

# SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT

## FASENRA (benralizumab)

### 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 Indication

Fasenra is indicated for the add-on maintenance treatment of patients with severe asthma aged 12 years and older, and with an eosinophilic phenotype.

##### *Limitations of Use:*

- Not for treatment of other eosinophilic conditions
- Not for relief of acute bronchospasm or status asthmaticus

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

#### II. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of asthma when all of the following criteria are met:

- A. Member is 12 years of age or older.
- B. Member has a baseline blood eosinophil count of at least 150 cells per microliter.
- C. Member has inadequate asthma control (e.g., hospitalization or emergency medical care visit within the past year) despite current treatment with both of the following medications at optimized doses:
  1. Inhaled corticosteroid
  2. Additional controller (long acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist, leukotriene modifier, or sustained-release theophylline)

#### III. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of asthma when all of the following criteria are met:

- A. Member is 12 years of age or older.
- B. Asthma control has improved on Fasenera treatment as demonstrated by at least one of the following:
  1. A reduction in the frequency and/or severity of symptoms and exacerbations
  2. A reduction in the daily maintenance oral corticosteroid dose

#### IV. REFERENCES

1. Fasenera [package insert]. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca; November 2017.
2. Nair P, Wenzel S, Rabe K, et al. Oral glucocorticoid-sparing effect of benralizumab in severe asthma. *N Engl J Med.* 2017;376:2448-2458.
3. Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention. 2018 update. <http://ginasthma.org/2018-gina-report-global-strategy-for-asthma-management-and-prevention/>. Accessed March 23, 2018.