Clinical Policy: Dupilumab (Dupixent)

Reference Number: IN.CP.PHAR.336
Effective Date 01/01/2020
Last Review Date: 3/23
Line of Business: Medicaid

Coding Implications
Revision Log

See Important Reminder **at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.**

Description

Dupilumab (Dupixent®) is an interleukin-4 receptor alpha antagonist.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Dupixent is indicated:

- For the treatment of patients aged 12 years and older with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis whose disease is not adequately controlled with topical prescription therapies or when those therapies are not advisable. Dupixent can be used with or without topical corticosteroids
- As an add-on maintenance treatment in patients with moderate-to-severe asthma aged 12 years and older with an eosinophilic phenotype or with oral corticosteroid dependent asthma
- As an add-on maintenance treatment in adult patients with inadequately controlled chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyposis (CRSwNP)

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of affiliated with Centene Corporation® that Dupixent is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Atopic Dermatitis (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of atopic dermatitis;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist or allergist;
3. Age ≥ 6 months;
4. Member must have ≥ 45 days of topical drug therapy with one of the following: pimecrolimus, tacrolimus, or corticosteroids
5. Dupixent is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair®, Fasenra®, Nucala®, or Xolair®
6. Dose does not exceed the following (a or b):
   a. Initial (one-time) dose: 600 mg;
   b. Maintenance dose: 300 mg every other week.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Asthma (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of asthma and one of the following (a or b):
   a. Absolute blood eosinophil count ≥ 150 cells/mcL within the past 3 months;
   b. Currently receiving maintenance treatment with systemic glucocorticoids and has received treatment for at least 4 weeks;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a/an allergist, immunologist, or pulmonologist;
3. Age ≥ 12 years;
4. Member has experienced ≥ 2 exacerbations within the last 12 months, requiring any of the following despite adherent use of controller therapy (i.e., moderate- to high-dose inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) plus either a long-acting beta2 agonist (LABA) or leukotriene modifier (LTRA) if LABA contraindication/intolerance):
   a. Oral/systemic corticosteroid treatment (or increase in dose if already on oral corticosteroid);
   b. Urgent care visit or hospital admission;
   c. Intubation;
5. Dupixent is prescribed concurrently with an ICS plus either a LABA or LTRA;
6. Dupixent will not be used concurrently with Cinqair® Fasenra®, Nucala®, or Xolair®;
7. Dose does not exceed the following (a or b):
   a. Initial (one-time) dose: 600 mg;
   b. Maintenance dose: 300 mg every other week.

Approval duration: 6 months

C. Chronic Rhinosinusitis with Nasal Polyposis (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of CRSwNP with documentation of all of the following (a, b, and c):
   a. Presence of nasal polyps;
   b. Disease is bilateral;
   c. Member has experienced signs and symptoms (e.g., nasal congestion/blockage/obstruction, loss of smell, rhinorrhea) for ≥ 12 weeks;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist, immunologist, or otolaryngologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Member has required the use of systemic corticosteroids for symptom control within the last 2 years, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced *(see Appendix B for examples)*;
5. Member has failed maintenance therapy with at least two intranasal corticosteroids, each used for ≥ 8 weeks, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced *(see Appendix B for examples)*;
6. Dupixent is prescribed concurrently with an intranasal corticosteroid, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced *(see Appendix B for examples)*;

7. Dupixent is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala, or Xolair;
8. Dose does not exceed 300 mg every other week.
   Approval duration: 6 months

D. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Atopic Dermatitis (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by, including but not limited to, reduction in itching and scratching;
3. Dupixent is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala, or Xolair
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 300 mg given every other week.

Approval duration:
Medicaid– 12 months

B. Asthma (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Demonstrated adherence to asthma controller therapy that includes an ICS plus either a LABA or LTRA;
3. Member is responding positively to therapy *(see Appendix D)*;
4. Dupixent is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala, or Xolair
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 300 mg every other week.

Approval duration:
Medicaid – 12 months

C. Chronic Rhinosinusitis with Nasal Polyposis (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Demonstrated adherence to an intranasal corticosteroid, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
3. Member is responding positively to therapy *(see Appendix D)*;
4. Dupixent is not prescribed concurrently with Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala, or Xolair
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 300 mg every other week.

Approval duration:
Medicaid– 12 months

D. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.

Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or

2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policy– CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

CRSwNP: chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyposis
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
ICS: inhaled corticosteroid
LABA: long-acting beta2 agonist
LTRA: leukotriene modifier

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
ATOPIC DERMATITIS		
Very High Potency Topical Corticosteroids		
augmented betamethasone 0.05% (Diprolene® AF) cream, ointment, gel, lotion	Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	varies
clobetasol propionate 0.05% (Temovate®) cream, ointment, gel, solution		
diflorasone diacetate 0.05% (Maxiflor®, Psorcon E®) cream, ointment		
halobetasol propionate 0.05% (Ultravate®) cream, ointment		
High Potency Topical Corticosteroids		
augmented betamethasone 0.05% (Diprolene® AF) cream, ointment, gel, lotion	Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	varies
diflorasone 0.05% (Florone®, Florone E®, Maxiflor®,Psorcon E®) cream		
fluocinonide acetonide 0.05% (Lidex®, Lidex E®) cream, ointment, gel, solution		

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
triamcinolone acetonide 0.5% (Aristocort®, Kenalog®) cream, ointment		
Medium Potency Topical Corticosteroids		
desoximetasone 0.05% (Topicort ®) cream, ointment, gel	Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	varies
fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% (Synalar®) cream, ointment		
mometasone 0.1% (Elocon®) cream, ointment, lotion		
triamcinolone acetonide 0.025%, 0.1% (Aristocort®, Kenalog®) cream, ointment		
Low Potency Topical Corticosteroids		
alclometasone 0.05% (Aclovate®) cream, ointment	Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	varies
desonide 0.05% (Desowen®) cream, ointment, lotion		
fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% (Synalar®) solution		
hydrocortisone 2.5% (Hytone®) cream, ointment		
Other Classes of Agents		
Protopic® (tacrolimus), Elidel® (pimecrolimus)	Children ≥ 2 years and adults: Apply a thin layer topically to affected skin BID. Treatment should be discontinued if resolution of disease occurs.	varies
Eucrisa® (crisaborole)	Apply to the affected areas BID	varies
cyclosporine	3-6mg/kg/day PO BID	300 mg/day
azathioprine	1-3mg/kg/day PO once daily	Weight-based
methotrexate	7.5-25mg/wk PO once weekly	25 mg/week
mycophenolate mofetil	1-1.5 PO BID	3 g/day
Systemic corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone, prednisolone, triamcinolone)	PO, IM, or parenteral; dose varies	varies
ASTHMA **ICS (medium – high dose)**		
Qvar® (beclomethasone)	> 200 mcg/day 40 mcg, 80 mcg per actuation 1-4 actuations BID	4 actuations BID
budesonide (Pulmicort®)	> 400 mcg/day	2 actuations BID

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	90 mcg, 180 mcg per actuation 2-4 actuations BID	
Alvesco® (ciclesonide)	> 160 mcg/day 80 mcg, 160 mcg per actuation 1-2 actuations BID	2 actuations BID
Aerospan® (flunisolide)	> 320 mcg/day 80 mcg per actuation 2-4 actuations BID	2 actuations BID
Flovent® (fluticasone propionate)	> 250 mcg/day 44-250 mcg per actuation 2-4 actuations BID	2 actuations BID
Arnuity Ellipta® (fluticasone furoate)	200 mcg/day 100 mcg, 200 mcg per actuation 1 actuation QD	1 actuation QD
Asmanex® (mometasone)	>220 mcg/day HFA: 100 mcg, 200 mcg per actuation Twisthaler: 110 mcg, 220 mcg per actuation 1-2 actuations QD to BID	2 inhalations BID
LABA		
Serevent® (salmeterol)	50 mcg per dose 1 inhalation BID	1 inhalation BID
Combination products (ICS + LABA)		
Dulera® (mometasone/ formoterol)	100/5 mcg, 200/5 mcg per actuation 2 actuations BID	4 actuations per day
Breo Ellipta® (fluticasone/vilanterol)	100/25 mcg, 200/25 mcg per actuation 1 actuation QD	1 actuation QD
Advair® (fluticasone/ salmeterol)	Diskus: 100/50 mcg, 250/50 mcg, 500/50 mcg per actuation HFA: 45/21 mcg, 115/21 mcg, 230/21 mcg per actuation 1 actuation BID	1 actuation BID
fluticasone/salmeterol (Airduo RespiClick®)	55/13 mcg, 113/14 mcg, 232/14 mcg per actuation 1 actuation BID	1 actuation BID
Symbicort® (budesonide/ formoterol)	80 mcg/4.5 mcg, 160 mcg/4.5 mcg per actuation 2 actuations BID	2 actuations BID
LTRA		
montelukast (Singulair®)	4 to 10 mg PO QD	10 mg per day

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
zafirlukast (Accolate®)	10 to 20 mg PO BID	40 mg per day
zileuton ER (Zyflo® CR)	1200 mg PO BID	2400 mg per day
Zyflo® (zileuton)	600 mg PO QID	2400 mg per day
Oral corticosteroids		
dexamethasone (Decadron®)	0.75 to 9 mg/day PO in 2 to 4 divided doses	Varies
methylprednisolone (Medrol®)	40 to 80 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies
prednisolone (Millipred®, Orapred ODT®)	40 to 80 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies
prednisone (Deltasone®)	40 to 80 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies
CRSwNP		
Intranasal corticosteroids		
beclomethasone (Beconase AQ®, Qnasl®)	1-2 sprays IN BID	2 sprays/nostril BID
budesonide (Rhinocort® Aqua, Rhinocort®)	128 mcg IN QD or 200 mcg IN BID	1-2 inhalations/nostril/ day
flunisolide	2 sprays IN BID	2 sprays/nostril TID
fluticasone propionate (Flonase®)	1-2 sprays IN BID	2 sprays/nostril BID
mometasone (Nasonex®)	2 sprays IN BID	2 sprays/nostril BID
Omnaris®, Zetonna® (ciclesonide)	Omnaris: 2 sprays IN QD Zetonna: 1 spray IN QD	Omnaris: 2 sprays/ nostril/day Zetonna: 2 sprays/ nostril/day
triamcinolone (Nasacort®)	2 sprays IN QD	2 sprays/ nostril/day
Oral corticosteroids		
dexamethasone (Decadron®)	0.75 to 9 mg/day PO in 2 to 4 divided doses	Varies
methylprednisolone (Medrol®)	4 to 48 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies
prednisolone (Millipred®, Orapred ODT®)	5 to 60 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies
prednisone (Deltasone®)	5 to 60 mg PO in 1 to 2 divided doses	Varies

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): known hypersensitivity to Dupixent or any of its excipients
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

Appendix D: General Information

- The Phase III pivotal studies (SOLO 1 and SOLO 2) of Dupixent showed no significant difference in clinical outcomes between dosing of Dupixent every week and every other week for the treatment of atopic dermatitis.
- During clinical trials (LIBERTY ASTHMA QUEST), among patients with a baseline blood eosinophil count of < 150 per cubic millimeter, the exacerbation rate was similar with dupilumab and with placebo: 0.47 (95% CI, 0.36 to 0.62) with lower-dose dupilumab and 0.51 (95% CI, 0.35 to 0.76) with matched placebo, and 0.74 (95% CI, 0.58 to 0.95) with higher-dose dupilumab and 0.64 (95% CI, 0.44 to 0.93) with matched placebo.
- Positive response to therapy for asthma may include reduction in exacerbations or corticosteroid dose, improvement in forced expiratory volume over one second since baseline, or reduction in the use of rescue therapy.
- Lab results for blood eosinophil counts can be converted into cells/mcL using the following unit conversion calculator: https://www.fasenrahcp.com/m/fasenra-eosinophil-calculator.html
- Positive response to therapy for CRSwNP may include reduced nasal polyp size, reduced need for systemic corticosteroids, improved sense of smell, or improved quality of life.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis	Adults: Initial dose of 600 mg SC followed by 300 mg SC every other week Adolescents 12-17 years of age: Body weight < 60 kg: Initial dose of 400 mg SC followed by 200 mg SC every other week Body weight ≥ 60 kg: Initial dose of 600 mg SC followed by 300 mg SC every other week	600 mg initially, then 300 mg every other week
Moderate-to-severe asthma	Initial dose of 400 mg SC followed by 200 mg SC every other week; or Initial dose of 600 mg SC followed by 300 mg SC every other week For patients requiring concomitant oral corticosteroids or with co-morbid moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis for which Dupixent is indicated, start with an initial dose of 600 mg SC followed by 300 mg SC every other week	300 mg every other week
CRSwNP	300 mg SC every other week	300 mg every other week

VI. Product Availability

Pre-filled syringe with needle shield for injection: 200 mg/1.14 mL, 300 mg/2 mL

VII. References

1. Dupixent Prescribing Information. Tarrytown, NY: Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; June 2019. Available at: www.dupixent.com. Accessed July 10, 2019.
2. DRUGDEX® System [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colo: Thomson Healthcare. Updated periodically. Accessed July 11, 2019.
3. Simpson EL, Bieber T, Guttman-Yassky E, et al. Two phase 3 trials of dupilumab versus placebo in atopic dermatitis. New England Journal of Medicine. 2016; 375: 2335-48.
4. Eichenfield F, Tom WL, Chamlin SL, et al. Guidelines of Care for the Management of Atopic Dematitis. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2014 February; 70(2): 338–351.
5. Leshem YA, Hajar T, Hanifin JM, et al. What the Eczema Area and Severity Index score tells us about the severity of atopic dermatitis: an interpretability study. British Journal of Dermatology 2015; 172(5):1353-1357.
6. National Asthma Education and Prevention Program: Expert panel report III: Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of asthma. Bethesda, MD: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, 2007. (NIH publication no. 08-4051). Available at http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-pro/guidelines/current/asthma-guidelines. Accessed November 13, 2018.
7. Global Initiative for Asthma: Global strategy for asthma management and prevention (2018 update). Available at: https://ginasthma.org/2018-gina-report-global-strategy-for-asthma-management-and-prevention/. Accessed November 13, 2018.
8. Rosenfeld RM, Piccirillo JF, Chandrasekhar SS, et al. Clinical practice guideline (update): adult sinusitis. Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery 2015, Vol. 152(2S) S1–S39.
9. Peters AT, Spector S, Hsu J, et al. Diagnosis and management of rhinosinusitis: a practice parameter update. Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol 2014. 113:347-85.
10. Fokkens WJ, Lund V, Bachert C, et al. EUFOREA consensus on biologics for CRSwNP with or without asthma. doi: 10.1111/all.13875.

Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
C9399; J3590	Unclassified drugs or biologicals

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
New policy	01/20	01/20
Q1 2021 Annual Review No Changes	01/21	01/21
Annual Review. No changes	10/22	
A.D. age changed ≥ 6 months & drug requirements for A.D.	3/23	