

PHARMACY PRE-AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA



DRUG (S)	Ragwitek (Short Ragweed pollen allergen extract)
POLICY #	11108
INDICATIONS	Ragwitek is an allergen extract indicated for adults 18 to 65 years of age, as immunotherapy for the treatment of short ragweed pollen-induced allergic rhinitis with or without conjunctivitis confirmed by positive skin test or <i>in vitro</i> testing for pollen- specific IgE antibodies for short ragweed pollen.
CRITERIA	ConnectiCare considers Ragwitek to be medically necessary for patients who meet all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medication is prescribed by an allergy specialist (allergist, immunologist, or pulmonologist)• Patients is 18 to 65 years of age• Patients has clinically documented allergic rhinitis with or without conjunctivitis• Diagnosis has been confirmed by a positive skin test or in vitro testing for pollen-specific IgE antibodies to short ragweed pollen• Patient must have at least one nasal corticosteroid for allergic rhinitis that has been ineffective, not tolerated, or contraindicated (e.g. fluticasone)• Patient must have at least one other oral medication for allergic rhinitis that has been ineffective, not tolerated, or contraindicated (e. g. loratadine, desloratadine, fexofenadine, levocetirizine, cetirizine, montelukast)
LIMITATIONS	If the above criteria are met approval will be granted for up 12 weeks. Subsequent approval will be based on current progress notes from the physician documenting efficacy. Approval will be up to a maximum of 7 months per calendar year.
REFERENCES	Ragwitek full prescribing information. Merck & Co. Whitehouse Station, NJ.
P&T REVIEW HISTORY	6/14, 10/14, 11/16, 2/17, 1/18
REVISION RECORD	11/16, 2/17