

Clinical Policy: Rituximab (Rituxan), Rituximab-arrx (Riabni), Rituximab-pvvr (Ruxience), Rituximab-abbs (Truxima), Rituximab-Hyaluronidase (Rituxan Hycela)

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[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Rituximab (Rituxan®) and its biosimilars [rituximab-arrx (Riabni™), rituximab-pvvr (Ruxience™), rituximab-abbs (Truxima®)] are CD20-directed cytolytic antibodies.

Rituximab and hyaluronidase (Rituxan Hycela™) is a combination of rituximab and human hyaluronidase that is used to increase the dispersion and absorption of the co-administered drugs when given subcutaneously.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Indications	Rituxan	Riabni	Ruxience	Truxima	Rituxan Hycela*
Oncology indications (for adults unless otherwise indicated)					
Low-grade and follicular B-cell NHL	Relapsed or refractory, low-grade [Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima] or follicular [Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima, Rituxan Hycela], CD20-positive, B-cell NHL as a single agent.	X	X	X	X
	Previously untreated follicular, CD20-positive B-cell NHL in combination with first-line chemotherapy and, in patients achieving a complete or partial response to a rituximab product in combination with chemotherapy, as single-agent maintenance therapy.	X	X	X	X
	Non-progressing (including stable disease), low-grade [Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima] or follicular [Rituxan Hycela], CD20-positive B-cell NHL as a single agent after first-line CVP chemotherapy.	X	X	X	X
DLBCL (a B-cell NHL)	Previously untreated CD20-positive DLBCL in combination with CHOP or other anthracycline-based chemotherapy regimens.	X	X	X	X
CLL (a B-cell NHL)	Previously untreated and treated CD20-positive CLL in combination with FC chemotherapy.	X	X	X	X
Pediatric B-cell	Previously untreated, advanced stage, CD20-positive, DLBCL,	X			

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-arrx, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-pvvr,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase

Indications		Rituxan	Riabni	Ruxience	Truxima	Rituxan Hycela*
NHL and B-cell acute leukemia	Burkitt lymphoma (BL), Burkitt-like lymphoma (BLL) or mature B-cell acute leukemia (B-AL) in combination with chemotherapy	(6 months and older)				
<i>Non-oncology indications (for adults unless otherwise indicated)</i>						
RA	Moderately to severely active RA in combination with MTX in patients who have inadequate response to one or more TNF antagonist therapies.	X	X	X	X	
GPA, MPA	GPA and MPA in combination with glucocorticoids.	X (2 years and older)	X	X	X	
PV	Moderate to severe PV.	X				

Abbreviations: B-AL (B-cell acute leukemia), BL (Burkitt lymphoma), BLL (Burkitt-like lymphoma), CLL (chronic lymphocytic leukemia), DLBCL (diffuse large B-cell lymphoma), GPA (granulomatosis with polyangiitis; Wegener's granulomatosis), MPA (microscopic polyangiitis), NHL (Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma), PV (pemphigus vulgaris), RA (rheumatoid arthritis).

*Rituxan Hycela limitations of use: 1) Initiate treatment with Rituxan Hycela only after patients have received at least one full dose of a rituximab product by intravenous infusion; 2) Rituxan Hycela is not indicated for the treatment of non-malignant conditions.

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.

Health plan approved formularies should be reviewed for all coverage determinations. Requirements to use preferred alternative agents apply only when such requirements align with the health plan approved formulary.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Envolve Pharmacy Solutions™ that Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima, and Rituxan Hycela are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. B-Cell Lymphomas (includes CLL) (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of any of the following non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) subtypes (a-m):
 - a. AIDS-related B-cell lymphomas;
 - b. B-cell acute leukemia;
 - c. Burkitt lymphoma or Burkitt-like lymphoma;
 - d. Castleman's disease;
 - e. Chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma (CLL/SLL)
 - f. Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL);
 - g. Follicular lymphoma (FL);
 - h. Hairy cell leukemia (Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima only);
 - i. Low- or high-grade B-cell lymphoma;
 - j. MALT lymphoma (gastric or nongastric);
 - k. Mantle cell lymphoma;
 - l. Marginal zone lymphoma (nodal or splenic);
 - m. Post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder;
 - n. Primary cutaneous B-cell lymphoma;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;

3. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Age \geq 18 years;
 - b. Age $<$ 18 years with mature B-cell lymphoma;
4. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, Riabni, or Truxima, member must use Ruxience, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
 - b. Request is for treatment associated cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy in certain oncology settings (see *Appendix E*);
5. If request is for Rituxan Hycela, member has received at least one full dose of Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, or Truxima;
6. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (see *Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
7. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. Dose does not exceed (i or ii):
 - i. Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima: 500 mg/m² per IV infusion (see *Section V for cycle regimens*);
 - ii. Rituxan Hycela: 1,600 mg/26,800 units per SC injection (see *Section V for cycle regimens*);
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Rheumatoid Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of RA per American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria (see *Appendix H*);
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
4. Age \geq 18 years;
5. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Failure of a \geq 3 consecutive month trial of MTX at up to maximally indicated doses;
 - b. Member has intolerance or contraindication to MTX (see *Appendix D*), and failure of a \geq 3 consecutive month trial of at least ONE conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD; e.g., sulfasalazine, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine) at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
6. Member meets both of the following (a and b):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, Riabni, or Truxima, member must use Ruxience, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
 - b. Failure of 2 of the following, each used for \geq 3 consecutive months unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated: etanercept (*Enbrel® is preferred*), adalimumab (*Humira® is preferred*), infliximab (*Remicade® is preferred*), Rinvoq®, Xeljanz®, Xeljanz XR®, golimumab (*Simponi Aria® is preferred*);
7. Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima will be administered in combination with MTX, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
8. Documentation of one of the following baseline assessment scores (a or b):
 - a. Clinical disease activity index (CDAI) score (see *Appendix F*);
 - b. Routine assessment of patient index data 3 (RAPID) score (see *Appendix G*);
9. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (see *Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
10. Dose does not exceed two-1,000 mg IV infusions separated by 2 weeks followed by two-1,000 mg IV infusions every 16 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

C. Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (Wegener's Granulomatosis) and Microscopic Polyangiitis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of GPA or MPA;
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
4. For Rituxan: age \geq 2 years;
5. For Riabni, Ruxience, or Truxima: age \geq 18 years;
6. If request is for Rituxan, Riabni, or Truxima, member must use Ruxience, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
7. Prescribed in combination with a glucocorticoid (e.g., prednisone, prednisolone, dexamethasone);
8. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
9. Dose does not exceed (a or b):
 - a. Induction: 375 mg/m² weekly for 4 weeks;
 - b. Follow up treatment: Two-500 mg infusions separated by 2 weeks, then 500 mg every 6 months.

Approval duration: 6 months

D. Pemphigus Vulgaris and Pemphigus Foliaceus (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of PV or pemphigus foliaceus (PF);
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist;
4. Age \geq 18 years;
5. If request is for Rituxan, Riabni, or Truxima, member must use Ruxience, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
7. Dose does not exceed (a or b):
 - a. Initial: Two-1,000 mg infusions separated by 2 weeks;
 - b. Maintenance: 500 mg every 6 months (starting 12 months after initial dose).

Approval duration: 6 months

E. NCCN Compendium Indications (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of any of the following (a-h):
 - a. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia in patients who are CD20-positive;
 - b. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicities;
 - c. Steroid refractory graft-versus-host disease;
 - d. Leptomeningeal metastases from lymphoma;
 - e. Nodular lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma;
 - f. Primary CNS lymphoma;
 - g. Rosai-Dorfman disease;
 - h. Waldenström's macroglobulinemia/lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma;
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
4. Age \geq 18 years;

5. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, Riabni, or Truxima, member must use Ruxience, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
 - b. Request is for treatment associated cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy in certain oncology settings (see *Appendix E*);
6. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (see *Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
7. Dose is within FDA maximum limit for any FDA-approved indication or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*)*

*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN

Approval duration: 6 months

F. Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD);
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist;
4. Age \geq 18 years;
5. Member has experienced at least one relapse within the previous 12 months;
6. Baseline Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) score \leq 8;
7. If request is for Rituxan, Riabni, or Truxima, member must use Ruxience, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
8. Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima is not prescribed concurrently with Soliris[®], Enspryng[™], or Uplizna[®];
9. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (see *Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
10. Request meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Dose does not exceed 375 mg/m² per week for 4 weeks as induction, followed by 375 mg/m² biweekly every 6 to 12 months;
 - b. Dose does not exceed 1,000 mg biweekly every 6 to 12 months;
 - c. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: 6 months

G. Immune Thrombocytopenia (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of immune thrombocytopenia (ITP);
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a hematologist;
4. Current (within 30 days) platelet count is $<$ 30,000/ μ L or member has an active bleed;
5. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Failure of a systemic corticosteroid;
 - b. Member has intolerance or contraindication to systemic corticosteroids, and failure of an immune globulin, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (see *Appendix B*);
6. If request is for Rituxan, Riabni, or Truxima, member must use Ruxience, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
7. Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima is not prescribed concurrently with a thrombopoietin receptor agonist (e.g., Nplate[®], Promacta[®], Doptelet[®]);
8. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (see *Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);

*Prior authorization may be required for immune globulins

9. Request meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Dose does not exceed 375 mg/m² per week for 4 weeks;
 - b. Dose does not exceed 1,000 mg on days 1 and 15;
 - c. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: 1 month

H. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Request is for treatment associated with cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy in certain oncology settings (*see Appendix E*);
 - b. If request is for Rituxan, Riabni, or Truxima, member must use Ruxience, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
2. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Members with any of the following diagnoses may be covered if the off-label criteria policy is met:
 - i. Myasthenia gravis;
 - ii. Nephrotic syndrome;
 - b. Refer to ERX.PA.01 if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized).

II. Continued Therapy

A. Immune Thrombocytopenia (off-label):

1. Re-authorization is not permitted. Member must meet the initial approval criteria.

Approval duration: Not applicable

B. All Other Indications in Section I (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via a health plan affiliated with Envolve Pharmacy Solutions or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Documentation supports that member is currently receiving Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima or Rituxan Hycela for a covered oncology indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member meets one of the following (a, b, c, or d):
 - a. For RA: Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. A decrease in CDAI (*see Appendix F*) or RAPID3 (*see Appendix G*) score from baseline;
 - ii. Medical justification stating ability to conduct CDAI re-assessment, and submission of RAPID3 score associated with disease severity that is similar to initial CDAI assessment or improved;
 - b. For NMOSD: Member is responding positively to therapy – including but not limited to improvement or stabilization in any of the following parameters:
 - i. Frequency of relapses;
 - ii. EDSS;
 - iii. Visual acuity;
 - c. For PV or PF: Member is responding positively to therapy, or member has experienced relapse;
 - d. For all other indications: Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, Riabni, or Truxima, member must use Ruxience, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
 - b. Request is for treatment associated cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy in certain oncology settings (*see Appendix E*);

4. For NMOSD: Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima is not prescribed concurrently with Soliris, Enspryng, or Uplizna;
5. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (see *Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
6. If request is for a dose increase, request meets either of the following (a or b):*
 - a. New dose does not exceed the following:
 - i. NHL:
 - a) Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima: 500 mg/m² per IV infusion;
 - b) Rituxan Hycela: 1,600 mg/26,800 units per SC injection;
 - ii. RA (Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima): Two-1,000 mg IV infusions every 16 weeks;
 - iii. GPA/MPA (Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima):
 - a) Induction: 375 mg/m² IV weekly for up to 4 weeks total;
 - b) Follow-up treatment: Two-500 mg IV infusions separated by two weeks, then 500 mg IV every 6 months;
 - iv. PV or PF (Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima) (a or b):
 - a) Maintenance: 500 mg IV every 6 months (starting 12 months after initial dose);
 - b) Relapse: 1,000 mg IV once then 500 mg IV 16 weeks later, then 500 mg IV every 6 months;
 - v. NMOSD (Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima): 375 mg/m² or 1,000 mg biweekly every 6 to 12 months;
 - b. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN

Approval duration: 12 months**C. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet all):**

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Request is for treatment associated with cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy in certain oncology settings (see *Appendix E*);
 - b. If request is for Rituxan, Riabni, or Truxima, member must use Ruxience, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
2. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via a health plan affiliated with Envolve Pharmacy Solutions and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
 - b. Members with any of the following diagnoses may be covered if the off-label criteria policy is met:
 - i. Myasthenia gravis;
 - ii. Nephrotic syndrome;
 - c. Refer to ERX.PA.01 if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized).

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 – ERX.PA.01 or evidence of coverage documents;
- B. Combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) or potent immunosuppressants, including but not limited to any tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists [e.g., Cimzia[®], Enbrel[®], Humira[®], Simponi[®], Avsola[™], Inflectra[™], Remicade[®], Renflexis[™]], interleukin agents [e.g., Arcalyst[®] (IL-1 blocker), Ilaris[®] (IL-1 blocker), Kineret[®] (IL-1RA), Actemra[®] (IL-6RA), Kevzara[®] (IL-6RA), Stelara[®] (IL-12/23 inhibitor), Cosentyx[®] (IL-17A inhibitor), Taltz[®] (IL-17A inhibitor), Siliq[™] (IL-17RA), Ilumya[™] (IL-23 inhibitor), Skyrizi[™] (IL-23 inhibitor), Tremfya[®] (IL-23 inhibitor)], Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) [e.g., Xeljanz[®]/Xeljanz[®] XR, Cibinqo[™], Olumiant[™]],

Rinvoq™], anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies [Rituxan®, Riabni™, Ruxience™, Truxima®, Rituxan Hycela®], selective co-stimulation modulators [Orencia®], and integrin receptor antagonists [Entyvio®] because of the additive immunosuppression, increased risk of neutropenia, as well as increased risk of serious infections.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

AAN: American Academy of Neurology
 ARR: annualized relapse rate
 CDAI: clinical disease activity index
 CHOP: cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone
 CLL: chronic lymphocytic leukemia
 CVP: cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone
 DLBCL: diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
 DMARD: disease-modifying antirheumatic drug
 FC: fludarabine and cyclophosphamide
 FDA: Food and Drug Administration
 FL: follicular lymphoma
 GPA: granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis)
 ITP: immune thrombocytopenia

MALT: mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue
 MPA: microscopic polyangiitis
 MS: multiple sclerosis
 MTX: methotrexate
 NHL: Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
 JAKi: Janus kinase inhibitors
 NMOSD: neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder
 PF: pemphigus foliaceus
 PPMS: primary progressive MS
 PV: pemphigus vulgaris
 RA: rheumatoid arthritis
 RAPID3: routine assessment of patient index data 3
 RCT: randomized controlled trial
 RRMS: relapsing-remitting MS
 SLL: small lymphocytic lymphoma

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 and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/Maximum Dose
RA		
azathioprine (Azasan®, Imuran®)	1 mg/kg/day PO QD or divided BID	2.5 mg/kg/day
Cuprimine® (d-penicillamine) <i>Off-label</i>	<u>Initial dose:</u> 125 or 250 mg PO QD <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 500 – 750 mg/day PO QD	1,500 mg/day
cyclosporine (Sandimmune®, Neoral®)	2.5 – 4 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	4 mg/kg/day
hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®) <i>Off-label</i>	<u>Initial dose:</u> 400 – 600 mg/day PO QD <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 200 – 400 mg/day PO QD	5 mg/kg/day
leflunomide (Arava®)	100 mg PO QD for 3 days, then 20 mg PO QD	20 mg/day
methotrexate (Rheumatrex®)	7.5 mg/week PO, SC, or IM or 2.5 mg PO Q12 hr for 3 doses/week	30 mg/week
Ridaura® (auranofin)	6 mg PO QD or 3 mg PO BID	9 mg/day
sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®)	2 g/day PO in divided doses	3 gm/day
Enbrel® (etanercept)	25 mg SC twice weekly or 50 mg SC once weekly	50 mg/week
Humira® (adalimumab)	40 mg SC every other week (may increase to once weekly)	40 mg/week
Remicade® (infliximab)	In conjunction with MTX <u>Initial dose:</u> 3 mg/kg IV at weeks 0, 2 and 6 <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 3 mg/kg IV every 8 weeks	10 mg/kg every 8 weeks or 3 mg/kg every 4 weeks

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	<i>*Some patients may benefit from increasing the dose up to 10 mg/kg or treating as often as every 4 weeks.</i>	
Rinvoq® (upadacitinib)	15 mg PO QD	15 mg/day
Simponi Aria® (golimumab)	<u>Initial dose:</u> 2 mg/kg IV at weeks 0 and 4 <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 2 mg/kg IV every 8 weeks	2 mg/kg every 8 weeks
Xeljanz® (tofacitinib, immediate-release)	5 mg PO BID	10 mg/day
Xeljanz XR® (tofacitinib, extended-release)	11 mg PO QD	11 mg/day
GPA, MPA		
glucocorticoids	Varies	Varies
ITP		
corticosteroids	Varies	Varies
immune globulins (e.g., Carimune® NF, Flebogamma® DIF 10%, Gammagard® S/D, Gammaked™, Gamunex®-C, Gammaplex®, Octagam® 10%, Privigen®)	Refer to prescribing information	Refer to prescribing information

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): none reported
- Boxed warning(s):
 - Fatal infusion reactions (Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima)
 - Severe mucocutaneous reactions, hepatitis B virus reactivation, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima, Rituxan Hycela).

Appendix D: General Information

- Definition of MTX/DMARD failure:
 - Child-bearing age is not considered a contraindication for use of MTX. Each drug has risks in pregnancy. An educated patient and family planning would allow use of MTX in patients who have no intention of immediate pregnancy.
 - Social use of alcohol is not considered a contraindication for use of MTX. MTX may only be contraindicated if patients choose to drink over 14 units of alcohol per week. However, excessive alcohol drinking can lead to worsening of the condition, so patients who are serious about clinical response to therapy should refrain from excessive alcohol consumption.
- Examples of positive response to RA therapy may include, but are not limited to:
 - Reduction in joint pain/swelling/tenderness
 - Improvement in ESR/CRP levels
 - Improvements in activities of daily living
- Off-label use in multiple sclerosis (MS):
 - The off-label use of rituximab in relapsing-remitting MS (RRMS) and primary progressive MS (PPMS) is supported by Class IIb recommendations in Micromedex with the following clinical evidence:
 - RRMS: 1 randomized controlled trial (RCT) (N = 104) found there was a significant difference in T1-weighted lesion count at 24 weeks and annualized relapse rate (ARR) at

24 weeks (but not at 48 weeks) for patients receiving rituximab compared to placebo. Important limitations of this study are poor methodological quality and high risk of attrition bias resulting from a high dropout rate (40% in placebo and 15.9% in rituximab).

- PPMS: 1 RCT (N = 439) found there was no significant difference in confirmed disability progression for patients receiving rituximab compared to placebo.
- In the 2018 MS guidelines, the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) does not prefer any one disease-modifying therapy over another for the treatment of RRMS, except for Gilenya®, Tysabri®, and Lemtrada® for highly active disease. The recommended agent in PPMS is Ocrevus®. AAN makes the following comments on rituximab:
 - RRMS:
 - Rituximab is probably more effective than placebo in decreasing the risk of relapse at 1 year.
 - There is insufficient evidence to determine the efficacy of rituximab compared with placebo in decreasing the ARR at 1 year.
 - Rituximab is probably more effective than placebo in decreasing the volume of T2 lesions from baseline to week 36.
 - PPMS: The randomized controlled trial of rituximab in PPMS was promising but inconclusive.
- Off-label use in NMOSD:
 - Rituxan is considered a standard first-line treatments for NMOSD per clinical reviews and the 2010 European Federation of Neurological Societies guideline. Comparative analyses shows that rituximab significantly reduces attack frequency and stabilizes or reduces neurological disabilities while achieving long-term safety. Neurological disability was assessed via the EDSS score, which ranges from 0 (no disability) to 10 (death).
 - In a 5-year follow-up of 30 patients from a 2-year retrospective case series, 18 (60%) were relapse free and 28 (93%) had improved or stabilized disability as evidenced by improvement in the EDSS score. The mean (SD) pretreatment versus posttreatment annualized relapse rate (ARR) was 2.4 (1.5) versus 0.3 (1.0) ($p < 0.001$). No serious adverse events resulted in discontinuation of therapy.
 - In a 1-year RCT with 68 patients who had a baseline EDSS score ≤ 7 , rituximab demonstrated a higher proportion decrease in ARR (SD) than azathioprine (0.83 (0.37) compared to 0.56 (0.50), $p = 0.022$). The mean change in EDSS score (SD) was -0.98 (1.14) with rituximab versus -0.44 (0.54) with azathioprine ($p < 0.001$). There were no statistically significant difference in adverse effects.
 - A 2019 meta-analysis that included 26 studies and 577 patients showed a significant mean decrease in the ARR after rituximab therapy (-1.56 (95% CI -1.82 to -1.29)). There was no significant correlation found between AQP4-IgG serostatus and ARR or EDSS.

Appendix E: States with Regulations against Redirections in Cancer

State	Step Therapy Prohibited?	Notes
FL	Yes	For stage 4 metastatic cancer and associated conditions.
GA	Yes	For stage 4 metastatic cancer. Redirection does not refer to review of medical necessity or clinical appropriateness.
IA	Yes	For standard of care stage 4 cancer drug use, supported by peer-reviewed, evidence-based literature, and approved by FDA.
LA	Yes	For stage 4 advanced, metastatic cancer or associated conditions. Exception if "clinically equivalent therapy, contains identical active ingredient(s), and proven to have same efficacy.
NV	Yes	Stage 3 and stage 4 cancer patients for a prescription drug to treat the cancer or any symptom thereof of the covered person
PA	Yes	For stage 4 advanced, metastatic cancer
TN	Yes	For advanced metastatic cancer and associated conditions
TX	Yes	For stage 4 advanced, metastatic cancer and associated conditions

Appendix F: Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) Score

The Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) is a composite index for assessing disease activity in RA. CDAI is based on the simple summation of the count of swollen/tender joint count of 28 joints along with patient and physician global assessment on VAS (0–10 cm) Scale for estimating disease activity. The CDAI score ranges from 0 to 76.

CDAI Score	Disease state interpretation
≤ 2.8	Remission
> 2.8 to ≤ 10	Low disease activity
> 10 to ≤ 22	Moderate disease activity
> 22	High disease activity

Appendix G: Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID3) Score

The Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID3) is a pooled index of the three patient-reported ACR core data set measures: function, pain, and patient global estimate of status. Each of the individual measures is scored 0 – 10, and the maximum achievable score is 30.

RAPID3 Score	Disease state interpretation
≤ 3	Remission
3.1 to 6	Low disease activity
6.1 to 12	Moderate disease activity
> 12	High disease activity

Appendix H: The 2010 ACR Classification Criteria for RA

Add score of categories A through D; a score of ≥ 6 out of 10 is needed for classification of a patient as having definite RA.

A	Joint involvement	Score
1 large joint		0
2-10 large joints		1
1-3 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)		2
4-10 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)		3
> 10 joints (at least one small joint)		5
B	Serology (at least one test result is needed for classification)	
Negative rheumatoid factor (RF) and negative anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA)		0
Low positive RF or low positive ACPA * Low: < 3 x upper limit of normal		2
High positive RF or high positive ACPA * High: ≥ 3 x upper limit of normal		3
C	Acute phase reactants (at least one test result is needed for classification)	
Normal C-reactive protein (CRP) and normal erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)		0
Abnormal CRP or abnormal ESR		1
D	Duration of symptoms	
< 6 weeks		0
≥ 6 weeks		1

V. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	Low-grade and follicular B-cell NHL	375 mg/m ² IV infusion according to the following schedules: • Relapsed or refractory, low-grade or follicular, CD20+, B-cell NHL	375 mg/m ² IV infusion

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Once weekly for 4 or 8 doses ○ Retreatment: once weekly for 4 doses ● Previously untreated, follicular, CD20+, B-cell NHL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administer on Day 1 of each cycle of chemotherapy for up to 8 doses; ○ If complete or partial response, initiate rituximab maintenance treatment as a single-agent every 8 weeks for 12 doses to start 8 weeks following completion of a rituximab product in combination with chemotherapy. ● Non-progressing, low-grade, CD20+, B-cell NHL, after first-line CVP chemotherapy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Following completion of 6-8 cycles of CVP chemotherapy, administer once weekly for 4 doses at 6-month intervals to a maximum of 16 doses. 	
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	Low-grade and follicular B-cell NHL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rituximab in combination with Zevalin for low-grade or follicular B-cell NHL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 250 mg/m² IV within 4 hrs prior to administration of Indium-111-(In-111)-Zevalin and Yttrium-90-(Y-90) Zevalin. ○ Administer rituximab and In-111-Zevalin 7-9 days prior to rituximab and Y-90-Zevalin. ○ Refer to the Zevalin package insert for full prescribing information regarding the Zevalin therapeutic regimen. 	375 mg/m ² IV infusion
Rituxan	Pediatric patients \geq 6 months with previously untreated mature B-cell NHL/ B-AL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 375 mg/m² IV infusion, in combination with cyctemic Lymphone Malin B chemotherapy, given as 2 separate doses during each of the induction courses and one dose during each consolidation course, for a total of 6 infusions 	375 mg/m ² IV infusion
Rituxan Hycela	Follicular B-cell NHL	<p>1,400 mg rituximab and 23,400 units hyaluronidase SC according to the following schedules:</p> <p><i>First dose must be with IV rituximab if indicated with an asterisk (*).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relapsed or refractory FL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Once weekly for 3 or 7 weeks (i.e., 4 or 8 weeks in total)* ○ Retreatment: once weekly for 3 weeks (i.e., 4 weeks in total)* ● Previously untreated FL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administer on Day 1 of Cycles 2-8 of chemotherapy (every 21 days), for up to 7 cycles (i.e., up to 8 cycles in total)* ○ If complete/partial response, initiate Rituxan Hycela maintenance treatment as a single-agent every 8 weeks for 12 doses to start 8 weeks following completion of a rituximab product in combination with chemotherapy. 	1,400 mg/23,400 units SC per injection

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Rituximab-Hyaluronidase

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
		<p>weeks following completion of Rituxan Hycela in combination with chemotherapy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-progressing FL after first-line CVP chemotherapy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following completion of 6–8 cycles of CVP chemotherapy, administer once weekly for 3 weeks (i.e., 4 weeks in total) at 6 month intervals to a maximum of 16 doses* 	
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	DLBCL (a B-cell NHL)	375 mg/m ² IV infusion on Day 1 of each cycle of chemotherapy for up to 8 doses total.	375 mg/m ² IV infusion
Rituxan Hycela	DLBCL (a B-cell NHL)	<p>First dose must be with IV rituximab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,400 mg rituximab and 23,400 units hyaluronidase SC on Day 1 of Cycles 2–8 of CHOP chemotherapy for up to 7 cycles (i.e., up to 6–8 cycles in total) 	1,400 mg/23,400 units SC per injection
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	CLL (a B-cell NHL)	375 mg/m ² IV infusion on the day prior to initiation of FC chemotherapy, then 500 mg/m ² on Day 1 of cycles 2–6 (every 28 days).	500 mg/m ² per day
Rituxan Hycela	CLL (a B-cell NHL)	<p>First dose must be with IV rituximab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,600 mg/26,800 units on Day 1 of Cycles 2–6 (every 28 days) for a total of 5 cycles (i.e., 6 cycles in total) 	1,600 mg/26,800 units SC per injection
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	RA	Two 1,000 mg IV infusions separated by 2 weeks (i.e., day 1 and day 15), followed by two 1,000 mg IV infusions every 24 weeks or based on clinical evaluation, but not sooner than every 16 weeks. Rituximab is given in combination with MTX.	<p>Initial: 1,000 mg on day 1 and 15</p> <p>Maintenance: 1,000 mg every 16 weeks</p>
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	Pediatric B-cell NHL/B-AL	375 mg/m ² IV infusions for a total of 6 doses in combination with Lymphome Malin B chemotherapy (2 doses in first and second induction courses and 1 dose in each consolidation course)	375 mg/m ² for total 6 doses
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	GPA/MPA	<p>Induction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 375 mg/m² IV once weekly for 4 weeks in combination with glucocorticoids <p>Follow-up treatment if disease control with induction treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two 500 mg IV infusions separated by 2 weeks, followed by 500 mg IV every 6 months thereafter based on clinical evaluation. Follow up treatment should be initiated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 24 weeks after the last rituximab induction infusion or based on clinical evaluation, but no sooner than 16 weeks after the last rituximab induction infusion. 	<p>Induction: 375 mg/m² per week</p> <p>Follow-up treatment: 500 mg/dose (see regimen for dosing frequency)</p>

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Rituximab, Rituximab-arrx, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-pvvr,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Within the 4 week period following achievement of disease control if induction was achieved with other immunosuppressants. 	
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	PV	<p>Initial and maintenance therapy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two 1,000 mg IV infusions separated by 2 weeks with a tapering course of glucocorticoids, then 500 mg IV at month 12 and every 6 months thereafter or based on clinical evaluation <p>Relapse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 mg IV once. Subsequent infusions may be administered no sooner than 16 weeks following the previous infusion. 	Initial/relapse: 1,000 mg/dose Maintenance: 500 mg/6 months

VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Rituximab (Rituxan)	Single-dose vials for IV injection: 100 mg/10 mL, 500 mg/50 mL
Rituximab-arrx (Riabni)	Single-dose vials for IV injection: 100 mg/10 mL, 500 mg/50 mL
Rituximab-pvvr (Ruxience)	Single-dose vials for IV injection: 100 mg/10 mL, 500 mg/50 mL
Rituximab-abbs (Truxima)	Single-dose vials for IV injection: 100 mg/10 mL, 500 mg/50 mL
Rituximab-hyaluronidase (Rituxan Hycela)	Single-dose vials for SC injection: 1,400 mg/23,400 units, 1,600 mg/26,800 units

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Rituximab, Rituximab-arrx, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-pvvr,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
2Q 2018 annual review: revised conventional DMARD requirement in RA to require at least one conventional DMARD (e.g., sulfasalazine, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine); modified trial and failure of preferred agents for RA; off-label criteria added for additional NCCN-recommended diagnoses; references reviewed and updated.	02.27.18	05.18
Criteria added for new indication pemphigus vulgaris; added Rituxan Hycela to COC; myasthenia gravis and nephrotic syndrome diagnoses added to policy as covered diagnoses if off-label criteria is met; references reviewed and updated.	07.31.18	11.18
1Q 2019 annual review: Rituxan biosimilar Truxima is added and applied to all policy criteria applicable to Rituxan; NHL criteria is edited to include all FDA approved or NCCN recommended NHL subtypes; additional NCCN recommended uses other than NHL are added to section I.E. (NCCN compendium uses); hematologist added for all oncology indications; GPA/MPA dosing updated to delineate induction versus follow-up treatment and approval duration is edited from 4 weeks total to 6/12 months; PF off-label criteria is added; references reviewed and updated.	01.15.19	02.19
2Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; added Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR to list of trial options for RA; references reviewed and updated.	02.26.19	05.19
RT4: added recently FDA-approved Truxima indication for DLBCL and CLL; references reviewed and updated.	06.06.19	
No significant changes: added general information regarding off-label use in MS.	06.24.19	
Criteria added for off-label use in neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder; references reviewed and updated.	08.20.19	11.19
RT4: added recently FDA-approved biosimilar Ruxience to all policy criteria applicable to Rituxan.	09.11.19	
2Q 2020 annual review: updated newly approved FDA-indications for Truxima: RA, MPA, GPA; added NCCN 2A supported off-label use primary CNS lymphoma; added requirement for aggressive mature B-cell lymphoma for pediatric patients; added requirement for CD20 positivity for ALL off-label use per NCCN; for RA, added specific diagnostic criteria for definite RA, baseline CDAI score requirement, decrease in CDAI score as positive response to therapy, and Rinvoq as a preferred option for redirection per formulary status; references reviewed and updated.	04.29.20	05.20
Added criteria for off-label indication of idiopathic thrombocytopenia; RT4: added Rituxan age expansion to pediatrics \geq 2 years for GPA and MPA per updated FDA label.	07.22.20	08.20
For NMOSD: added requirement against concurrent use with Soliris, Enspryng, or Uplizna; modified EDSS from \leq 7 to \leq 8 to align with Uplizna policy.	07.29.20	11.20
Revised typo in Appendix E from "normal ESR" to "abnormal ESR" for a point gained for ACR Classification Criteria.	11.22.20	
Added criteria for RAPID3 assessment for RA given limited in-person visits during COVID-19 pandemic, updated appendices.	11.24.20	02.21
Per CVS, removed redirection to Kevzara for RA despite preferred status on Formulary 500/550 files in order to maximize rebates	02.01.21	
2Q 2021 annual review: added GVHD (2A) to NCCN Compendium (off-label) section, ensured alignment of biosimilars with Rituxan throughout policy; RT4: added recently FDA-approved biosimilar Riabni to all policy criteria applicable	02.23.21	05.21

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Rituximab, Rituximab-arrx, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-pvvr,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
to Rituxan; added combination of bDMARDs under Section III; updated CDAI table with ">" to prevent overlap in classification of severity; references reviewed and updated.		
RT4: for Ruxience updated FDA approved indications to include RA per updated prescribing information.	12.06.21	
2Q 2022 annual review: clarified GVHD use as steroid-refractory; added NCCN-recommended off-label use for Rosai-Dorfman disease; RT4: updated existing off-label pediatric mature B-Cell NHL criteria to reflect FDA-approved status; added bypass of redirection in states with regulations against redirections in certain oncology settings; clarified other diagnoses/indications section to enforce biosimilar redirection intent; reiterated requirement against combination use with a bDMARD or JAKi from Section III to Sections I and II; references reviewed and updated.	03.28.22	05.22
RT4: for Riabni, updated FDA approved indications to include RA per updated prescribing information.	07.01.22	

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information.

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