NC Medicaid
Outpatient Pharmacy
Prior Approval Criteria
Cosentyx **Effective Date: January 21, 2016**
Systemic Immunomodulators **Amended Date: January 02, 2025**

Therapeutic Class Code: L1A
Therapeutic Class Description: Anti-psoriatic Agents, Systemic

Medication
Cosentyx

Eligible Beneficiaries
NC Medicaid (Medicaid) beneficiaries shall be enrolled on the date of service and may have service restrictions due to their eligibility category that would make them ineligible for this service.

EPSDT Special Provision: Exception to Policy Limitations for Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age

42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r) [1905(r) of the Social Security Act]

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the state Medicaid agency to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid beneficiaries under 21 years of age **if** the service is **medically necessary health care** to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition [health problem] identified through a screening examination (includes any evaluation by a physician or other licensed clinician). This means EPSDT covers most of the medical or remedial care a child needs to improve or maintain his/her health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems. Medically necessary services will be provided in the most economic mode, as long as the treatment made available is similarly efficacious to the service requested by the beneficiary's physician, therapist, or other licensed practitioner; the determination process does not delay the delivery of the needed service; and the determination does not limit the beneficiary's right to a free choice of providers.
EPSDT does not require the state Medicaid agency to provide any service, product, or procedure

a. that is unsafe, ineffective, or experimental/investigational.
b. that is not medical in nature or not generally recognized as an accepted method of medical practice or treatment.

Service limitations on scope, amount, duration, frequency, location of service, and/or other specific criteria described in clinical coverage policies may be exceeded or may not apply as long as the provider's documentation shows that the requested service is medically necessary "to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition" [health problem]; that is, provider documentation shows how the service, product, or procedure meets all EPSDT criteria, including to
correct or improve or maintain the beneficiary's health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

EPSDT and Prior Approval Requirements
If the service, product, or procedure requires prior approval, the fact that the beneficiary is under 21 years of age does **NOT** eliminate the requirement for prior approval.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION about EPSDT and prior approval is found in the

NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide, and on the EPSDT provider page. The Web addresses are specified below.

***NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*:**
https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/providers/provider-manuals.html
EPSDT provider page: https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid/get-started/find-programs-and-services-right-you/medicaid-benefit-children-and-adolescents

Criteria

1. **Ankylosing Spondylitis**:

- Beneficiary has a diagnosis of Ankylosing Spondylitis.
  AND
- Beneficiary is not on another injectable biologic immunomodulator.
  AND
- Beneficiary has been considered and screened for the presence of latent tuberculosis infection.
  AND
- Beneficiary has been tested with Hep B SAG and Core Ab.
  AND
- Beneficiary has experienced inadequate symptom relief from treatment with at least two NSAIDS.
  OR
- Beneficiary is unable to receive treatment with NSAIDS due to contraindications.
  OR
- Beneficiary has clinical evidence of severe or rapidly progressing disease.

2. **Plaque psoriasis (Pediatric):** (ages 6 &Up)

- Beneficiary has a diagnosis of plaque psoriasis and is a candidate for systemic therapy or phototherapy.
  AND
- Beneficiary is not on another injectable biologic immunomodulator.
  AND
- Beneficiary has been considered and screened for the presence of latent tuberculosis infection.
  AND
- Beneficiary has been tested with Hep B SAG and Core Ab.
  AND
- Beneficiary has experienced a therapeutic failure/inadequate response with or has a contraindication or intolerance to methotrexate.
  AND
- Beneficiary has body surface area (BSA) involvement of at least 3%.
  OR
- Beneficiary has involvement of the palms, soles, head and neck, or genitalia, causing disruption in normal daily activities and/or employment.

3. **Plaque psoriasis (adult):**

- Beneficiary has a documented definitive diagnosis of moderate-to-severe Chronic Plaque Psoriasis

AND
- Beneficiary is 18 years of age or older.
  AND
- Beneficiary is not on another injectable biologic immunomodulator.
  AND
- Beneficiary has been considered and screened for the presence of latent tuberculosis infection (not required for Otezla).
  AND
- Beneficiary has been tested with Hep B SAG and Core Ab (not required for Otezla).
  AND
- Beneficiary has body surface area (BSA) involvement of at least 3%.
  OR
- Beneficiary has involvement of the palms, soles, head and neck, or genitalia, causing disruption in normal daily activities and/or employment.
  AND
- Beneficiary has failed to respond to, or has been unable to tolerate phototherapy and **ONE** of the following medications or beneficiary has contraindications to these treatments:
  - Soriatane (acitretin)
  - Methotrexate
  - Cyclosporine

4. Psoriatic arthritis:
- Beneficiary has a documented definitive diagnosis of Psoriatic Arthritis.
  AND
- Beneficiary is 2 years of age or older.
  AND
- Beneficiary is not on another injectable biologic immunomodulator.
  AND
- Beneficiary has been considered and screened for the presence of latent tuberculosis infection (not required for Otezla).
- AND
- Beneficiary has been tested with Hep B SAG and Core Ab (not required for Otezla).
  AND
- Beneficiary has a documented inadequate response or inability to take methotrexate.

5. Non-Radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis:
- Beneficiary has a diagnosis of Non-Radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis.
  AND
- Beneficiary is not on another injectable biologic immunomodulator.
  AND
- Beneficiary has failed an adequate trial of a Non-Steroidal Anti-Imflammatory Drug (NSAID) unless contraindicated.
  AND
- Beneficiary has been considered and screened for the presence of latent tuberculosis infection.
  AND

- Beneficiary has been tested with Hep B SAG and Core Ab.

6. Enthesitis-related arthritis:

- Beneficiary has a diagnosis of active enthesitis-related arthritis (ERA).
  AND
- Beneficiary is 4 years of age or older
  AND
- Beneficiary is not on another injectable biologic immunomodulator.
  AND
- Beneficiary has been considered and screened for the presence of latent tuberculosis infection.
  AND
- Beneficiary has been tested with Hep B SAG and Core Ab.

Procedures

- Approve for up to 12 months.
- Coverage of one injectable immunomodulator at a time.

References

1. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Cosentyx prescribing information. East Hanover, NJ; January 2015. Updated December 2021.

Criteria Change Log

01/21/2016	Criteria effective date
07/18/2019	Include Cosentyx as try and fail for Anklyosing Spondylitis, Plaque Psoriasis, and Psoriatic Arthritis
02/01/2021	Added Cosentyx to Non-Radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis Added bullet to Non-Radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis requiring t/f of Cosentyx prior to approval of NP agent
01/02/2025	Separated document out into individual agents Add Pediatric Plaque Psoriasis Changed age for Psoriatic Arthritis from ≥ 18 to ≥ 2 years Added criteria for Enthesitis-related arthritis