



## Commercial/Healthcare Exchange PA Criteria

*Effective: February 2013*

**Prior Authorization:** Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR

**Products Affected:** Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR (tofacitinib) oral tablets

**Medication Description:** Tofacitinib inhibits Janus kinases (JAK), which are intracellular enzymes, and modulates a signaling pathway that influences the cellular processes of hematopoiesis and immune cell function. Signals in this pathway arise from cytokine or growth factor-receptor interactions on the cellular membrane. Inhibition of JAK prevents the phosphorylation and activation of Signal Transducers and Activators of Transcription (STATs), which modulate gene expression and other intracellular activity

**Covered Uses:**

1. Treatment of moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis. It may be used as monotherapy or in combination with methotrexate or other nonbiologic disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs).
2. Treatment of psoriatic arthritis
3. Treatment of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis

**Exclusion Criteria:** Concomitant use with 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
2. Psoriatic arthritis: prescribed by, or in consultation, with a rheumatologist or a dermatologist
3. Ulcerative Colitis: prescribed by, or in consultation, with a gastroenterologist

**Coverage Duration:**

Initial: 3 months

Continuation: 3 years

**Other Criteria:**

**Initiation**

**Rheumatoid Arthritis**

- A. Patient has documented failure or intolerance to an adequate trial of NSAID/COX-2 or steroid therapy; **AND**
- B. 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).

Last Res.12.20.2019



Confidential Information

This document is confidential and proprietary to ConnectiCare. Unauthorized use and distribution are prohibited.

**Psoriatic Arthritis**

- A. Patient has clinically diagnosed Psoriatic Arthritis
- B. Patient has documented failure or intolerance to an adequate trial of NSAID/COX-2 or steroid therapy; **AND** 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).

**Ulcerative Colitis**

- A. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist; **AND**
- B. Patient has clinically diagnosed ulcerative colitis; **AND**
- C. Patient has had an inadequate response to other immunosuppressants, such as corticosteroids, azathioprine, and 6-mercaptopurine; **AND**
- D. Patient has documented failure of, or intolerance to Humira

**Continuation**

- A. Patient meets all initial authorization criteria; **AND**
- B. Patient achieves or maintains a positive clinical response after at least 3 months of therapy with Xeljanz/Xeljanz XR 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 Xeljanz over methotrexate.

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

**References:**

1. Xeljanz full prescribing information. Pfizer labs. New York, NY

**Policy Revision history**

Rev #	Type of Change	Summary of Change	Sections Affected	Date
1	New Policy	New Policy	All	2/2013



2	Policy Update	<p>CCI adopted EH Policy Template, changed continuation duration from 1 to 3 years</p> <p>CCI P&amp;T Review History: 2/13, 10/13, 10/14, 11/15, 11/16, 11/17, 7/18, 11/18</p> <p>CCI Revision History: 12/13, 9/14, 2/16, 4/16, 11/16, 1/18, 7/18, 8/18, 12/18, 1/19</p>	All	6/28/2019
3	Policy Update	<p>For Ulcerative Colitis: Added Xeljanz XR, moved from preferred to non-preferred behind Humira</p>	Other Criteria	12/20/2019