CareSource Rxinnovations

# PHARMACY POLICY STATEMENT
## Marketplace

| DRUG NAME | Tezspire (tezepelumab-eeko) |
|---|---|
| BENEFIT TYPE | Medical or Pharmacy |
| STATUS | Prior Authorization Required |

Tezspire (tezepelumab-eeko) is a thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP) blocker, human monoclonal antibody approved in 2021 for the add-on maintenance treatment of severe asthma. Tezspire is the first monoclonal antibody to act on TSLP. Blocking TSLP with tezepelumab-ekko reduces biomarkers and cytokines associated with inflammation including blood eosinophils, airway submucosal eosinophils, IgE, FeNO, IL-5, and IL-13; however, the mechanism of tezepelumab-ekko action in asthma has not been definitively established.

Tezspire (tezepelumab-eeko) will be considered for coverage when the following criteria are met:

## Asthma

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is at least 12 years of age; AND
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist, immunologist, or pulmonologist; AND
3. Member has diagnosis of severe asthma; AND
4. Member has at least two documented severe asthma exacerbations requiring corticosteroids or at least one requiring hospitalization, within the last year; AND
5. Member's asthma has been inadequately controlled after 3 months of conventional treatment on medium to high doses of inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) and long-acting beta 2-agonists (LABA); AND
6. Medication is being used as add-on maintenance treatment to conventional therapies for asthma (i.e. ICS, LABA, etc.); AND
7. Medication is not used in conjunction with any other biologic therapy for asthma; AND
8. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** 210 mg (1 vial, syringe or pen) every 28 days. Quantity Limit: 1 vial, syringe or pen per 28 days.

***If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for 6 months.***

For **reauthorization**:

1. Chart notes have been provided that show the member has demonstrated improvement (i.e. increased FEV1, decreased rate of exacerbations or decreased utilization of oral corticosteroids, etc.).

***If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for an additional 12 months.***

**CareSource considers Tezspire (tezepelumab-eeko) not medically necessary for the treatment of conditions that are not listed in this document. For any other indication, please refer to the Off-Label policy.**

| DATE | ACTION/DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| **02/1/2022** | New policy for Tezspire created. |
| **07/06/2022** | Added permanent J code. |
| **3/13/2023** | Updated references. Added pharmacy benefit option and pen dosage form. Added quantity limit. Simplified reauthorization criteria. Added mechanism of action to the background information. |

References:


1. Tezspire. Package insert. AstraZeneca; 2023. Accessed March, 2023. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2021/761224s000lbl.pdf
2. Menzies-Gow A, Corren J, Bourdin A, et al. Tezepelumab in Adults and Adolescents with Severe, Uncontrolled Asthma. *N Engl J Med.* 2021; 384:1800-1809. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2034975
3. Corren J, Parnes JR, Want L, et. at. Tezepelumab in Adults with Uncontrolled Asthma. *N Engl J Med.* 2017; 377:936-946. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1704064
4. Corren J, Gil EG, Griffiths JM, Parnes JR, van der Merwe R, Salapa K, O'Quinn S. Tezepelumab improves patient-reported outcomes in patients with severe, uncontrolled asthma in PATHWAY. Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. 2021 Feb 1;126(2): 187-93.
5. IPD Analytics. New Drug Approval. Tezspire (tezepelumab). Available at: http://www.ipdanalytics.com.
6. Global Initiative for Asthma. 2022 GINA Report, Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention. Available at: www.ginasthma.org. Accessed March, 2023.


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