

**Avsola (infliximab-qbtx)**  
**Inflectra (infliximab-dyyb)**  
**Infliximab**  
**Remicade (infliximab)**  
**Renflexis (infliximab-abda)**  
**Effective 08/16/2026**

|                              |                                                                                                      |                                            |                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Plan</b>                  | <input type="checkbox"/> MassHealth UPPL<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Exchange  | <b>Program Type</b>                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior Authorization                          |
| <b>Benefit</b>               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy Benefit<br><input type="checkbox"/> Medical Benefit     |                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Quantity Limit<br><input type="checkbox"/> Step Therapy |
| <b>Specialty Limitations</b> | This medication has been designated specialty and must be filled at a contracted specialty pharmacy. |                                            |                                                                                  |
| <b>Contact Information</b>   | <b>Medical Benefit</b><br><b>Pharmacy Benefit</b>                                                    | Phone: 833-895-2611<br>Phone: 800-711-4555 | Fax: 888-656-6671<br>Fax: 844-403-1029                                           |
| <b>Exceptions</b>            | N/A                                                                                                  |                                            |                                                                                  |

## Overview

### 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

Avsola and Inflectra are the preferred infliximab products.

## Coverage Guidelines

If member is new to the plan (as evidenced by coverage effective date of less than or equal to 90 days), submission of medical records documenting that the member is currently receiving treatment with the requested drug, 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 are 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 Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.
3. For Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with BOTH of the following:
  - a. Entyvio
  - b. Selarsdi, Steqeyma, or Yesintek
4. ONE of the following:
  - a. Trial and failure, contraindication, or intolerance 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 or targeted synthetic therapy as first-line therapy

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

1. Diagnosis of moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis
2. For Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.
3. For Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with BOTH of the following:
  - a. Entyvio
  - b. Selarsdi, Steqeyma, or Yesintek
4. ONE of the following:
  - a. Trial and failure, contraindication, or intolerance 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 or targeted synthetic therapy as first-line therapy

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

1. Diagnosis of moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis
2. For Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.
3. For Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with Simponi Aria
4. 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 Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.
3. For Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with Simponi Aria
4. Minimum 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 Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.
3. For Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with Simponi Aria
4. 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 Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information.
3. For Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented inadequate response or intolerable adverse event with Ilumya
4. 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. 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 or targeted synthetic therapy as first-line therapy.



**Behcet's syndrome**

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

**Hidradenitis suppurativa**

1. Submission of medical records (e.g., chart notes) documenting a diagnosis of severe, refractory hidradenitis suppurativa of Hurley Stage III
2. For Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, 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 Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, 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 Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, 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 Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, 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 Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, 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 trial and failure, contraindication, or intolerance to a trial of immunosuppressive therapy for uveitis (e.g., methotrexate, azathioprine, or mycophenolate mofetil)



- For Remicade, infliximab, and Renflexis: member has a documented intolerable adverse event with both Inflectra AND Avsola, 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:

- Member meets initial biologic trial requirements for the treated diagnosis
- Submission of medical records (e.g., chart notes) documenting an improvement in member's condition, as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition

### **Limitations**

- Initial approvals and reauthorizations will be granted for 24 months
- The following quantity limits apply:

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

### **References**

- Avsola (infliximab-axxq) [prescribing information]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen Inc; December 2019.
- Baughman RP, Lower EE. Infliximab for refractory sarcoidosis. *Sarcoidosis Vasc Diffuse Lung Dis* 2001; 18:70
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- 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
- Inflectra (infliximab dyyb) [prescribing information]. New York, NY: Pfizer; November 2017
- 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
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- Remicade (infliximab) [prescribing information]. Horsham, PA: Janssen Biotech, Inc; June 2018.
- Renflexis (infliximab) [prescribing information]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck Sharp & Dohme; November 2017.



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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.

## 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.

10/08/2025 – Reviewed and updated at October P&T. Updated policy to reflect that it no longer applies to the medical benefit. Minor verbiage updates to trial language for ankylosing spondylitis; intent remains the same. Effective 01/01/2026.

03/11/2026 – Reviewed and updated for March P&T. Administrative update - changing verbiage in reauthorization criteria from “documentation is submitted” to “submission of medical records (e.g., chart notes...” and updating language for members who are new to the Plan. Effective 05/01/2026.

04/15/2026 – Reviewed and updated for April P&T. Effective 07/01/26: Updated policy to indicate that Avsola will be a preferred product; all initial and reauthorization criteria will require trial and failure with Avsola AND Inflectra. Effective 08/16/2026: Updated previous trial language for plaque psoriasis, ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease, allowing for bypassing conventional therapy if member’s disease severity warrants a biologic or targeted synthetic therapy as first-line therapy.

