



Coverage Guidelines: Remicade (infliximab)

Policy

Network Health covers Remicade (infliximab) with prior authorization for *Network Health Together*[®], *Network Health Forward*[®], and *Network Health Extend* members who meet specific coverage criteria. Remicade is available as a pharmacy benefit (through our specialty pharmacy program) or as a medical benefit.

Covered conditions

Network Health covers Remicade when a member meets all criteria for one of the following conditions:

Ankylosing spondylitis

- Is 18 years of age or older, **and**
- Has been evaluated by a rheumatologist, **and**
- Has tried and failed treatment with or has a contraindication to at least one nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID); **or** has tried and failed treatment with another biological agent such as Humira, Enbrel or Simponi; **or** is a new Network Health member already stabilized on Remicade treatment

Crohn's disease (fistulizing, active for induction, and/or maintenance of remission) and ulcerative colitis

- Is 18 years of age or older, **and**
- Has been evaluated by a gastroenterologist, **and**
- Has tried and failed treatment with or has a contraindication to at least two of the following conventional therapies: aminosalicylates (e.g., sulfasalazine, mesalamine, olsalazine), immunosuppressant agents (e.g., azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine, cyclosporine, methotrexate), or corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone, hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, budesonide); **or** has tried and failed treatment with another biological agent such as Humira or Cimzia; **or** is a new Network Health member already stabilized on Remicade treatment

Crohn's disease in pediatric patients

- Is 6 to 17 years of age, **and**
- Has been evaluated by a gastroenterologist, **and**
- Has tried and failed treatment with or has a contraindication to at least two of the following conventional therapies: aminosalicylates (e.g., sulfasalazine, mesalamine, olsalazine), immunosuppressant agents (e.g., azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine, cyclosporine, methotrexate), or corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone, hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, budesonide); **or** has tried and failed treatment with another biological agent such as Humira; **or** is a new Network Health member already stabilized on Remicade treatment

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Plaque psoriasis

- Is 18 years of age or older, **and**
- Has been evaluated by a dermatologist, **and**
- Has tried and failed treatment with or has a contraindication to at least two of the following therapies: PUVA or UVB phototherapy, acitretin, cyclosporine, or methotrexate; **or** has tried and failed treatment with another biological agent such as Humira, Amevive or Enbrel; **or** is a new Network Health member already stabilized on Remicade treatment

Psoriatic arthritis

- Is 18 years of age or older, **and**
- Has been evaluated by a rheumatologist or dermatologist, **and**
- Has tried and failed treatment with or has a contraindication to at least one traditional disease modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD), such as azathioprine, gold therapy, hydroxychloroquine, methotrexate, penicillamine, sulfasalazine, cyclosporine, or leflunomide; **or** has tried and failed treatment with another biological agent such as Humira, Enbrel, or Simponi; **or** is a new Network Health member already stabilized on Remicade treatment

Rheumatoid arthritis

- Is 18 years of age or older, **and**
- Has been evaluated by a rheumatologist, **and**
- Has tried and failed treatment with or has a contraindication to methotrexate
- Has tried and failed treatment with or has a contraindication to another traditional DMARD, such as azathioprine, gold therapy, hydroxychloroquine, penicillamine, sulfasalazine, cyclosporine, or leflunomide; **or** has tried and failed treatment with another biological agent such as Orencia, Humira, Kineret, Cimzia, Enbrel, or Simponi; **or** is a new Network Health member already stabilized on Remicade treatment

Please note: Network Health will approve one year of initial Remicade treatment if a member meets all of the initial criteria for a covered condition described in the covered conditions section. Network Health will continue to approve Remicade therapy on an annual basis for these conditions when a provider provides clinical documentation (e.g., office note, specialist note) of member improvement while receiving Remicade.

Noncovered conditions

Network Health does not cover Remicade for conditions not described in the covered conditions section.

Definitions

Ankylosing spondylitis is a chronic inflammatory arthritis that affects joints in the spine and the sacroiliac in the pelvis, and causes the spine to eventually fuse.

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Crohn's disease is a chronic form of inflammatory bowel disease that causes severe irritation in the gastrointestinal tract. It usually affects the lower small intestine (called the ileum) or the colon, but can affect the entire gastrointestinal tract.

Plaque psoriasis is a type of psoriasis characterized by red, silvery-white, and scaly skin lesions.

Psoriatic arthritis is a form of rheumatoid arthritis associated with psoriasis that usually affects fingers and toes.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic and progressive disease in which the immune system attacks the joints. It is characterized by pain, inflammation, and swelling of the joints; stiffness; weakness; loss of mobility; and deformity.

Ulcerative colitis is a form of inflammatory bowel disease that causes ulcers and inflammation in the inner lining of the colon and rectum.

Guidelines references

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