

## Commercial/Healthcare Exchange PA Criteria

Effective: October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Prior Authorization:** Rinvoq

**Products Affected:** Rinvoq (upadacitinib) extended release oral tablets

**Medication Description:** Rinvoq, a Janus kinase inhibitor (JAKi), is indicated for the treatment of adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to methotrexate (MTX). JAKs are intracellular enzymes which transmit signals arising from cytokine or growth factor-receptor interactions on the cellular membrane to influence cellular processes of hematopoiesis and immune cell function. Within the signaling pathway, JAKs phosphorylate and activate Signal Transducers and Activators of Transcription (STATs) which modulate intracellular activity including gene expression, inhibiting JAKs reduces inflammation.

**Covered Uses:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) nonresponsive to methotrexate (MTX).

**Exclusion Criteria:**

1. Concomitant use with other JAK inhibitors, biologic DMARDs or with potent immunosuppressants such as azathioprine and cyclosporine.

**Required Medical Information:**

1. Diagnosis
2. Previous medications tried/failed

**Age Restrictions:** 18 years of age and older

**Prescriber Restrictions:**

1. Rheumatoid arthritis: prescribed by, or in consultation, with a rheumatologist

**Coverage Duration:**

*Initial:* 3 months

*Continuation:* 3 years

**Other Criteria:**

**Initiation**

\*Note: Rinvoq is a preferred product and does not require the use of Humira first

**Rheumatoid Arthritis**

1. Patient has documented failure or intolerance to an adequate trial of NSAID/COX-2 or steroid therapy; **AND**
2. Patient has documented failure or intolerance to an adequate trial (at least 3 months) of ONE DMARD (e.g., methotrexate [oral or injectable], leflunomide, and sulfasalazine).

**Continuation**

1. Patient meets all initial authorization criteria **AND**
2. Patient achieves or maintains a positive clinical response after at least 3 months of therapy with Rinvoq as evidenced by low disease activity or improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition.

\*ConnectiCare does not consider alcohol use to be a clinical reason to use Rinvoq over methotrexate.

\* ConnectiCare does not consider needlephobia to be a clinical reason to use Rinvoq over injectable medications

**References:**

1. Product Information: Rinvoq™ tablets. North Chicago, IL: AbbVie, Inc.; August 2019.

**Policy Revision history**

<b>Rev #</b>	<b>Type of Change</b>	<b>Summary of Change</b>	<b>Sections Affected</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	New Policy	New Policy	All	10/9/2019

