

**Rituxan (rituximab)**  
**Rituxan Hycela (rituximab and hyaluronidase)**  
**Riabni (rituximab-arrx)**  
**Ruxience (rituximab-pvvr)**  
**Truxima (rituximab-abbs)**  
**Effective 10/01/2025**

<b>Plan</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MassHealth <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Exchange	<b>Program Type</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior Authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Quantity Limit <input type="checkbox"/> Step Therapy
<b>Benefit</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy Benefit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Benefit		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior Authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Quantity Limit <input type="checkbox"/> Step Therapy
<b>Specialty Limitations</b>	N/A		
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Medical Benefit</b> <b>Pharmacy Benefit</b>	Phone: 833-895-2611 Phone: 800-711-4555	Fax: 888-656-6671 Fax: 844-403-1029
<b>Exceptions</b>	N/A		

### Overview

Rituximab is a monoclonal antibody directed against the CD20 antigen on the surface of B-lymphocytes. CD20 regulates cell cycle initiation; and, possibly, functions as a calcium channel. Rituximab binds to the antigen on the cell surface, activating complement-dependent B-cell cytotoxicity; and to human Fc receptors, mediating cell killing through an antibody-dependent cellular toxicity. B-cells are believed to play a role in the development and progression of rheumatoid arthritis. Signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis are reduced by targeting B-cells and the progression of structural damage is delayed.

### Coverage Guidelines

Authorization may be granted for members new to the plan who are currently receiving treatment with rituximab excluding when the product is obtained as samples or via manufacturer's patient assistance programs.

**OR**

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

**Riabni (rituximab-arrx)**

**Rituxan (rituximab)**

**Ruxience (rituximab-pvvr)**

**Truxima (rituximab-abbs)**

*Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL)*

1. Diagnosis of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL) with **ONE** of the following NHL sub-types:
  - a. Relapsed or refractory, low grade or follicular, CD20-positive B-cell NHL using rituximab product as a single agent
  - b. Previously untreated follicular, CD20-positive, B-cell NHL using rituximab product in combination with first line chemotherapy
  - c. Follicular, CD20-positive, B-cell NHL, in patients achieving a complete or partial response to a rituximab product in combination with chemotherapy, as single-agent maintenance therapy

- d. Non-progressing (including stable disease), low-grade, CD20- positive, B-cell NHL using rituximab product as a single agent after first-line cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and prednisone (CVP) chemotherapy
- e. Previously untreated diffuse large B-cell, CD20-positive NHL using rituximab product in combination with (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone) (CHOP) or other anthracycline-based chemotherapy regimens.

2. Appropriate dosing

*Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)*

- 1. Diagnosis of RA
- 2. Inadequate response, adverse reaction to **ONE** or contraindication to **ALL** of the following:
  - a. Cimzia (certolizumab pegol)
  - b. Enbrel (etanercept)
  - c. Humira (adalimumab)
  - d. infliximab
  - e. Simponi Aria (golimumab)
  - f. Simponi (golimumab)
- 3. **ONE** of the following:
  - a. Requested agent will be used in combination with methotrexate
  - b. Contraindication or adverse reaction to methotrexate
- 4. Appropriate dosing

*Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (GPA) and Microscopic Polyangiitis (MPA)*

- 1. Diagnosis of **ONE** of the following:
  - a. For induction therapy for GPA or MPA
    - i. Inadequate response, adverse reaction or contraindication to cyclophosphamide
    - ii. **ONE** of the following:
      - 1. Requested agent will be used in combination with a glucocorticoid within 30 days
      - 2. Adverse reaction or contraindication to glucocorticoids
    - iii. Appropriate dosing
  - b. For maintenance therapy for GPA or MPA
    - i. Appropriate dosing

**Rituxan (rituximab)**

*Pemphigus Vulgaris (PV)*

- 1. Diagnosis of PV
- 2. **ONE** of the following:
  - a. Requested agent will be used in combination with systemic corticosteroids
  - b. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to **ONE** or contraindication to **ALL** systemic corticosteroids
- 3. Appropriate dosing

*Pediatric patients with mature B-cell NHL and mature B-cell acute leukemia (B-AL)*

- 1. Diagnosis of mature B-cell NHL or mature B-AL with **ONE** of the following sub-types:
  - a. Previously untreated, advanced stage, CD20-positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)
  - b. Burkitt lymphoma (BL)
  - c. Burkitt-like lymphoma (BLL)



2. Member is  $\geq$  6 months and  $<$  18 years of age
3. Appropriate dosing

**Rituxan Hycela (rituximab/hyaluronidase human)**

1. **ONE** of the following:
  - a. Diagnosis of Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL)\*
  - b. Diagnosis of Follicular Lymphoma (FL)
2. Appropriate dosing

\* For non-FDA-approved B-Cell lymphomas, Rituxan Hycela may be substituted for Rituxan if there is documentation that the member has received the first full dose of Rituxan by IV infusion

**Riabni (rituximab-arrx)**

**Rituxan (rituximab)**

**Rituxan Hycela (rituximab/hyaluronidase human)**

**Ruxience (rituximab-pvvr)**

**Truxima (rituximab-abbs)**

1. Diagnosis of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)
2. Appropriate dosing

**Continuation of Therapy**

Resubmission by prescriber will infer a positive response to therapy.

**Limitations**

1. Initial approvals will be granted for the following:
  - a. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL) [including Follicular Lymphoma (FL) and Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL)] and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), Pediatric patients with mature B-cell NHL and mature B-cell acute leukemia (B-AL): **6 months**
  - b. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA): **2 weeks of therapy with 4 month duration**
  - c. Pemphigus Vulgaris (PV): **2 weeks of therapy with 6 month duration**
  - d. Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (GPA)/Microscopic Polyangiitis (MPA):
    - i. Induction (initial) therapy: 2 or 4 weeks of therapy depending on dosing requested with **a 4 month duration**
    - ii. Maintenance (subsequent) therapy: **1 week of therapy with 4 month or 6 month duration**
2. Reauthorizations will be granted for the following:
  - a. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL) [including Follicular Lymphoma (FL) and Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL)] and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), Pediatric patients with mature B-cell NHL and mature B-cell acute leukemia (B-AL): **12 months**
  - b. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA): **6 weeks of therapy with 12 month duration**
  - c. Pemphigus Vulgaris (PV): **2 weeks of therapy with 12 month duration**
  - d. Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (GPA)/Microscopic Polyangiitis (MPA): **3 week of therapy with 12 month duration**

**Appendix**

**Examples of contraindications to methotrexate**

1. Alcoholism, alcoholic liver disease or other chronic liver disease
2. Breastfeeding
3. Blood dyscrasias (e.g., thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, significant anemia)



4. Elevated liver transaminases
5. History of intolerance or adverse event
6. Hypersensitivity
7. Interstitial pneumonitis or clinically significant pulmonary fibrosis
8. Myelodysplasia
9. Pregnancy or planning pregnancy (male or female)
10. Renal impairment
11. Significant drug interaction

#### Off-Label Uses for Rituximab Products

- Requests may be approvable if conventional therapies have failed (i.e. inadequate response, adverse reaction and/or contraindications)
- Prior authorization requests for any of the following conditions should include details of previous “conventional” therapy trials before the approval of rituximab

Off-Label Use	Approval Criteria
Autoimmune Encephalitis	Prescriber provides documentation of ALL of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diagnosis of autoimmune encephalitis (also includes anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis)</li> <li>2. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to ONE or contraindication to ALL of the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. intravenous glucocorticoids</li> <li>b. intravenous immune globulin</li> <li>c. plasma exchange</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Inadequate response, adverse reaction, or contraindication to cyclophosphamide</li> </ol>
Autoimmune Epilepsy	Prescriber provides documentation of ALL of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diagnosis of autoimmune epilepsy</li> <li>2. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to ONE or contraindication to ALL of the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. intravenous glucocorticoids</li> <li>b. intravenous immune globulin</li> <li>c. plasma exchange</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to ONE or contraindication to ALL of the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. azathioprine</li> <li>b. cyclophosphamide</li> <li>c. mycophenolate</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Post-Transplantation Lymphoproliferative Disease (PTLD)	Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> </ol>
Waldenström's macroglobulinemia (WM)	Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> </ol>
Idiopathic membranous nephropathy (IMN)	Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. Inadequate response, adverse reaction to <b>ONE</b> of the following or contraindication to <b>BOTH</b> of the following:</li> </ol>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. cyclophosphamide</li> <li>b. chlorambucil</li> </ul> <p>3. Inadequate response, adverse reaction to <b>ONE</b> of the following or contraindication to <b>BOTH</b> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. cyclosporine</li> <li>b. tacrolimus</li> </ul>
Lupus nephritis (LN)	Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. Inadequate response, adverse reaction, or contraindication to <b>BOTH</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. cyclophosphamide</li> <li>b. mycophenolate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia (AIHA)	Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to <b>ONE</b> or contraindication to <b>ALL</b> corticosteroids</li> </ul>
Moderate-to-Severe Cryoglobulinemia Syndrome	Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diagnosis of moderate to severe cryoglobulinemia syndrome</li> <li>2. Requested agent will be used in combination with systemic glucocorticoids</li> </ul>
Graft Versus Host Disease (GVHD)	Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. Inadequate response, or adverse reaction to <b>ONE</b> or contraindication to <b>ALL</b> corticosteroids</li> <li>3. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to <b>TWO</b> of the following or contraindication to <b>ALL</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. abatacept</li> <li>b. alemtuzumab</li> <li>c. belumosudil</li> <li>d. cyclosporine</li> <li>e. etanercept</li> <li>f. everolimus</li> <li>g. hydroxychloroquine</li> <li>h. ibrutinib</li> <li>i. imatinib</li> <li>j. methotrexate</li> <li>k. mycophenolate mofetil</li> <li>l. ruxolitinib</li> <li>m. sirolimus</li> <li>n. tacrolimus</li> <li>o. temsirolimus</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura (ITP)	Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to <b>ONE</b> or contraindication to <b>ALL</b> corticosteroids</li> </ul>



Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorders (NMOSD) maintenance therapy	<p>Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to <b>ONE</b> or contraindication to <b>BOTH</b> of the following:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. azathioprine</li> <li>b. mycophenolate</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia Purpura (TTP)	<p>Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. <b>ONE</b> of the following:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Member underwent plasma exchange</li> <li>b. Clinical rationale as to why plasma exchange was not performed</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Inadequate response, adverse reaction, or contraindication to corticosteroids</li> </ol>
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)	<p>Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to <b>TWO</b> of the following OR contraindication to <b>ALL</b> of the following:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. azathioprine</li> <li>b. cyclophosphamide</li> <li>c. cyclosporine</li> <li>d. leflunomide</li> <li>e. methotrexate</li> <li>f. mycophenolate</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Multiple Sclerosis	<p><u>Relapsing-Remitting MS (RRMS)</u></p> <p>Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. Prescriber is a neurologist or consult notes from a neurology office are provided</li> </ol>
IgG-related disease	<p>Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to <b>ONE</b> or contraindication to <b>ALL</b> glucocorticoids</li> </ol>
Minimal change disease	<p>Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. Inadequate response, adverse reaction, or contraindication to <b>BOTH</b> of the following:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. cyclophosphamide</li> <li>b. cyclosporine</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Polymyositis (PM) or Dermatomyositis (DM)	<p>Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriate diagnosis</li> <li>2. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to <b>ONE</b> or contraindication to <b>ALL</b> corticosteroids</li> </ol>



	<p>3. Inadequate response or adverse reaction to <b>TWO</b> of the following or contraindication to <b>ALL</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>azathioprine</li> <li>cyclophosphamide</li> <li>cyclosporine</li> <li>methotrexate</li> <li>mycophenolate</li> </ol>
Myasthenia Gravis, Generalized (MG)	<p>Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnosis of generalized MG</li> <li>Inadequate response, adverse reaction, or contraindication to pyridostigmine</li> <li>Inadequate response or adverse reaction to <b>ONE</b> or contraindication to <b>ALL</b> corticosteroids</li> <li><b>ONE</b> of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member has muscle-specific tyrosine kinase (MuSK)-positive MG (MuSK-positive MG)</li> <li>Inadequate response or adverse reaction to <b>ONE</b> or contraindication <b>ALL</b> of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>azathioprine</li> <li>cyclophosphamide</li> <li>cyclosporine</li> <li>eculizumab</li> <li>efgartigimod</li> <li>intravenous immune globulin</li> <li>mycophenolate</li> <li>ravulizumab</li> <li>tacrolimus</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Pemphigus Foliaceus (PF)	<p>Prescriber provides documentation of <b>ALL</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnosis of PF</li> <li><b>ONE</b> of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requested agent will be used in combination with systemic glucocorticoids</li> <li>Inadequate response or adverse reaction to <b>ONE</b> or contraindication to <b>ALL</b> systemic corticosteroids</li> </ol> </li> <li>Appropriate dosing (refer to FDA-approved dosing for PV)</li> </ol>
Off-label approval durations	<p>Initial: <b>3 months</b> Recertification: <b>12 months</b></p>

## References

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- DRUGDEX System [Internet database]. Ann Arbor, MI: Truven Health Analytics. Updated periodically. Accessed November 19, 2018.
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12. Arber D, Orazi A, Vardiman J, et al. The 2016 revision to the World Health Organization classification of myeloid neoplasms and acute leukemia. *Blood.* May 19, 2016;127(20):2391-2405.
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## Review History

12/16/2019 – add Truxima to criteria

03/18/2020 – Reviewed and switched from SGM to custom criteria; combine Rituxan Oncology and Rituxan RA + Other Conditions (effective 6/1/20)

11/18/2020 – separated out MH vs. Comm/Exch

05/19/2021 – Updated and Reviewed for May P&T; added Riabni and Rituxan Hycela to criteria

02/08/2023 - Reviewed and updated for Feb P&T. Matched MH UPPL criteria to be in compliance with Masshealth unified formulary requirements. Added Off-Label indications to appendix. Clarified approval durations. Effective 4/1/23.

05/10/23 – Reviewed and updated for P&T. A note was added underneath approval criteria for NHL to clarify the subtypes of NHL for which rituximab agents are FDA-approved. The criteria for PV were updated to remove the trial requirement with systemic immunosuppressive therapy as initial therapy with a steroid and rituximab is now preferred. Off-label criteria for GVHD updated to remove thalidomide from the acceptable trials and to add several agents as acceptable trials, as recommended by NCCN. Criteria for ITP updated to remove required splenectomy trial. Several new off label indications were added to the policy. Effective 6/5/23.

09/11/24 – Reviewed and updated for P&T. Diagnosis criteria update to include NHL subtypes to the criteria rather as a footnote. Per NCCN guidelines, the requirement that Rituxan be used in conjunction with Lymphoma Malin B (LMB) chemotherapy for pediatric oncology was removed. Effective 10/1/24



9/10/25 – Reviewed and updated for P&T. Mycophenolate was added to trials for polymyositis and dermatomyositis diagnosis. Effective 10/1/25

