Medical Benefit Drug Policy

Ilumya® (tildrakizumab-asmn) injection, for subcutaneous use

Policy Number: MC/PC 019
Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Instructions for Use

Table of Contents **Page**

Coverage Rationale 1
Applicable Codes 2
Background 2
Clinical Evidence 2
U.S. Food and Drug Administration 3
References 3
Policy History/Revision Information 4
Instructions for Use 4

Related Policies

- N/A

Coverage Rationale

Plaque Psoriasis

For initial coverage of Ilumya (tildrakizumab-asmn) injection for moderate to severe plaque psoriasis, the following will be required:

- All of the following:
  - Diagnosis of moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis **and**
  - One of the following:
    - Greater than or equal to 3% body surface area involvement
    - Severe scalp psoriasis
    - Palmoplantar (i.e., palms, soles), facial, or genital involvement **and**
  - Trial and failure of a minimum 30-day supply (14-day supply for topical corticosteroids), contraindication, or intolerance to one of the following topical therapies:
    - corticosteroids (e.g., betamethasone, clobetasol)
    - vitamin D analogs (e.g., calcitriol, calcipotriene)
    - tazarotene
    - calcineurin inhibitors (e.g., tacrolimus, pimecrolimus) **and**
  - Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist

For reauthorization coverage of Ilumya (tildrakizumab-asmn) injection for plaque psoriasis, the following will be required:

- Patient demonstrates positive clinical response to therapy as evidenced by ONE of the following:
  - Reduction in the body surface area (BSA) involvement from baseline
  - Improvement in symptoms (e.g., pruritus, inflammation) from baseline

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

HCPCS Code	Description
J3245	Injection, tildrakizumab, 1 mg

ICD-10 Code	Description
L40.0-L40.9	Moderate-to-severe chronic plaque psoriasis

Background

Psoriasis is a chronic, immune-mediated skin disease that affects approximately 3% of the population in the U.S. Plaque psoriasis, the most common type of psoriasis, accounts for more than 80% of cases (Armstrong and Read 2020). Plaque psoriasis presents as sharply demarcated, erythematous, scaly patches or plaques. The plaques can occur anywhere on the body and commonly affect the extensor surfaces (elbows and knees), trunk, scalp, and gluteal fold. Plaque psoriasis in certain body areas, including the face, palms, soles, intertriginous areas, and nails, can have a particularly large impact on the patient's quality of life (Armstrong and Read 2020). The pathogenesis of psoriasis is complex and includes excessive activation of parts of the adaptive immune system. Activated myeloid dendritic cells secrete excess IL-12 and IL-23, which leads to enhanced activity of T-helper (TH) cells, TH1, TH17, and TH22. These cells and others secrete tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α), IL-17, and IL-22. These cytokines then activate intracellular signal transduction in keratinocytes, gene transcription of cytokines and chemokines, and an inflammatory cascade leading to psoriatic disease manifestations. IL-23-mediated activation of the TH17 pathway is thought to be an important part of the disease pathogenesis (Armstrong and Read 2020).

Patients with psoriasis are more likely than the general population to have certain comorbidities, including psoriatic arthritis (affecting approximately 1/3 of patients with psoriasis in their lifetime), inflammatory bowel diseases, cardiometabolic comorbidities, depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation (Armstrong and Read 2020). Management of psoriasis should be based on a consideration of disease severity and location and patient comorbidities (Griffiths et al 2021). Topical medications are the most common agents used to treat patients with mild to moderate psoriasis (Elmets et al 2021). Systemic therapy may be appropriate for patients with an affected BSA > 10%, psoriasis at special sites such as the scalp, face, palms, soles, or genitalia, and/or non-response to topical therapy (Griffiths et al 2021). Topical therapies can be used in conjunction with systemic therapies (Elmets et al 2021).

Tildrakizumab is a humanized IgG1/k monoclonal antibody that selectively binds to the p19 subunit of IL-23 and inhibits its interaction with the IL-23 receptor. IL-23 is a naturally occurring cytokine that is involved in inflammatory and immune responses. Tildrakizumab inhibits the release of proinflammatory cytokines and chemokines.

Clinical Evidence

The approval of Ilumya (tildrakizumab-asmn) was based on 2 randomized, double-blind, multicenter, Phase 3 trials: reSURFACE1 (772 patients) and reSURFACE2 (1,090 patients). Enrolled adult patients with moderate-to-severe chronic PsO received tildrakizumab-asmn 200 mg, tildrakizumab-asmn 100 mg, or placebo in both studies; reSURFACE 2 also included an Enbrel (etanercept) arm. Only the tildrakizumab-asmn 100 mg dose was approved by the FDA. The

coprimary endpoints included the proportion of patients achieving PASI 75 and PGA response (score of 0 or 1 with ≥ 2 reduction from baseline) at week 12 (Reich et al 2017).

- In reSURFACE 1, PASI 75 response was achieved by 64% and 6% of the tildrakizumab-asmn 100 mg and placebo arms at week 12, respectively; a PGA response was achieved by 58% vs 7% of the tildrakizumab-asmn 100 mg and placebo groups, respectively ($p < 0.0001$ for both comparisons).
- In reSURFACE 2, PASI 75 response was achieved by 61% and 6% of the tildrakizumab-asmn 100 mg and placebo arms, respectively; a PGA response was achieved by 55% vs 4% of the tildrakizumab-asmn 100 mg and placebo groups, respectively ($p < 0.0001$ for both comparisons). A higher proportion of patients in the tildrakizumab 100 mg group achieved PASI 75 vs etanercept (61% vs 48%, respectively; $p = 0.001$), but the rates of PGA responses did not differ significantly between groups (55% vs 48%, respectively; $p = 0.0663$).

Ilumya (tildrakizumab-asmn) was studied in patients with moderate-to-severe PsO of the scalp in a Phase 3b, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial. Patients received treatment with tildrakizumab-asmn 100 mg or placebo. At week 16, the proportion of patients achieving an IGA scalp response (primary endpoint) was 49.4% vs 7.3% of the tildrakizumab-asmn 100 mg and placebo groups, respectively ($p < 0.00001$) (Gebauer et al 2024). Clinical efficacy was maintained for up to 52 weeks of treatment (Sofen et al 2025).

Clinical Guidelines

Joint guidelines from the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)/National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) state that topical medications (e.g., corticosteroids, vitamin D analogues) are the most common agents used to treat mild to moderate PsO. They are commonly used as adjunctive therapy to phototherapy, systemic agents, and biologics (Elmets et al 2021). Phototherapy is viewed as a reasonable and effective treatment option for patients requiring more than topical medications and/or those wishing to avoid systemic medications (Elmets et al 2019). Although biologic therapies have changed the treatment landscape, non-biologic systemic agents (e.g., methotrexate) either as monotherapy or in combination with biologics, are still widely used due to benefit for widespread disease, comparatively low cost, increased availability, and ease of administration (Menter et al 2020).

Joint guidelines from the AAD/NPF on the treatment of psoriasis with biologics address the effectiveness of these drugs as monotherapy or in combination to treat moderate-to-severe disease in adults. The guideline does not provide relevant ranking for preferences of individual biologics, but does recommend that etanercept, infliximab, adalimumab, ustekinumab, secukinumab, ixekizumab, brodalumab, guselkumab, risankizumab, and tildrakizumab can all be recommended as a monotherapy option for patients (Menter et al 2019).

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

This section is to be used for informational purposes only. FDA approval alone is not a basis for coverage.

Ilumya is an interleukin-23 antagonist indicated for the treatment of adults with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy.

References

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2. Elmets CA, Korman NJ, Prater EF, et al. Joint AAD-NPF guidelines of care for the management and treatment of psoriasis with topical therapy and alternative medicine modalities for psoriasis severity measures. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2021;84(2):432-470.
3. Elmets CA, Lim HW, Stoff B, et al. Joint American Academy of Dermatology-National Psoriasis Foundation guidelines of care for the management and treatment of psoriasis with phototherapy. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2019;81(3):775-804. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2019.04.042.

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Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
12/13/2023	Approved by OptumRx P&T Committee
07/17/2024	Annual Review. Updated references.
07/16/2025	Annual Review. In coverage rationale section, removed anthralin and coal tar as topical step options for PsO & updated verbiage of psoriasis topical step to a minimum 30-day supply (14-day supply for topical steroids). Updated references.
07/15/2026	Annual Review. Updates to clinical evidence section and references.

Instructions for Use

This Medical Benefit Drug Policy provides assistance in interpreting standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced as the terms of the member specific benefit plan may differ from the standard plan. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document governs. Before using this policy, please check the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable federal or state mandates. The insurance reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Benefit Drug Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

OptumRx may also use tools developed by third parties to assist us in administering health benefits. OptumRx Medical Benefit Drug Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.

Nondiscrimination & Language Access Policy

Discrimination is Against the Law. Aspirus Health Plan, Inc. complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, (including sex characteristics, including intersex traits; pregnancy or related conditions; sexual orientation, gender identity and sex stereotypes), consistent with the scope of sex discrimination described at 45 CFR § 92.101(a)(2). Aspirus Health Plan, Inc. does not exclude people or treat them less favorably because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Aspirus Health Plan, Inc.:
Provides people with disabilities reasonable modifications and free appropriate auxiliary aids and services to communicate effectively with us, such as:

- Qualified sign language interpreters.
- Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats).

Provides free language assistance services to people whose primary language is not English, which may include:

- Qualified interpreters.
- Information written in other languages.

If *you* need reasonable modifications, appropriate auxiliary aids and services, or language assistance services, contact the Nondiscrimination Grievance Coordinator at the address, phone number, fax number, or email address below.

If *you* believe that Aspirus Health Plan, Inc. has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, *you* can file a *grievance* with:

Nondiscrimination Grievance Coordinator
Aspirus Health Plan, Inc.
PO Box 1890
Southampton, PA 18966-9998
Phone: 1-866-631-5404 (TTY: 711)
Fax: 763-847-4010
Email: customerservice@aspirushealthplan.com

You can file a *grievance* in person or by mail, fax, or email. If *you* need help filing a *grievance*, the Nondiscrimination Grievance Coordinator is available to help *you*.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201
1.800.368.1019, 800.537.7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html. This notice is available at Aspirus Health Plan, Inc.'s website: https://aspirushealthplan.com/webdocs/70021-AHP-NonDiscrim_Lang-Assist-Notice.pdf.

Language Assistance Services

Albanian: KUJDES: Nëse flitni shqip, për ju ka në dispozicion shërbime të asistencës gjuhësore, pa pagesë.Telefononi në 1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711).

Arabic تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية متاحة لك مجاناً. اتصل بن اعلى رقم الهاتف1-800-332-6501(رقم هاتف الصم والبك : 711)

French: ATTENTION: Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 1-800-332-6501 (ATS: 711).

German: ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zurVerfügung. Rufnummer: 1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711).

Hindi: _यान द_: य_द आप ि हंदी बोलते ह_ तो आपके ि लए मु_त म_ भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपल_ध ह_।1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711) पर कॉल कर_।

Hmong: LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711).

Korean: 주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다.1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711)번으로 전화해 주십시오.

Polish: UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711).

Russian: ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода.Звоните 1-800-332-6501 (телетайп: 711).

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711).

Tagalog: PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nangwalang bayad. Tumawag sa 1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711).

Traditional Chinese: 注意：如果您使用繁體中文， 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請 致電 1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711)

Vietnamese: CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711).

Pennsylvania Dutch: Wann du Deitsch (Pennsylvania German / Dutch) schwetzscht, kannscht du mitaus Koschte ebbergricke, ass dihr helft mit die englisch Schprooch. Ruf selli Nummer uff: Call 1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711).

Lao: ໂປດຊາບ: ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ,ໂດຍບໍ່ເສັງຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທຣ 1-800-332-6501 (TTY: 711).

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