely active disease.
- **Juvenile idiopathic arthritis**, in patients ≥ 2 years of age with moderately to severely active polyarticular disease.
- **Psoriatic arthritis**, in patients ≥ 2 years of age with active disease.

Per the product labeling, Orencia is not recommended for concomitant use with other potent immunosuppressants such as biologics or Janus kinase inhibitors.

### Guidelines

Orencia is addressed in guidelines for treatment of various inflammatory conditions.
- **Rheumatoid Arthritis:** Guidelines from the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) [2021] recommend addition of a biologic or a targeted synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) for a patient taking the maximum tolerated dose of methotrexate who is not at target.[2]
- **Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis:** Guidelines from ACR (2019) list biologics among the treatment options for subsequent therapy in patients with

polyarthritis.[3] Initial therapy with a biologic may be considered for patients with risk factors and involvement of high-risk joints (e.g., cervical spine, wrist, or hip), high disease activity, and/or those judged to be at high risk of disabling joint damage. In patients with active sacroiliitis or enthesitis despite a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, a tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi) is recommended.

- **Psoriatic Arthritis:** Guidelines from ACR (2018) recommend TNFis over other biologics for use in treatment-naïve patients with psoriatic arthritis and in those who were previously treated with an oral therapy.[4] However, Orencia may be considered over other biologics in patients with recurrent or serious infections.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Orencia subcutaneous injection. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. In cases where the approval is authorized in months, 1 month is equal to 30 days. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Orencia as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, initial approval requires Orencia subcutaneous to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

- **Orencia® (abatacept subcutaneous injection (Bristol Myers Squibb) is(are) covered as medically necessary when the following criteria is(are) met for FDA-approved indication(s) or other uses with supportive evidence (if applicable):**

### FDA-Approved Indications

1. **Rheumatoid Arthritis.** 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 has tried ONE conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) for at least 3 months; AND
       Note: Examples of conventional synthetic DMARDs include methotrexate (oral or injectable), leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine, and sulfasalazine. An exception to the requirement for a trial of one conventional synthetic DMARD can be made if the patient has already had a 3-month trial 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 rheumatoid arthritis. A patient who has already tried a biologic is not required to "step back" and try a conventional synthetic DMARD.
     - **iii.** The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist.
   - **B)** Patient is Currently Receiving Orencia (Intravenous or Subcutaneous). Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii):

**i.** Patient has been established on therapy for at least 6 months; AND
Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).

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

**a)** Patient experienced a beneficial clinical response when assessed by at least one objective measure; OR
Note: Examples of objective measures of disease activity include Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI), Disease Activity Score (DAS) 28 using erythrocyte sedimentation rate or C-reactive protein, Patient Activity Scale (PAS)-II, Rapid Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID-3), and/or Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI).

**b)** Patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as decreased joint pain, morning stiffness, or fatigue; improved function or activities of daily living; decreased soft tissue swelling in joints or tendon sheaths.

**2. Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA).** Approve for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):
Note: This includes JIA regardless of type of onset. JIA is also referred to as Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis.

**A)** Initial Therapy. Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):

**i.** Patient is ≥ 2 years of age; AND

**ii.** Patient meets ONE of the following (a, b, c, or d):

**a)** Patient has tried one other agent for this condition; OR
Note: Examples of therapies which could have been tried include methotrexate, sulfasalazine, leflunomide, or a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). A previous trial of one biologic other than the requested drug also counts as a trial of one agent for JIA. A biosimilar of the requested biologic does not count. Refer to Appendix for examples of biologics used for JIA.

**b)** Patient will be starting on therapy concurrently with methotrexate, sulfasalazine, or leflunomide; OR

**c)** Patient has an absolute contraindication to methotrexate, sulfasalazine, or leflunomide; OR
Note: Examples of absolute contraindications to methotrexate include pregnancy, breast feeding, alcoholic liver disease, immunodeficiency syndrome, or blood dyscrasias.

**d)** Patient has aggressive disease, as determined by the prescriber; AND

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

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

**i.** Patient has been established on therapy for at least 6 months; AND
Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy 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 Physician Global Assessment (MD global), Parent/Patient Global Assessment of Overall Well-Being (PGA), Parent/Patient Global Assessment of Disease Activity (PDA), Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score (JDAS), Clinical Juvenile Arthritis Disease Activity Score (cJDAS), Juvenile Spondyloarthritis Disease Activity Index (JSpADA), serum markers (e.g., C-reactive protein, erythrocyte sedimentation rate), and/or reduced dosage of corticosteroids.

**b)** Compared with baseline (prior to initiating the requested drug), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as improvement in limitation of motion, less joint pain or tenderness, decreased duration of morning stiffness or fatigue, improved function or activities of daily living.

**3. Psoriatic Arthritis.** 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 BOTH of the following (i and ii):

**i.** Patient is ≥ 2 years of age; AND

**ii.** The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist or a dermatologist.

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

**i.** Patient has been established on therapy for at least 6 months; AND

Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy 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 requesting drug); OR

Note: Examples of objective measures of disease activity include Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA), Composite Psoriatic Disease Activity Index (CPDAI), Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score (PsA DAS), Grace Index, Leeds Enthesitis Score (LEI), Spondyloarthritis Consortium of Canada (SPARCC) enthesitis score, Leeds Dactylitis Instrument Score, Minimal Disease Activity (MDA), Psoriatic Arthritis Impact of Disease (PsAID-12), and/or serum markers (e.g., C-reactive protein, erythrocyte sedimentation rate).

**b)** Compared with baseline (prior to initiating the requested drug), patient experienced an improvement in at least one symptom, such as less joint pain, morning stiffness, or fatigue; improved function or activities of daily living; decreased soft tissue swelling in joints or ten don sheaths.

## CONDITIONS NOT COVERED

- **Orencia® (abatacept subcutaneous injection (Bristol Myers Squibb) is(are) considered experimental, investigational or unproven for ANY other use(s) including the following (this list may not be all inclusive; criteria will be updated as new published data are available):**

1. **Ankylosing Spondylitis.** In an open-label Phase II trial, Orencia was administered intravenously on Days 1, 15, 29, and every 28 days thereafter to patients with active ankylosing spondylitis.[5] Patients received a fixed dosage of Orencia of approximately 10 mg/kg based on body weight. The primary endpoint was a 40% improvement in disease activity at Week 24 in the Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society criteria (ASAS 40). At Week 24, the ASAS 40 was 13.3% (n = 2/15) in TNFi-naïve patients compared with no responses in patients who had previously failed TNFis (n = 15). ASAS 20 response was 26.7% (n = 4/15) in TNFi-naïve patients compared with 20% (n = 3/15) in those who had previously failed TNFis. A major response was not shown with Orencia treatment.

2. **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.

3. **Inflammatory Bowel Disease (i.e., Crohn's Disease, Ulcerative Colitis).** In placebo-controlled trials evaluating the efficacy of Orencia intravenous for induction and maintenance in adults with active, moderate to severe Crohn's disease (n = 451) and ulcerative colitis (n = 490), Orencia was no more effective than placebo.[6] Patients were randomized to Orencia 30 mg/kg, 10 mg/kg, or 3 mg/kg (according to body weight) or placebo and dosed at Weeks 0, 2, 4, and 8. A total of 90 patients with Crohn's disease and 131 patients with ulcerative colitis who responded to induction were then randomized to Orencia 10 mg/kg or placebo every 4 weeks through Week 52. When used for induction of Crohn's disease, 17.2%, 10.2%, and 15.5% of patients receiving Orencia 30 mg/kg, 10 mg/kg, and 3 mg/kg, respectively achieved a clinical response at Weeks 8 and 12 compared with 14.4% of patients receiving placebo (P = not significant [NS] for all comparisons). In patients with Crohn's disease, response and remission at Week 52 was not significantly different between the Orencia intravenous and placebo treatment groups. When used as induction therapy in ulcerative colitis, 21.4%, 19.0%, and 20.3% of patients receiving Orencia 30 mg, 10 mg, and 3 mg/kg, respectively achieved a clinical response at Week 12 compared with 29.5% of patients receiving placebo (P = 0.043 for 10 mg/kg vs. placebo; other comparisons P = NS). At Week 52, 12.5% (n = 8/64) and 14.1% (n = 9/64) of

patients with ulcerative colitis were in remission (P = NS) and 17.2% of patients in each treatment group (n = 11/64 for each group) had achieved a response.

4. **Psoriasis**. In the pivotal trial evaluating Orencia subcutaneous for psoriatic arthritis, there was not a significant difference at Week 24 in the proportion of patients with a 50% reduction in the Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI 50) response vs. placebo ± conventional synthetic DMARD (27% vs. 20% with placebo ± conventional synthetic DMARD; P = NS).[8] In a multicenter, Phase I, 26-week, open-label dose-escalation study, 43 patients with stable plaque psoriasis (10% to 49% body surface area involvement) received four doses of Orencia given as a 1-hour intravenous infusion on Days 1, 3, 16 and 29.[7] The starting dose was 0.5 mg/kg. Four to six patients were accrued to each of eight dose levels: 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 25 and 50 mg/kg. A parallel control group was matched for age and overall disease severity. In all, 46% of patients on Orencia achieved a 50% or greater sustained improvement in clinical disease activity (Physician's Global Assessment of disease activity) compared with baseline psoriasis evaluation. Progressively greater effects were observed with the highest doses. Further studies are needed to establish safety and efficacy, as well as appropriate dosing, in plaque psoriasis.
   Note: Patients with concomitant plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis may be reviewed under the psoriatic arthritis criteria above.

## REFERENCES


1. Orencia® subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb; May 2024.
2. Fraenkel L, Bathon JM, England BR, et al. 2021 American College of Rheumatology guideline for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2021;73(7):1108-1123.
3. 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 Rheumatol*. 2019;71(6):717-734.
4. Singh JA, Guyatt G, Ogdie A, et al. 2018 American College of Rheumatology/National Psoriasis Foundation Guideline for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken).* 2019;71(1):2-29.
5. Song IH, Heldmann F, Rudwaleit M, et al. Treatment of active ankylosing spondylitis with abatacept: an open-label, 24-week pilot study. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2011;70(6):1108-1110.
6. Sandborn WJ, Colombel JF, Sands BE, et al. Abatacept for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. *Gastroenterology*. 2012;143(1):62-69.e4.
7. Abrams JR, Lebwohl MG, Guzzo CA, et al. CTLA4Ig-mediated blockade of T-cell costimulation in patients with psoriasis vulgaris. *J Clin Invest.* 1999;103:1243-1252.
8. Mease PJ, Gottlieb AB, van der Heijde D, et al. Efficacy and safety of abatacept, a T-cell modulator, in a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase III study in psoriatic arthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2017;76(9):1550-1558.


## HISTORY

| Type of Revision | Summary of Changes | Review Date |
|---|---|---|
| Annual Revision | No criteria changes. | 07/27/2022 |
| Annual Revision | No criteria changes. | 08/23/2023 |

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|---|---|---|
| Update | In the Overview, updated age of approval in psoriatic arthritis to be patients ≥ 2 years of age. | 03/22/2024 |
| Selected Revision | **Rheumatoid Arthritis:** For initial approvals, a requirement that the patient is ≥ 18 years of age was added.<br>**Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis:** For initial approvals, a requirement that the patient is ≥ 2 years of age was added.<br>**Psoriatic Arthritis:** For initial approvals, a requirement that the patient is ≥ 2 years of age was added.<br>**Conditions Not Covered:** 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 |

## 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 | UC |
| **Stelara®** (ustekinumab SC injection, ustekinumab IV infusion) | 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 |
| **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: PsA, PsO, UC |
| | | IV formulation: 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®** (ritlecitinib capsules) | Inhibition of JAK pathways | AA |

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|---|---|---|
| **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.