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Policy Number: C5678-A

Xolair (omalizumab)

PRODUCTS AFFECTED

Xolair (omalizumab)

COVERAGE POLICY

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

This Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide Molina Healthcare complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

Documentation Requirements:

Molina Healthcare reserves the right to require that additional documentation be made available as part of its coverage determination; quality improvement; and fraud; waste and abuse prevention processes. Documentation required may include, but is not limited to, patient records, test results and credentials of the provider ordering or performing a drug or service. Molina Healthcare may deny reimbursement or take additional appropriate action if the documentation provided does not support the initial determination that the drugs or services were medically necessary, not investigational, or experimental, and otherwise within the scope of benefits afforded to the member, and/or the documentation demonstrates a pattern of billing or other practice that is inappropriate or excessive.

DIAGNOSIS:

Chronic spontaneous urticaria, Moderate to severe persistent asthma, Nasal polyps

REQUIRED MEDICAL INFORMATION:

This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. If a drug within this policy receives an updated FDA label within the last 180 days, medical necessity for the member will be reviewed using the updated FDA label information along with state and federal requirements, benefit being administered and formulary preferencing. Coverage will be determined on a case-by-case basis until the criteria can be updated through Molina Healthcare, Inc. clinical governance. Additional information may be required on a case-by-case basis to allow for adequate review. When the requested drug product for coverage is dosed by weight, body surface area or other member specific measurement, this data element is required as part of the medical necessity review. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee has determined that the drug benefit shall be a mandatory generic and that generic drugs will be dispensed whenever available.

A. CHRONIC SPONTANEOUS URTICARIA:

1. Diagnosis of Chronic Spontaneous Urticaria (CSU) documented by the presence of urticaria (hives) that has been continuously or intermittently present for more than 6 weeks
AND
2. Prescriber attests that other underlying causes of member's condition have been ruled out,

Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

including bradykinin-related angioedema and interleukin-1-associated urticarial syndromes (auto-inflammatory disorders, urticarial vasculitis)

AND

3. Prescribers attests that possible conditions or triggers for urticaria are being maximally managed without improvement
AND
4. Documented baseline score from an objective clinical evaluation tool within the past 30 days [e.g., urticaria activity score (UAS7), angioedema activity score (AAS), Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI), Angioedema Quality of Life (AE-QoL), or Chronic Urticaria Quality of Life Questionnaire (CU-Q2oL)] [DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED]
AND
5. Documentation that member continues to experience hives associated with itching despite adequate, adherent trials (minimum 4 weeks) of ALL of the following treatments (See Appendix 4) (*Reference: AAAAI/ACAAI guideline on diagnosis and management acute and chronic urticaria [J Allergy Clin Immunol 2014 May;133(5):1270] see BACKGROUND*) [DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED of trial/failure with dates of therapy]:
 - (a) Two different H1-antihistamines at the maximally tolerated doses (up to 4 times standard daily dose), unless medically contraindicated as monotherapy
MOLINA REVIEWER NOTE: If denying for prior utilization at high doses, please enter override for antihistamine quantity limits
AND
 - (b) One H1-antihistamine IN COMBINATION with leukotriene receptor antagonist (LTRA) at the maximally tolerated doses (up to 4 times standard daily dose), unless medically contraindicated
AND
 - (c) One H1-antihistamine at the maximally tolerated doses (up to 4 times standard daily dose) in combination with ANY of the following: H2-Antihistamines OR an anti-inflammatory agent (e.g., dapsone, hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine) OR an immunosuppressant agent (e.g., cyclosporine, mycophenolate), unless medically contraindicated
AND
6. Prescriber attests or clinical reviewer has found that Xolair is not prescribed for concurrent use with any of the following: Anti-interleukin 4 therapy [e.g., Dupixent (dupilumab)], OR Anti-interleukin 5 therapy [e.g., Nucala (mepolizumab), Cinqair (reslizumab), Fasentra (benralizumab)], OR Anti-TSLP Tezspire (Tezepelumab-ekko)

B. MODERATE-TO-SEVERE PERSISTENT ALLERGIC ASTHMA:

1. Documented diagnosis of moderate to severe persistent asthma
AND
2. Prescriber attests or clinical reviewer has found that Xolair (omalizumab) is NOT being used as monotherapy for asthma (prescribed as add-on maintenance to be used in combination with other medications for long-term control of asthma)
AND
3. Documented pre-treatment serum total IgE levels (measured prior to start of treatment) greater than or equal to 30 IU/mL and less than or equal to 1500 IU/mL [DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED]
AND
4. Member has experienced exacerbation(s) or hospitalization(s), within the last 12 months documented by any of the following [DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED]:
 - i. TWO (2) or more exacerbations requiring treatment with systemic corticosteroid (intramuscular, intravenous, or oral) despite the use of high-dose inhaled corticosteroids in the past 12 months OR
 - ii. Two-fold increase or greater in the dose of systemic corticosteroid treatment for asthma exacerbations OR
 - iii. Asthma worsens upon tapering of oral corticosteroid therapy OR
 - iv. Mechanical ventilation in the past 12 months OR

Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

- v. Poor symptom control indicated by Asthma Control Questionnaire (ACQ) score consistently greater than 1.5 or Asthma Control Test (ACT) score consistently less than 20 OR
- vi. Forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1) < 80% predicted OR
- vii. FEV1/forced vital capacity (FVC) < 0.80

AND

5. Symptoms inadequately controlled (as documented in criteria above) by the following adherent regimen of at least 3 months (within the past 90 days): (a) or (b)

(a) Medium or High ICS- LABA combination product AND one additional asthma controller medication (LAMA, LTRA, Low dose azithromycin), preferably a LAMA- per GINA 2023 guideline

OR

(b) Medium or High ICS- LABA combination product AND oral corticosteroids [see appendix for product classes]

MOLINA REVIEWER: Verify pharmacy claims for compliance with the combination therapy above within the last 90 days. For new members to Molina Healthcare, confirm medication use in medical chart history. Non-compliance, which can be documented by review of the prescription fill history, would not constitute therapeutic failure.

AND

6. Prescriber attestation that IF member is a smoker, the member has been counseled regarding the benefits of smoking cessation and/or connected with a program to support smoking cessation

AND

7. Prescriber attestation that the member's underlying conditions or triggers for asthma or pulmonary disease are being maximally managed

AND

8. Prescriber attests or clinical reviewer has found that Xolair is not prescribed for concurrent use with any of the following: Anti-interleukin 4 therapy [e.g., Dupixent (dupilumab)], OR Anti-interleukin 5 therapy [e.g., Nucala (mepolizumab), Cinqair (reslizumab), Fasentra (benralizumab)], OR Anti-TSLP Tezspire (Tezepelumab-ekko)

C. NASAL POLYPS:

1. Documented diagnosis of chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyposis

AND

2. Prescriber attests that member has a history of sino-nasal surgery or is not eligible for surgery

AND

3. Documentation member has experienced an inadequate response (after 3 consistent months of use) or serious side effects to one of the following medications unless contraindicated: preferred formulary intranasal steroids OR preferred formulary oral corticosteroids

AND

4. Documentation member is concurrently receiving treatment with one of the following agents: Intranasal steroids, Oral corticosteroids, Nasal saline irrigations, Antibiotics, or antileukotriene agents (i.e., not to be used as monotherapy)

AND

5. Documentation of prescriber baseline disease activity evaluation and goals for treatment to be used to evaluate efficacy of therapy at renewal (e.g., nasal congestion, loss of smell, sino-nasal symptoms) [DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED]

AND

6. Prescriber attests or clinical reviewer has found that Xolair is not prescribed for concurrent use with any of the following: Anti-interleukin 4 therapy [e.g., Dupixent (dupilumab)], OR Anti-interleukin 5 therapy [e.g., Nucala (mepolizumab), Cinqair (reslizumab), Fasentra (benralizumab)], OR Anti-TSLP Tezspire (Tezepelumab-ekko)

CONTINUATION OF THERAPY:

A. FOR ALL INDICATIONS:

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Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

1. Adherence to therapy at least 85% of the time as verified by the prescriber or member medication fill history OR adherence less than 85% of the time due to the need for surgery or treatment of an infection, causing temporary discontinuation
AND
2. Prescriber attests to or clinical reviewer has found no evidence of ANY of the following: Intolerable adverse effects or unacceptable toxicity from the drug [e.g. symptoms of anaphylaxis (bronchospasm, hypotension, syncope, urticaria, and/or angioedema), malignancy, symptoms similar to serum sickness (fever, arthralgia, and rash); parasitic (helminth) infection, eosinophilic conditions (e.g. vasculitic rash, worsening pulmonary symptoms, cardiac complications, and/ or neuropathy, especially upon reduction of oral corticosteroids]
AND
3. Prescriber attests or clinical reviewer has found that Xolair (omalizumab) is not prescribed for concurrent use with any of the following: Anti-interleukin 4 therapy [e.g., Dupixent (dupilumab)], OR Anti-interleukin 5 therapy [e.g., Nucala (mepolizumab), Cinqair (reslizumab), Fasenra (benralizumab)] OR Anti-TSLP Tezspire (Tezepelumab-ekko)

B. CHRONIC IDIOPATHIC URTICARIA:

1. Clinical improvement as documented by improvement from baseline using objective clinical evaluation tools within the past 30 days [e.g., urticaria activity score (UAS7), angioedema activity score (AAS), Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI), Angioedema Quality of Life (AE- QoL), or Chronic Urticaria Quality of Life Questionnaire (CU- Q2oL)]. [DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED]

C. MODERATE-TO-SEVERE PERSISTENT ALLERGIC ASTHMA:

1. Positive clinical improvement (from pre-Xolair treatment baseline) as documented by ONE or more of the following:
 - a. Improvement in lung function (increase in percent predicted FEV1 or PEF) from pre-treatment baseline
 - b. Decreased utilization of rescue medications
 - c. Decreased frequency of exacerbations (defined as worsening of asthma that requires increase in inhaled corticosteroid dose or treatment with systemic corticosteroids)
 - d. Decreased frequency of unscheduled clinic, urgent care or emergency department visits
 - e. Reduction in reported symptoms: chest tightness, coughing, shortness of breath, nocturnal wakening wheezing, sustained improvement in ACT scores
 - f. Decreased or stopped oral treatments (including oral corticosteroids and other add on medications, if applicable), or reduced ICS- LABA dose (to at least moderate)
 - g. Reduction in severity or frequency of asthma-related symptoms (e.g., wheezing/heavy breathing, coughing, chest tightness or heaviness shortness of breath, sleep disturbance, night wakening, fatigue, sleep disturbance, or asthmatic symptoms upon awakening)

MOLINA REVIEWER NOTE: For members with unclear response after initial use, see Background (GINA 2023).

AND

2. Documentation Xolair is used in combination with other medications for long-term control of asthma [e.g., inhaled corticosteroids, long-acting beta-2 agonists (LABA), leukotriene receptor antagonists (LTRA), Long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA), theophylline]

D. NASAL POLYPS:

1. Documentation of positive clinical response as demonstrated by low disease activity and/or improvements in the condition's signs and symptoms (e.g., nasal congestion, loss of smell, sino-nasal symptoms) [DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED]

DURATION OF APPROVAL:

Initial authorization: 6 months, Continuation of therapy: 12 months

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Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

PRESCRIBER REQUIREMENTS:

Prescribed by, or in consultation with, a board-certified asthma specialist (allergist, immunologist, pulmonologist), or physician experienced in the management of asthma, allergist, dermatologist, or otorhinolaryngologist. [If prescribed in consultation, consultation notes must be submitted with initial request and reauthorization requests]

AGE RESTRICTIONS:

Chronic idiopathic urticaria: 12 years of age and older

Asthma: 6 years of age and older

Nasal polyposis: 18 years of age and older

QUANTITY:

Options for dosing quantity limits:

Dose (75mg) = 1 x 75mg syringe ONLY

Dose (150mg) = 1 x 150mg syringe OR 150mg vial

Dose (225mg) = 1 x 75mg syringe + 1x 150mg syringe ONLY

Dose (300mg) = 2 x 150mg syringe OR 2 x 150mg vials

Dose (375mg) = 1 x 75mg syringe + (2 x 150mg syringe OR 2 x 150mg vials)

Dose (450mg) = 3 x 150mg syringe OR 3 x 150mg vial

Dose (525mg) = 1 x 75mg syringe + 3 x 150mg syringe/vial

Dose (600mg) = 4 x 150mg syringe/vial

For Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria: MAX 300 mg every 4 weeks (dosing not dependent on serum IgE or body weight)

For Asthma: MAX 375 mg every 2 weeks, with dosing determined by serum IgE level (IU/mL) and body weight, measured before start of treatment

For nasal polyps: MAX 600 mg every 2 weeks, with dosing determined by serum IgE level (IU/mL) and body weight, measured before start of treatment

Maximum Quantity Limits – Based on FDA labeled indication, weight, and IgE level

PLACE OF ADMINISTRATION:

The recommendation is that injectable medications in this policy will be for pharmacy or medical benefit coverage and the subcutaneous injectable products administered in a place of service that is a non-hospital facility-based location as per the Molina Health Care Site of Care program.

Note: Site of Care Utilization Management Policy applies for Xolair (omalizumab). For information on site of care, see

[Specialty Medication Administration Site of Care Coverage Criteria \(molinamarketplace.com\)](https://www.molinamarketplace.com)

DRUG INFORMATION

ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION:

Subcutaneous

DRUG CLASS:

Anti-IgE Monoclonal Antibody

FDA-APPROVED USES:

Indicated for:

- Moderate to severe persistent asthma in adults and pediatric patients 6 years of age and older with a positive skin test or in vitro reactivity to a perennial aeroallergen and symptoms that are inadequately controlled with inhaled corticosteroids

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Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

Limitations of use: Not indicated for acute bronchospasm or status asthmaticus

- Chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps (CRSwNP) in adult patients 18 years of age and older with inadequate response to nasal corticosteroids, as add-on maintenance treatment
- Chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU) in adults and adolescents 12 years of age and older who remain symptomatic despite H1 antihistamine treatment

Limitations of use: Not indicated for other allergic conditions or other forms of urticaria

COMPENDIAL APPROVED OFF-LABELED USES:

None

APPENDIX

- Controller medications: suppress the inflammatory causes of asthma to provide clinical control over the long term, whereas reliever medications relieve bronchoconstriction quickly. Controller medications include inhaled glucocorticoids, long-acting beta-agonists (LABAs) and Leukotriene receptor antagonists (LTRA). Theophylline (Theo-24, Uniphyll, TheoChron ER, generics) is also a controller agent, however, it is not as efficacious as LABAs.

Anticholinergic (LAMA)

Tiotropium bromide monohydrate (Spiriva Respimat)

Inhaled Corticosteroids (ICS) (list not all inclusive):

Beclomethasone dipropionate (QVAR)

Fluticasone furoate (Arnuity Ellipta)

Budesonide DPI (Pulmicort Flexhaler)

Fluticasone propionate (Flovent Diskus)

Budesonide nebulules (Pulmicort Respules)

Fluticasone propionate (Flovent HFA)

Ciclesonide (Alvesco)

Fluticasone propionate (ArmonAir Digihaler)

Flunisolide (Aerospan)

Mometasone furoate (Asmanex Twisthaler)

Mometasone furoate (Asmanex HFA)*

**HFA: hydrofluoroalkane propellant metered dose inhaler*

**DPI: dry powder inhaler*

Combination Long-Acting Bronchodilator and Corticosteroid (ICS+ LABA) (list not all inclusive):

Budesonide/formoterol fumarate dihydrate (Symbicort)

Fluticasone propionate/salmeterol (Advair Diskus/ Adair HFA/ AirDuo/ AirDuo RespiClick/Wixela Inhub)

Fluticasone furoate/vilanterol (Breo Ellipta)

Mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate dihydrate (Dulera)

Combination Anticholinergic and Corticosteroid and long-acting bronchodilator (ICS+ LAMA+ LABA)

Fluticasone/umeclidinium/vilanterol (Trelegy Elipta)

Leukotriene receptor antagonist (LTRA) (list not all inclusive):

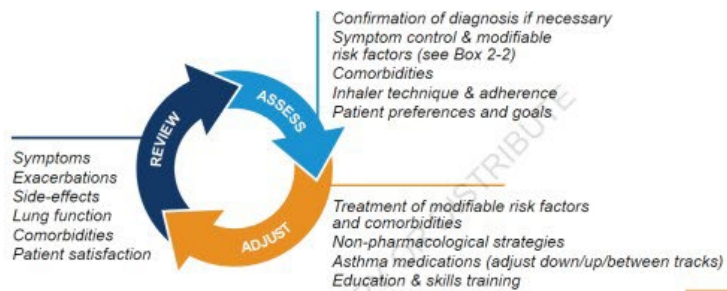
Montelukast (Singulair), Zafirlukast (Accolate), Zileuton (Zyflo)

- FEV1 (forced expiratory volume in 1 second): A measure of airway obstruction determined using spirometry. Individual FEV1 values are compared to predicted values based on age, height, sex and race.
- PEF (peak expiratory flow): PEF is often described as a percent of personal best measurement. Personal best PEF is the highest PEF value attained after 2 to 3 weeks of testing when asthma is in good control.

Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria
APPENDIX 1: Managing Asthma in Adults and Adolescents 12+ Years

GINA 2023 – Adults & adolescents 12+ years

Personalized asthma management
 Assess, Adjust, Review
 for individual patient needs



TRACK 1: PREFERRED CONTROLLER and RELIEVER
 Using ICS-formoterol as the reliever* reduces the risk of exacerbations compared with using a SABA reliever, and is a simpler regimen

STEPS 1 – 2 As-needed-only low dose ICS-formoterol	STEP 3 Low dose maintenance ICS-formoterol	STEP 4 Medium dose maintenance ICS-formoterol	STEP 5 Add-on LAMA Refer for assessment of phenotype. Consider high dose maintenance ICS-formoterol, ± anti-IgE, anti-IL5/5R, anti-IL4Rα, anti-TSLP
RELIEVER: As-needed low-dose ICS-formoterol*			

TRACK 2: Alternative CONTROLLER and RELIEVER
 Before considering a regimen with SABA reliever, check if the patient is likely to adhere to daily controller treatment

STEP 1 Take ICS whenever SABA taken*	STEP 2 Low dose maintenance ICS	STEP 3 Low dose maintenance ICS-LABA	STEP 4 Medium/high dose maintenance ICS-LABA	STEP 5 Add-on LAMA Refer for assessment of phenotype. Consider high dose maintenance ICS-LABA, ± anti-IgE, anti-IL5/5R, anti-IL4Rα, anti-TSLP
RELIEVER: as-needed ICS-SABA*, or as-needed SABA				

Other controller options (limited indications, or less evidence for efficacy or safety – see text)

Low dose ICS whenever SABA taken*, or daily LTRA, or add HDM SLIT	Medium dose ICS, or add LTRA, or add HDM SLIT	Add LAMA or LTRA or HDM SLIT, or switch to high dose ICS	Add azithromycin (adults) or LTRA. As last resort consider adding low dose OCS but consider side-effects
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*Anti-inflammatory reliever (AIR)

ABBREVIATIONS: BUD-FORM: budesonide-formoterol; ICS: inhaled corticosteroid; LABA: long-acting beta2-agonist; LTRA: Leukotriene Receptor Antagonist; MART: maintenance and reliever therapy with ICS-formoterol; OCS: oral corticosteroids; SABA: short-acting beta2-agonist; SLIT: sublingual immunotherapy

REFERENCE: Global Initiative for Asthma. Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention, 2023. Available from: www.ginasthma.org

Managing Asthma in Children 6-11 Years

GINA 2023 – Children 6–11 years

Personalized asthma management:
Assess, Adjust, Review

Symptoms
Exacerbations
Side-effects
Lung function
Comorbidities
Child (and parent/ caregiver) satisfaction



Confirmation of diagnosis if necessary
Symptom control & modifiable risk factors (see Box 2-2)
Comorbidities
Inhaler technique & adherence
Child and parent/caregiver preferences and goals

Treatment of modifiable risk factors & comorbidities
Non-pharmacological strategies
Asthma medications (adjust down or up)
Education & skills training

STEP 5
Refer for phenotypic assessment ± higher dose ICS-LABA or add-on therapy, e.g. anti-IgE, anti-IL4Ra, anti-IL5

As last resort, consider add-on low dose OCS, but consider side-effects

Asthma medication options:
Adjust treatment up and down for individual child's needs

PREFERRED CONTROLLER
to prevent exacerbations and control symptoms

STEP 1
Low dose ICS taken whenever SABA taken*

STEP 2
Daily low dose inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) (see table of ICS dose ranges for children)

STEP 3
Low dose ICS-LABA, OR medium dose ICS, OR very low dose ICS-formoterol maintenance and reliever (MART)

STEP 4
Medium dose ICS-LABA, OR low dose ICS-formoterol maintenance and reliever therapy (MART). Refer for expert advice

Other controller options (limited indications, or less evidence for efficacy or safety)

Consider daily low dose ICS

Daily leukotriene receptor antagonist (LTRA), or low dose ICS taken whenever SABA taken*

Low dose ICS + LTRA

Add tiotropium or add LTRA

RELIEVER

As-needed SABA (or ICS-formoterol reliever* in MART in Steps 3 and 4)

*Anti-inflammatory relievers (AIR)

ABBREVIATIONS: BUD-FORM: budesonide-formoterol; ICS: inhaled corticosteroid; LABA: long-acting beta2-agonist; LTRA: Leukotriene Receptor Antagonist; MART: maintenance and reliever therapy with ICS-formoterol; OCS: oral corticosteroids; SABA: short-acting beta2-agonist; SLIT: sublingual immunotherapy

REFERENCE: Global Initiative for Asthma. Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention, 2023. Available from: www.ginasthma.org

APPENDIX 2: SUGGESTED TOTAL DAILY DOSAGES for INHALED CORTICOSTEROIDS (ICS) IN ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS (12 years and older):

Inhaled Corticosteroid	Low Dose ICS (mcg)	Medium Dose ICS (mcg)	High Dose ICS (mcg)
Beclometasone dipropionate (pMDI, standard particle, HFA)	200-500	>500-1000	>1000
Beclometasone dipropionate (DPI or pMDI, extrafine particle, HFA)	100-200	>200-400	>400
Budesonide (DIP, or pMDI, standard particle, HFA)	200-400	>400-800	>800
Ciclesonide (pMDI, extrafine particle, HFA)	80-160	>160-320	>320
Fluticasone furoate (DPI)	100	100	200
Fluticasone propionate (DPI)	100-250	>250-500	>500
Fluticasone propionate (pMDI, standard particle, HFA)	100-250	>250-500	>500
Mometasone furoate (DPI)	Depends on DPI device – see product information		
Mometasone furoate (pMDI, standard particle, HFA)	200-400	200-400	>400

Reference: Box 3-14. Low, medium and high daily metered doses of inhaled corticosteroids (alone or with LABA) Global Initiative for Asthma. Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention, 2023. Available from: www.ginasthma.org

SUGGESTED TOTAL DAILY DOSAGES for INHALED CORTICOSTEROIDS (ICS) IN CHILDREN 6-11 YEARS:

Inhaled Corticosteroid	Low Dose ICS (mcg)	Medium Dose ICS (mcg)	High Dose ICS (mcg)
Beclometasone dipropionate (pMDI, standard particle, HFA)	100-200	>200-400	>400
Beclometasone dipropionate (pMDI, standard particle, HFA)	50-100	>100-200	>200
Budesonide (DPI, or pMDI, standard particle, HFA)	100-200	>200-400	>400
Budesonide (nebulers)	250-500	>500-1000	>1000
Ciclesonide (pMDI, extrafine particle, HFA)	80	>80-160	>160
Fluticasone furoate (DPI)	50	50	NA
Fluticasone propionate (DPI)	50-100	>100-200	>200
Fluticasone propionate (pMDI, standard particle, HFA)	50-100	>100-200	>200
Mometasone furoate (pMDI, standard particle, HFA)	100	100	200

Reference: Box 3-14. Low, medium and high daily metered doses of inhaled corticosteroids (alone or with LABA) Global Initiative for Asthma. Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention, 2023. Available from: www.ginasthma.org

APPENDIX 3

Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI): A self-administered 10-item questionnaire that rates the impact of skin disease on symptoms and feelings, daily activities, leisure, work and school, personal relationships, and treatment. The average completion time of 2 minutes. The DLQI may be used for routine clinical use by clinicians in order to assist the clinical consultation, member evaluation and monitoring and to help with clinical decision-making process.

Urticaria Activity Score (UAS): A member reported CIU measure which captures intensity of pruritus and number of hives. Daily intensity of pruritus (range: 0 = none to 3 = severe) and number of hives ratings (range: 0 = none to 3 = more than 12 hives) are summed over a week to create the UAS7 (range: 0–42) score.

FEV1 (forced expiratory volume in 1 second): A measure of airway obstruction determined using spirometry. Individual FEV1 values are compared to predicted values based on age, height, sex and race. 'Estimated Comparative Daily Dosages for ICSs in Children' from the National Asthma Educational Prevention Program (NAEPP)-- EPR 3 Guidelines on Asthma by NAEPP. Figure 4–4b. Available at: https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/sites/default/files/media/docs/asthgdln_1.pdf

APPENDIX 4:

First generation H1 antihistamine: doxepin, hydroxyzine, cyproheptadine

Second generation H1 antihistamine: cetirizine, levocetirizine, fexofenadine, loratadine, desloratadine

Leukotriene receptor antagonist (LTRA): montelukast (Singulair), zafirlukast (Accolate), zileuton (Zyflo)

H2-Antihistamines: cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), ranitidine (Zantac)

BACKGROUND AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

BACKGROUND:

NASAL POLYPS:

The approval was supported by data from the phase 3 POLYP 1 (N=138) and POLYP 2 (N=127) trials evaluating the efficacy and safety of Xolair in adults with nasal polyps who had an inadequate response to nasal corticosteroids. Patients were randomized to receive either Xolair or placebo by subcutaneous injection every 2 to 4 weeks. The co-primary end points for both trials were change from baseline in Nasal Polyp Score (NPS) at week 24 and change from baseline in average daily Nasal Congestion Score (NCS) to week 24.

Results from both trials showed that patients treated with Xolair had a statistically significant greater improvement from baseline at week 24 in NPS and NCS compared with placebo, with improvements observed as early as week 4. Moreover, Xolair demonstrated statistically significant improvements on sense of smell score, post-nasal drip, and runny nose in both trials. The most common adverse reactions reported included headache, injection site reaction, arthralgia, upper abdominal pain and dizziness

ASTHMA

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR3) Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma recommend Xolair may be considered as adjunct therapy for patients 12 years and older with allergies and Step 5 or 6 (severe) asthma whose symptoms have not been controlled by ICS and LABA.

The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA, 2022) recommends that patients 6 years and older may be treated with omalizumab as follows (Evidence A: Randomized controlled trials and meta-analyses. Rich body of evidence):

Suggested add-on treatment for patients ≥ 6 years with moderate or severe allergic asthma that is

Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

- uncontrolled on Step 4-5 treatment (Evidence A)
- Patients with severe asthma, uncontrolled on Step 4 treatment, may benefit from phenotyping into categories such as severe allergic, aspirin-exacerbated, or eosinophilic asthma. Patients ≥ 6 years with severe allergic asthma with elevated IgE levels may benefit from omalizumab (anti-IgE) therapy (Evidence A).
- Those with child-onset asthma and clinical history suggesting allergen-driven symptoms may predict a good asthma response to omalizumab therapy.
- Suggested initial trial of add-on anti-IgE for severe allergic asthma is at least 4 months. At that point, response to initial trial of add-on therapy should be reviewed. There are no well-defined criteria for good response, but exacerbations, symptom control, lung function, side effects, treatment intensity, and patient satisfaction should be considered. If the response is unclear, consider extending the trial to 6-12 months. If there is no response, stop the biologic therapy and consider switching to a different targeted therapy, if available

Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA, 2023)

Add-on biologic therapy: options recommended by GINA for patients with uncontrolled severe asthma despite optimized maximal therapy include:

- Add-on anti-immunoglobulin E treatment (omalizumab [Xolair]) for patients age ≥ 6 years with **severe allergic asthma** (Evidence A)
- Add-on anti-interleukin- 5/5R treatment (SC mepolizumab [Nucala] for patients age ≥ 6 years; IV reslizumab [Cinqair] for ages 18 years or SC benralizumab[Fasenra] for ages ≥ 12 years), with **severe eosinophilic asthma** (Evidence A)
- Add-on anti-interleukin-4R α treatment (SC dupilumab [Dupixent]) for patients aged ≥ 6 years with **severe eosinophilic/type 2 asthma** or for **adults or adolescents requiring treatment with maintenance OCS** (Evidence A)
- Add-On anti-thymic stromal lymphopoietin (anti TSLP) treatment (subcutaneous tezepelumab [Tezspire]) for patients aged ≥ 12 years with **severe asthma** (Evidence A)
- Suggested initial trial of add-on anti-IL5 for severe eosinophilic asthma is at least 4 months. At that point, response to initial trial of add-on therapy should be reviewed. There are no well-defined criteria for good response, but exacerbations, symptom control, lung function, side effects, treatment intensity, and patient satisfaction should be considered. If the response is unclear, consider extending the trial to 6-12 months. If there is no response, stop the biologic therapy and consider switching to a different targeted therapy, if available.

• CHRONIC URTICARIA

In 2014, the Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters (JTFPP), representing the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI); the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI); and the Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology updated the practice parameter for the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic urticaria (CU). The practice parameter established a step-care approach to the treatment of chronic urticaria and angioedema. The task force recommended the following step-care treatment approach:

- Monotherapy with second-generation antihistamines: H1-antagonists are effective in the majority of patients with CU but might not achieve complete control in all patients.
- Dose advancement of H1-antihistamine therapy, combining first- and second-generation agents and adding an H2-antihistamine and/or an antileukotriene agent: Higher doses of second-generation antihistamines can provide greater efficacy when control is not achieved with conventional doses of these agents.
- Therapeutic trial of potent antihistamine (e.g., hydroxyzine or doxepin): First-generation antihistamines should be prescribed cautiously in the elderly or patients with occupations (e.g., machine operators, airline pilots, or alpine skiers) for which alertness is essential.
- Add an immunosuppressant or biologic agent: Omalizumab and cyclosporine have the greatest

Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

published experience documenting efficacy in patients with CU compared with all other alternative agents. The EAACI/GA2LEN/EDF/AAAAI/WAO Guideline for the Management of Urticaria include Xolair in combination with H1-antihistamines as a third line treatment option in patients who have failed to respond to higher doses of H1-Antihistamines.

The Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters representing various American allergy organizations include Xolair in combination with H1-antihistamines as a fourth line treatment option following a stepwise approach starting with a second-generation antihistamine. This is followed by one or more of the following: a dose increase of the second-generation antihistamine, or the addition of another second-generation antihistamine, H2-antagonist, LTRA, or first-generation antihistamine. Treatment with hydroxyzine or doxepin can be considered in patients whose symptoms remain poorly controlled.

CONTRAINDICATIONS/EXCLUSIONS/DISCONTINUATION:

All other uses of Xolair are considered experimental/investigational and therefore, will follow Molina's Off- Label policy. Contraindications to Xolair (omalizumab) include: Severe hypersensitivity reaction to omalizumab or any component of the formulation.

OTHER SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Boxed warning Anaphylaxis, presenting as bronchospasm, hypotension, syncope, urticaria, and/or angioedema of the throat or tongue, has been reported to occur after administration of omalizumab. Anaphylaxis has been reported after the first dose of Xolair but also beyond one year after beginning treatment. Individuals should be closely observed after Xolair administration as well as informed of signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and to seek care immediately should symptoms occur.

CODING/BILLING INFORMATION

Note: 1) This list of codes may not be all-inclusive. 2) Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement

HCPCS CODE	DESCRIPTION
J2357	Injection, omalizumab, 5 mg

AVAILABLE DOSAGE FORMS:

Xolair 150mg Powder for Injection (vial)
Xolair 150mg/mL Prefilled Syringe Solution for Injection
Xolair 75mg/0.5mL Prefilled Syringe Solution for Injection

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Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

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Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

SUMMARY OF REVIEW/REVISIONS	DATE
REVISION- Notable revisions: Required Medical Information Continuation of Therapy Prescriber Requirements Drug Class FDA-Approved Uses Appendix Background Contraindications/Exclusions/Discontinuation References	Q4 2023
REVISION- Notable revisions: Required Medical Information References	Q1 2023
REVISION- Notable revisions: Required Medical Information Continuation of Therapy Prescriber Requirements Age Restrictions Quantity FDA-Approved Uses Appendix Background Contraindications/Exclusions/Discontinuation References	Q4 2022
Q2 2022 Established tracking in new format	Historical changes on file