



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
BUREAU FOR MEDICAL SERVICES



Office of Pharmacy Services
Prior Authorization Criteria
Benlysta® (Belimumab)
Effective 5/26/2021

[Prior Authorization Request Form](#)

Benlysta is indicated for the treatment of adults and children ≥ 5 years of age with active, autoantibody-positive systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) who are receiving standard therapy or **treatment of adults with active lupus nephritis who are receiving standard therapy.**

Prior authorization requests for Benlysta may be approved if the following criteria are met:

1. Documented diagnosis of active systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) or **Lupus Nephritis**; **AND**
2. The patient is positive for autoantibodies (anti-nuclear antibody (ANA) and anti-double-stranded DNA (anti-dsDNA); **AND**
3. The patient must be within the age range as recommended by the FDA label and indication; **AND**
4. Prescribed by, or in consultation with, a rheumatologist or **nephrologist**; **AND**
5. **For SLE**: The patient has had a documented inadequate response or intolerance to at least **TWO** of the following agents: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), hydroxychloroquine, corticosteroids, methotrexate, azathioprine, cyclosporine, or mycophenolate; **AND**
6. **For LN**: Patient has failed to respond adequately to standard therapies including corticosteroids **AND** cyclophosphamide, mycophenolate mofetil or azathioprine.

Initial approval will be granted for 3 months.

NOTE: Use is not recommended in patients with severe active lupus nephritis, severe active CNS lupus, or in combination with other biologics, including B-cell targeted therapies or IV cyclophosphamide. Use of Benlysta should be avoided and is not recommended in these situations.

CONTINUATION OF THERAPY CRITERIA:

Clinical documentation must be submitted documenting stability/reduction in disease activity OR a reduction in corticosteroid dose.

References:

- 1). Lexi-Comp Clinical Application 11/2/2020 and 5/2021



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- 2). Benlysta Package Insert (from version revised 3/2021)
- 3). UpToDate Article: Overview of the management and prognosis of systemic lupus erythematosus in adults.
- 4) UpToDate Article: Lupus nephritis: Initial and subsequent therapy for focal or diffuse lupus nephritis. (accessed 5/2021)