

Otezla (apremilast)
Effective 01/01/2025

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

Overview

Otezla (apremilast) is an inhibitor of phosphodiesterase 4 (PDE4) indicated for the treatment of:

- Active psoriatic arthritis
- Plaque psoriasis in patients not candidates for phototherapy or systemic therapy
- Oral ulcers associated with Behcet's Disease

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 have been met:

Plaque psoriasis

1. Diagnosis of plaque psoriasis
2. Member meets ONE of the following criteria:
 - i. Minimum duration of 4-week trial and failure, contraindication, or intolerance to ONE of the following topical therapies
 1. Corticosteroids (e.g., betamethasone, clobetasol)
 2. Vitamin D analogs (e.g., calcitriol, calcipotriene)
 3. Tazarotene
 4. Calcineurin inhibitors (e.g., tacrolimus, pimecrolimus)
 5. Anthralin
 6. Coal tar
 - ii. Member has severe psoriasis that warrants a biologic DMARD as first-line therapy.

Active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)

1. Diagnosis of active psoriatic arthritis
2. 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

Oral ulcers associated with Behcet's Disease

1. Diagnosis of active oral ulcers associated with Bechet's Disease

Continuation of Therapy

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

1. 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. Initial authorizations and reauthorizations will be granted for 24 months
2. The following quantity limits apply:

Drug Name	Quantity Limit
Otezla	60 tablets per 30 days

References

1. Coates LC, Kavanaugh A, Mease PJ, et al. Group for research and assessment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis 2015 treatment recommendation for psoriatic arthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2016 May;68(5):1060-71.
2. Hatemi G, Mahr A, Ishigatubo Y, et al. Trial of Apremilast for Oral Ulcers in Behcet's Syndrome. *N Engl J Med* 2019; 381:1918
3. Leccese P, Ozguler Y, Christensen R, et al. Management of skin, mucosa and joint involvement of Behcet's syndrome: A systematic review for update of the EULAR recommendations for the management of Behcet's syndrome. *Semin Arthritis Rheum* 2019; 48:752
4. Loos AM, Liu S, Segel C, et al. Comparative effectiveness of targeted immunomodulators for the treatment of moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis: A systematic review and network meta-analysis. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2018; 79:135
5. Nash P, Ohson K, Walsh J, et al. Early and sustained efficacy with apremilast monotherapy in biological-naïve patients with psoriatic arthritis: a phase IIIB, randomised controlled trial (ACTIVE). *Ann Rheum Dis* 2018; 77:690
6. Otezla (apremilast) [prescribing information]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen Inc; April 2024.
7. Papp KA, Kaufmann R, Thaci D, et al. Efficacy and safety of apremilast in subjects with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis: results from a phase II, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group, dose-comparison study. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 2013; 27: e376
8. Schafer P. Apremilast mechanism of action and application to psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. *Biochem Pharmacol.* 2012;83(12):1583-1590. [\[PubMed 22257911\]](#)

Review History

Reviewed: 02/23/15; 02/22/16 P&T Mtg

Revised: 02/27/17 (adopted SGM & Step); 2/26/18 P&T Mtg; 02/20/19; 9/18/19 (Added oral ulcers associated with Behcet's Disease as an indication)

09/16/20 – Reviewed at P&T



05/19/2021 – Reviewed and Updated for May P&T; started and stabilized statement updated for all indications to say “Authorization may be granted for members new to The plan”; moderate to severe plaque psoriasis conventional therapy requirements was changed from AND to OR. Effective 08/01/2021.

01/19/2022 – Reviewed and Updated for Jan P&T; Plaque psoriasis indication was expanded from moderate to severe to all severities of plaque psoriasis. Updated BSA% from at least 5% to at least 3% to align with definition mild disease as FDA has expanded indication. References updated. Effective 03/01/2022.

09/21/2022 – Reviewed and Updated for Sept P&T; Removed TNF requirement for psoriatic arthritis. Effective 11/01/2022.

7/12/2023 – Reviewed and Updated for July P&T; Removed Appendix B (examples of TNF inhibitors indicated for PsA)

11/15/2023 – Reviewed and Updated for Nov P&T; Removed TB requirement. Removed Appendix. For Behcet’s disease – removed requirement of oral colchicine or steroids. For Psoriatic arthritis – added examples of disease and removed conventional therapy.

3/13/2024 – Reviewed and Updated for March P&T; removed BSA requirement for plaque psoriasis. Effective: 4/1/2024

10/09/2024 – Reviewed and updated for October P&T. Updated reauthorization criteria to align with other immunomodulators. Effective 1/1/2025.

