

**Avsola (infliximab-qbtx)**  
**Inflectra (infliximab-dyyb)**  
**Infliximab**  
**Remicade (infliximab)**  
**Renflexis (infliximab-abda)**  
**Effective 07/01/2025**

Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> MassHealth UPPL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Exchange	Program Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior Authorization
Benefit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy Benefit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Benefit		<input type="checkbox"/> Quantity Limit <input type="checkbox"/> Step Therapy
Specialty Limitations	These medications have been designated specialty and must be filled through a contracted specialty pharmacy.		
Contact Information	Specialty Medications		
	All Plans	Phone: 877-519-1908	Fax: 855-540-3693
Contact Information	Non-Specialty Medications		
	All Plans	Phone: 800-711-4555	Fax: 844-403-1029
Exceptions	N/A		

### Overview

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered a covered benefit provided that all the approval criteria are met, and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

#### FDA-Approved Indications

1. Moderately to severely active Crohn's disease or fistulizing Crohn's disease
2. Moderately to severely active Ulcerative colitis
3. Moderately to severely active Rheumatoid arthritis in combination with methotrexate
4. Active Ankylosing spondylitis
5. Active Psoriatic arthritis
6. Chronic severe Plaque psoriasis

#### Approvable Compendial Uses

1. Behcet's syndrome
2. Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis)
3. Hidradenitis suppurativa
4. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis
5. Pyoderma gangrenosum
6. Sarcoidosis
7. Takayasu's arteritis
8. Uveitis

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and are not a covered benefit.

### **Coverage Guidelines**

Authorization may be granted for members new to the plan within the past 90 days who are currently receiving treatment with the requested medication, excluding when the product is obtained as samples or via manufacturer's patient assistance programs

### **OR**

Authorization may be granted when all the following diagnosis-specific criteria is met:

#### **Moderately to severely active Crohn's disease (CD)**

1. Member has one of the following diagnoses:
  - a. Moderately to severely active Crohn's disease
  - b. Fistulizing Crohn's disease
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.
3. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with Entyvio and Stelara IV 130mg
4. ONE of the following:
  - a. Member has had trial and failure, intolerance, or contraindication to ONE of the following conventional therapies:
    - i. 6-mercaptopurine
    - ii. Azathioprine
    - iii. Corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone)
    - iv. Methotrexate
  - b. Disease severity warrants systemic biologic as first-line therapy

#### **Moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC)**

1. Diagnosis of moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.
3. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with Entyvio and Stelara IV 130mg
4. ONE of the following:
  - a. Member has had trial and failure, intolerance, or contraindication to ONE of the following conventional therapies:
    1. 6-mercaptopurine
    2. Aminosalicylate (e.g., mesalamine, olsalazine, sulfasalazine)
    3. Azathioprine
    4. Corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone)
  - b. Disease severity warrants a systemic biologic as first line therapy

#### **Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)**

1. Diagnosis of moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.



3. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with Simponi Aria
4. The member has a minimum duration of 3-month trial and failure, contraindication, or intolerance to ONE of the following conventional therapies at maximally tolerated doses:
  - a. Methotrexate
  - b. Leflunomide
  - c. Sulfasalazine

#### **Active ankylosing spondylitis (AS)**

1. Diagnosis of active ankylosing spondylitis
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.
3. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with Simponi Aria
4. Member has minimal duration of 1-month trial and failure, contraindication, or intolerance to TWO different non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (e.g., ibuprofen, naproxen) at maximally tolerated doses.

#### **Active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)**

1. Diagnosis of active psoriatic arthritis
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.
3. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with Simponi Aria
4. The member meets ONE of the following:
  - a. Actively inflamed joints
  - b. Dactylitis
  - c. Enthesitis
  - d. Axial disease
  - e. Active skin and/or nail involvement

#### **Chronic severe plaque psoriasis**

1. Diagnosis of chronic severe plaque psoriasis
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.
3. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with Ilumya
4. Member has at least 3% of body surface area (BSA) is affected OR crucial body areas (e.g., hands, feet, face, neck, scalp, genitals/groin, intertriginous areas) are affected
5. Member meets ONE of the following criteria:
  - a. Minimum duration of 4-week trial and failure, contraindication, or intolerance to ONE of the following topical therapies
    - i. Corticosteroids (e.g., betamethasone, clobetasol)
    - ii. Vitamin D analogs (e.g., calcitriol, calcipotriene)
    - iii. Tazarotene



- iv. Calcineurin inhibitors (e.g., tacrolimus, pimecrolimus)
  - v. Anthralin
  - vi. Coal tar
- b. Member has severe psoriasis that warrants a biologic DMARD as first-line therapy.

#### **Behcet's syndrome**

1. Diagnosis of refractory Behcet's syndrome
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.

#### **Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis)**

1. Diagnosis of granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis)
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.

#### **Hidradenitis suppurativa**

1. Diagnosis of severe, refractory hidradenitis suppurativa when the documentation of Hurley Stage III HS received
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.

#### **Juvenile Idiopathic arthritis (JIA)**

1. Diagnosis of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.

#### **Pyoderma gangrenosum**

1. Diagnosis of pyoderma gangrenosum
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.

#### **Sarcoidosis**

1. Diagnosis of sarcoidosis
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.

#### **Takayasu's arteritis**

1. Diagnosis of Takayasu's arteritis
2. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.



## Uveitis

1. Diagnosis of Uveitis
2. Member has had inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to a trial of immunosuppressive therapy for uveitis (e.g., methotrexate, azathioprine, or mycophenolate mofetil)
3. For Avsola, Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with the preferred product, Inflectra, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.

## Continuation of Therapy

Requests for reauthorization will be approved when all the following criteria are met:

1. Member meets initial biologic trial requirements for the treated diagnosis
2. Documentation is submitted supporting improvement in member's condition as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition.

## Limitations

1. Approvals will be granted for 24 months
2. The following quantity limits apply:

Drug Name	Quantity Limit
Remicade, Inflectra, Renflexis, infliximab, and Avsola 100 mg	10 vials per 28 days

## References

1. Avsola (infliximab-axxq) [prescribing information]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen Inc; December 2019.
2. Baughman RP, Lower EE. Infliximab for refractory sarcoidosis. *Sarcoidosis Vasc Diffuse Lung Dis* 2001; 18:70
3. Della Rossa A, Tavoni A, Merlini G, et al. Two Takayasu arteritis patients successfully treated with infliximab: a potential disease-modifying agent? *Rheumatology (Oxford)* 2005; 44:1074
4. Gossec L, Smolen JS, Ramiro S, et al. European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) recommendations for the management of psoriatic arthritis with pharmacological therapies; 2015 update. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2016;75(3):499-510.
5. Grant A, Gonzalez T, Montgomery MO, et al. Infliximab therapy for patients with moderate to severe hidradenitis suppurativa: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled crossover trial. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2010; 62:205
6. Inflectra (infliximab dyyb) [prescribing information]. New York, NY: Pfizer; November 2017
7. Laharie D, Bourreille A, Branche J, et al. Long-term outcome of patients with steroid-refractory acute severe UC treated with ciclosporin or infliximab. *Gut* 2017
8. Menter A, Korman NJ, Elmets CA, et al. Guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Section Guidelines of care for the treatment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis: case-based presentations and evidence-based conclusions. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2011;65(1):137-174.
9. Meyer A, Rudant J, Drouin J, et al. Effectiveness and Safety of Reference Infliximab and Biosimilar in Crohn Disease: A French Equivalence Study. *Ann Intern Med* 2019; 170:99.
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12. Peluso R, Lervolino S, Vitiello M, et al. Extra-articular manifestations in psoriatic arthritis patients. *Clin Rheumatol*. 2014 May 8.



13. Remicade (infliximab) [prescribing information]. Horsham, PA: Janssen Biotech, Inc; June 2018.
14. Renflexis (infliximab) [prescribing information]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck Sharp & Dohme; November 2017.
15. Saag KG, Teng GG, Patkar NM, et al. American College of Rheumatology 2008 recommendations for the use of nonbiologic and biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs in rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2008;59(6):762-784.
16. Singh JA, Saag KG, Bridges SL Jr, et al. 2015 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2016;68(1):1-26.
17. Smolen JS, Landewé R, Billsma J, et al. EULAR recommendations for the management of rheumatoid arthritis with synthetic and biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: 2016 update. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2017;0:1-18.
18. Tugal-Tutkun I, Mudun A, Urgancioglu M, et al. Efficacy of infliximab in the treatment of uveitis that is resistant to treatment with the combination of azathioprine, cyclosporine, and corticosteroids in Behçet's disease: an open-label trial. *Arthritis Rheum* 2005; 52:2478
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22. Yoo DH, Racewicz A, Brzezicki J, et al. A phase III randomized study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of CT-P13 compared with reference infliximab in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis: 54-week results from the PLANETRA study. *Arthritis Res Ther.* 2016;18:82. [\[PubMed 27038608\]](#)

## Review History

03/21/05 – Reviewed

05/15/05 – Implemented

02/27/06 – Updated

02/25/08 – Updated

02/23/09 – Updated

02/22/10 – Reviewed

02/28/11 – Updated

02/27/12 – Updated

02/25/13 – Updated

02/24/14 – Updated

02/23/15 – Reviewed

02/22/16 – Reviewed

02/27/17 - Added Inflectra; adopted SGM & PDS

02/26/18 – Updated

02/20/19 – Updated

11/20/19 - Added all SGM compendial uses that were previously listed on custom criteria as reviewed on a case-by-case basis and deleted off-label case-by-case reviews statement. Added criteria to compendial diagnosis. Added Skyrizi as required preferred product for PsO. Added Rinvoq as required preferred trial for RA



10/31/2020 – Reviewed; Updated criteria to have preferred agent as Remicade for Comm/Exch strategy. Non-preferred as Avsola, Renflexis, and Inflectra. Updated references. Effective 1/1/21. Avsola addition effective 2/1/21.

11/17/2021 – Reviewed and Updated for Nov P&T; updated preferred agent to Inflectra. Effective 01/01/2022

06/22/2022 – Reviewed and Updated for Jun P&T; added new formulation of unbranded infliximab as a non-preferred agent. Effective 08/01/2022.

11/15/2023 – Reviewed and Updated for Nov P&T; removed TB requirement

12/13/2023 – Reviewed and Updated for Dec P&T; Added additional treatment options for conventional therapies for Rheumatoid arthritis. Added disease involvement for Crohn’s and UC. Removed Appendix. Plaque psoriasis – changed from 5% BSA to 3% BSA. Removed appendix with contraindications to methotrexate. Consolidated conventional therapies for plaque psoriasis. Psoriatic arthritis – removed conventional therapy and added disease involvement. Effective: 2/1/2024

11/13/2024 – Reviewed and updated for November P&T. Updated criteria to include diagnoses for each agent. Updated reauthorization criteria to align with other agents. Administrative update-removed Appendix A. Effective 1/1/2025.

04/09/2025 – Reviewed and updated for April P&T. Updated criteria to remove the off-label use for nonradiographic axial spondyloarthritis. Effective 07/01/2025.

05/14/2025 – Reviewed and updated at May P&T. Updated criteria for Crohn’s Disease and ulcerative colitis to remove disease characteristic requirements and updated biologic step requirements to allow approval if the member’s disease severity warrants biologic as first-line therapy.

06/11/2025 – Reviewed and updated at June P&T. Update reauthorization criteria to remove initial criteria are met and replace with biologic trial requirements for the treated diagnosis are met. Effective 07/01/2025.

