

Effective Date: 9/2018
Reviewed: 9/2018, 10/2019, 8/2020, 12/2020, 5/2021, 6/2021, 5/2022, 7/2022, 12/2022, 8/2023, 2/2024, 1/2025
Scope: Medicaid

**XELJANZ (tofacitinib)  
XELJANZ XR (tofacitinib extended-release tablets)  
XELJANZ SOLUTION (tofacitinib)**

**POLICY**

**I. INDICATIONS**

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered a covered benefit provided that all the approval criteria are met and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

FDA-Approved Indications

- A. Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis
- B. Active psoriatic arthritis
- C. Active ankylosing spondylitis
- D. Moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis
- E. Active polyarticular course juvenile idiopathic arthritis (pcJIA) in patients 2 years of age and older

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and are not a covered benefit.

**II. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL**

**For all indications:**

- Member has a pretreatment tuberculosis (TB) screening with a TB skin test or an interferon gamma release assay (e.g., QFT-GIT, T-SPOT.TB). *[Note: Members who have received tofacitinib or any other biologic DMARD are exempt from requirements related to TB screening in this Policy.]; AND*
- Submission of the member's chart or medical record is required, documenting medical necessity based on the criteria corresponding to the applicable indication; AND
- Xeljanz will not be used concomitantly with an injectable biologic response modifier including TNF-inhibitors (e.g., Humira (adalimumab), Enbrel (etanercept), Remicade (infliximab), Simponi (golimumab), etc.) and IL-inhibitors (e.g., Cosentyx (secukinumab), ustekinumab (e.g., Stelara, , Wezlana, etc. ) ( Tremfya (guselkumab), Ilumya (tildrakizumab), Skyrizi (risankizumab), Bimzelx (bimekizumab), Omvoh (mirikizumab), etc.) or other oral non-biologic agent (e.g., Otezla (apremilast), Olumiant (baricitinib), Rinvoq (upadacitinib), Velsipity (etrasimod), etc.)

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

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of moderately to severely active RA when any of the following criteria is met:

1. Prescribed by, or in consultation with, a specialist in rheumatology.
2. Member meets either of the following criteria:
  - i. Member has been tested for either of the following biomarkers and the test was positive:

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- a. Rheumatoid factor (RF)
    - b. Anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (anti-CCP)
  - ii. Member has been tested for ALL of the following biomarkers:
    - a. RF
    - b. Anti-CCP
    - c. C-reactive protein (CRP) and/or erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)
3. Member has experienced an inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to at least a 3-month trial of adalimumab at maximum tolerated doses .

#### **B. Active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)**

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of active psoriatic arthritis in members who are 18 years of age or older when all of the following criteria are met:

1. Prescribed by, or in consultation with, a specialist in dermatology or rheumatology
2. Documented active disease and member has experienced an inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to at least a 3-month trial of adalimumab at maximum tolerated doses
3. Member has experienced an inadequate response, intolerance, or contraindication to at least a 6-month trial of ustekinumab at maximum tolerated doses.
4. Tofacitinib is used in combination with a nonbiologic DMARD (e.g., methotrexate, leflunomide, sulfasalazine, etc.)

#### **C. Active ankylosing spondylitis (AS)**

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of active ankylosing spondylitis in members 18 years of age or older when both of the following criteria are met:

1. Prescribed by, or in consultation with, a specialist in rheumatology
2. Documented active disease for AS
3. Member has experienced an inadequate response or has a contraindication to TWO (2) NSAIDs
4. Member has experienced an inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to at least a 3-month trial of adalimumab at maximum tolerated doses

#### **D. Moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC)**

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of moderately to severely active UC in members 18 years of age or older when the following criteria are met:

1. Prescribed by, or in consultation with, a gastroenterologist
2. Documented moderate to severe UC
3. Member has had an inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to at least a 3-month
4. trial of infliximab IV or adalimumab at maximum tolerated doses
5. Member has had an inadequate response, intolerance or contraindication to at least a 6-month
6. trial of ustekinumab at maximum tolerated doses

#### **E. Active articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis**

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of active articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis in members two years of age or older when both of the following criteria are met:

1. Prescribed by, or in consultation with, a specialist in rheumatology.
2. Member has experienced an inadequate response, intolerance, or contraindication to at least a 3-month trial of adalimumab at maximum tolerated doses

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### III. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY

#### A. Moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA)

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for all members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis and who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response as evidenced by disease activity improvement of at least 20% from baseline in tender joint count, swollen joint count, pain, or disability.

#### B. Active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for all members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for active psoriatic arthritis and who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition when there is improvement in any of the following from baseline:

1. Number of swollen joints
2. Number of tender joints
3. Dactylitis
4. Enthesitis
5. Skin and/or nail involvement

#### C. Active ankylosing spondylitis (AS)

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for all members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for active ankylosing spondylitis and who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response with the requested medication as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition when there is improvement in any of the following from baseline:

1. Functional status
2. Total spinal pain
3. Inflammation (e.g., morning stiffness)

#### D. Moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC)

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for all members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis and who achieve or maintain remission.
2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for all members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis and who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition when there is improvement in any of the following from baseline:
  - i. Stool frequency
  - ii. Rectal bleeding
  - iii. Urgency of defecation
  - iv. C-reactive protein (CRP)
  - v. Fecal calprotectin (FC)
  - vi. Endoscopic appearance of the mucosa

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vii. Improvement on a disease activity scoring tool (e.g., Ulcerative Colitis Endoscopic Index of Severity [UCEIS], Mayo score)

#### **D. Active articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis**

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for all members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for active articular juvenile idiopathic arthritis and who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition when there is improvement in any of the following from baseline:

1. Number of joints with active arthritis (e.g., swelling, pain, limitation of motion)
2. Number of joints with limitation of movement
3. Functional ability

## **IV. QUANTITY LIMIT**

Xeljanz has a quantity limit of 2 tablets per day.

Xeljanz XR has a quantity limit of 1 tablet per day.

Xeljanz solution has a quantity limit of 10ml per day.

## **V. REFERENCES**

1. Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR [package insert]. New York, NY: Pfizer, Inc.; September 2023.
2. Singh JA, Saag KG, Bridges SL Jr, et al. 2015 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2016;68(1):1-26.
3. Smolen JS, Landewé R, Billsma J, et al. EULAR recommendations for the management of rheumatoid arthritis with synthetic and biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: 2016 update. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2017;0:1-18.
4. Menter A, Korman NJ, Elmets CA, et al. Guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Section 6: Guidelines of care for the treatment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis: case-based presentations and evidence-based conclusions. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2011;65(1):137-174.
5. Gossec L, Smolen JS, Ramiro S, et al. European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) recommendations for the management of psoriatic arthritis with pharmacological therapies: 2015 update. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2016;75(3):499-510.
6. Talley NJ, Abreu MT, Achkar J, et al. An evidence-based systematic review on medical therapies for inflammatory bowel disease. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2011;106(Suppl 1):S2-S25.