Commercial/Healthcare Exchange PA Criteria
Effective: 01/01/2022

Prior Authorization: Fasenra®

Products Affected: Fasenra® (benralizumab injection for subcutaneous use)

Medication Description: Fasenra, an interleukin-5 receptor alpha (IL-5Rα)-directed cytolytic monoclonal antibody, is indicated for severe asthma as add-on maintenance treatment of patients ≥ 12 years of age who have an eosinophilic phenotype.

Covered Uses: Asthma, severe: Add-on maintenance treatment of severe asthma in adults and children with an eosinophilic phenotype
Note: Not indicated for treatment of other eosinophilic conditions or for the relief of acute bronchospasm or status asthmaticus

Exclusion Criteria: N/A

Required Medical Information: Diagnosis

Prescriber Restriction: The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist, immunologist, or pulmonologist.

Age Restriction: ≥ 12 years of age

Coverage Duration: 6 Months, Initial; 1 Year, Continuation.

Other Criteria:
I. Initial Criteria

1. **Asthma.** Approve Fasenra for 6 Months, if the patient meets one of the following conditions (**A, B, AND C**):
   - **A.** Patient has a blood eosinophil count ≥ 150 cells per microliter within the previous 6 weeks or within 6 weeks prior to treatment with any anti-interleukin-5 therapy; **AND**
     Note: Examples of anti-interleukin-5 therapies include Fasenra, Cinqair® (reslizumab injection for intravenous use), and Nucala® (mepolizumab injection for subcutaneous use).
   - **B.** Patient has received at least 3 consecutive months of combination therapy with BOTH of the following (**i AND ii**):
     i. An inhaled corticosteroid; **AND**
     ii. At least one additional asthma controller or asthma maintenance medication; **AND**
     Note: Examples of additional asthma controller or asthma maintenance medications are inhaled long-acting $beta_2$-agonists, inhaled long-acting muscarinic antagonists, leukotriene receptor antagonists, anti-interleukin-5 therapies (e.g., Cinqair, Fasenra, Nucala), and theophylline. Use of a combination inhaler containing both an inhaled corticosteroid and a long-acting $beta_2$-agonist would fulfil the requirement for both criteria i and ii.

C. Patient has asthma that is uncontrolled or was uncontrolled at baseline as defined by **ONE** of the following (**i, ii, iii, iv, or v**):

i. Patient experienced two or more asthma exacerbations requiring treatment with systemic corticosteroids in the previous year; **OR**

ii. Patient experienced one or more asthma exacerbation(s) requiring hospitalization or an Emergency Department visit in the previous year; **OR**

iii. Patient has a forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV_1) < 80% predicted; **OR**

iv. Patient has an FEV_1/forced vital capacity (FVC) < 0.80; **OR**

v. The patient has asthma that worsens upon tapering of oral corticosteroid therapy;
Note: "Baseline" is defined as prior to receiving any Fasenra or other anti-interleukin- 5 therapies (i.e., Cinqair or Nucala).

II. Continuation Criteria

2. Asthma. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (**A, B, AND C**):

A. Patient has already received at least 6 months of therapy with Fasenra; **AND**
Note: A patient who has received < 6 months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with Fasenra should be considered under criterion 1A (Asthma, Initial Therapy).

B. Patient continues to receive therapy with one inhaled corticosteroid or one inhaled corticosteroid-containing combination inhaler; **AND**

C. Patient has responded to therapy as determined by the prescriber.
Note: Examples of a response to Fasenra therapy are decreased asthma exacerbations; decreased asthma symptoms; decreased hospitalizations, emergency department/urgent care, or medical clinic visits due to asthma; and decreased requirement for oral corticosteroid therapy.

References:

1. Fasenra™ subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Wilmington, DE:AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; October 2019.

Policy Revision history

Rev #	Type of Change	Summary of Change	Sections Affected	Date
1	New Policy	New Policy	All	12/09/2021