

Lupus Agents:
Benlysta® (belimumab)
Lupkynis® (voclosporin)
Saphnelo® (anifrolumab-fnia)
Effective 08/12/2024

Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MassHealth UPPL <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Exchange	Program Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior Authorization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quantity Limit <input type="checkbox"/> Step Therapy
Benefit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy Benefit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Benefit (NLX)		
Specialty Limitations	These medications have been designated specialty and must be filled at a contracted specialty pharmacy when obtained through the pharmacy benefit.		
Contact Information	Medical and Specialty Medications		
	All Plans	Phone: 877-519-1908	Fax: 855-540-3693
Exceptions	Non-Specialty Medications		
	All Plans	Phone: 800-711-4555	Fax: 844-403-1029
Benlysta IV and Saphnelo are only available through the medical benefit.			

Overview

Benlysta® (belimumab) is a monoclonal antibody indicated for lupus nephritis and Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Benlysta is available for subcutaneous or intravenous administration

Lupkynis® (voclosporin) is a calcineurin inhibitor FDA-approved for the treatment of adult patients with active lupus nephritis in combination with a background immunosuppressive therapy.

Saphnelo® (anifrolumab-fnia) is a type I interferon (IFN) receptor antagonist indicated for the treatment of adult patients with moderate to severe systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), who are receiving standard therapy.

No PA	Drugs that require PA
Arava® # (leflunomide) Cellcept® # (mycophenolate mofetil) Cyclophosphamide capsule, tablet Cyclophosphamide injection ^{MB} Imuran® # (azathioprine 50 mg tablet) methotrexate tablet Neoral® # (cyclosporine modified) Plaquenil® # (hydroxychloroquine) [†] Sandimmune® # (cyclosporine capsule) Sandimmune® (cyclosporine injection) ^{MB}	Benlysta® (belimumab auto-injection, prefilled syringe) Benlysta® (belimumab vial) ^{MB} Lupkynis® (voclosporin) Saphnelo® (anifrolumab-fnia) ^{MB}

#This is a brand-name drug with FDA "A"-rated generic equivalents. PA is required for the brand, unless a particular form of that drug (for example, tablet, capsule, or liquid) does not have an FDA "A"-rated generic equivalent.

*This is a branded-generic drug for which there may be a generic available.

¶ Brand name is non-rebate.

MB Medical Benefit. This drug is available through the health care professional who administers the drug or in an outpatient or inpatient hospital setting. MassHealth does not pay for this drug to be dispensed through the retail pharmacy.

Coverage Guidelines

Authorization may be reviewed on a case by case basis for members who are new to the plan currently receiving treatment with requested medication excluding when the product is obtained as samples or via manufacturer's patient assistance programs.

OR

Authorization may be granted for members when all the following criteria are met, and documentation is provided:

Benlysta (belimumab) auto-injection, prefilled syringe, vial

ALL of the following:

1. Diagnosis of lupus nephritis
2. The member is ≥ 5 years of age
3. The member is receiving concurrent immunosuppressive therapy, excluding cyclophosphamide and biologics (*Examples of acceptable agents: mycophenolate mofetil and azathioprine*)
4. Appropriate dosing

Benlysta (belimumab) auto-injection, prefilled syringe, vial

Saphnelo (anifrolumab-FNIA)

ALL of the following:

1. Diagnosis of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)
2. The member is ≥ 5 years of age for Benlysta or ≥ 18 years of age for Saphnelo
3. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to **ONE** OR contraindication to **ALL** of the following:
 - a. azathioprine
 - b. methotrexate
 - c. mycophenolate
 - d. cyclosporine
 - e. cyclophosphamide
 - f. leflunomide
4. Appropriate dosing

Lupkynis (voclosporin)

ALL of the following:

1. Diagnosis of active lupus nephritis
2. The member is ≥ 18 years of age
3. The member is receiving concurrent immunosuppressive therapy, excluding cyclophosphamide and biologics (*Examples of acceptable agents: mycophenolate mofetil and azathioprine*)
4. Appropriate dosing

Continuation of Therapy

Reauthorization by prescriber will infer a positive response to therapy.

Limitations



1. Initial approvals may be granted for 6 months.
2. Reauthorizations may be granted for 6 months.
3. The following quantity limits apply:

Benlysta® (belimumab)	4 pen/syringe per 28 days
Lupkynis 7.9 mg	180 capsules per 30 days

4. Dosing information:

Benlysta® (belimumab) Intravenous injection: 120 mg single-use vial 400 mg single-use vial Subcutaneous injection: 200 mg autoinjector or syringe	SLE: Intravenous injection: Initial, 10 mg/kg at 2-week intervals for first 3 doses; maintenance, 10 mg/kg at 4-week intervals SLE: Subcutaneous injection: 200 mg weekly LN: Intravenous injection: Initial, 10 mg/kg at 2-week intervals for first 3 doses; maintenance, 10 mg/kg at 4-week intervals LN: Subcutaneous injection: Initial, 400 mg (two 200 mg injections) once weekly for 4 doses; maintenance, 200 mg once weekly thereafter
Lupkynis® (voclosporin) Capsule: 7.9 mg	23.7 mg twice daily
Saphnelo® (anifrolumab-fnia) Intravenous injection: 300 mg/2 mL	300 mg every four weeks

References

1. Benlysta® [package insert]. Rockville (MD): Human Genome Sciences, Inc; 2020 Dec.
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3. Belimumab: drug information. UpToDate [database on the Internet]. Waltham (MA): UpToDate; 2021 [cited 2021 Nov 20]. Available from: <http://www.uptodate.com/utd/index.do>.
4. Wallace DJ. Overview of the management and prognosis of systemic lupus erythematosus in adults. In: Pisetsky DS, Schur PH (Ed). UpToDate [database on the internet]. Waltham (MA): UpToDate; 2021 Sep [cited 2021 Oct 25]. Available from: <http://www.uptodate.com/utd/index.do>.
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8. Lupkynis® [package insert]. Rockville (MD): Aurinia Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; 2021 Jan.
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10. Saphnelo (anifrolumab) approved in the US for moderate to severe systemic lupus erythematosus [press release on the Internet]. Wilmington (DE): Food and Drug Administration (US): 2021 Aug 2 [cited 2021 Oct 25]. Available from: Saphnelo (anifrolumab) approved in the US for moderate to severe systemic lupus erythematosus (astrazeneca.com).
11. Navarra SV, Guzman RM, Gallacher AE, Hall S, Levy RA, Jimenez RE, et al. Efficacy and safety of belimumab in patients with active systemic lupus erythematosus: a randomized, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial. *Lancet*. 2011 Feb; 377:721-31.
12. Fanouriakis A, Kostopoulou M, Alunno A, Aringer M, Bajema I, Boletis JN et al. 2019 update of the EULAR recommendations for the management of systemic lupus erythematosus. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2019;78:736–745.
13. Andreoli L, Bertias GK, Agmon-Levin N, Brown S, Cervera R, Costedoat-Chalumeau N, et al. EULAR recommendations for women's health and the management of family planning, assisted reproduction, pregnancy and menopause in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and/or antiphospholipid syndrome. *Ann Rheum Dis*.2017 Mar;76(3):476-485.
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Review History

- 09/21/22 – Reviewed and Created for September P&T. Separated out Comm/Exch vs. MassHealth. Matched MH criteria. Renamed criteria to Lupus Agents. Added new drug Saphnelo and Lupkynis. Effective 11/1/22.
- 05/10/23 – Reviewed and updated for P&T. Added Dosage Information. Effective 6/5/23
- 06/14/23 – Reviewed and updated for P&T. Removed preferred product requirement from Saphnelo on MB (not required to align with MH). Effective 6/30/23.
- 07/10/24 – Reviewed and updated for P&T. Added Benlysta auto-injector/syringe to reference table. No clinical changes to criteria. Effective 08/12/24

