

# PHARMACY POLICY STATEMENT

## North Carolina Marketplace

<b>DRUG NAME</b>	<b>Dupixent (dupilumab)</b>
BENEFIT TYPE	Pharmacy
STATUS	Prior Authorization Required

Dupixent was originally approved by the FDA in 2017 for the treatment of moderate to severe atopic dermatitis. Since then, it has also been granted approvals for the treatment of moderate to severe asthma, chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyposis, eosinophilic esophagitis, and prurigo nodularis. It is administered by subcutaneous injection.

Dupixent is an interleukin (IL) - 4 receptor alpha antagonist monoclonal antibody. It inhibits the signaling of IL-4 and IL-13 to help combat cytokine-induced inflammatory responses.

Dupixent (dupilumab) will be considered for coverage when the following criteria are met:

### Atopic Dermatitis

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member must be 6 months of age or older; AND
2. Medication must be prescribed by a dermatologist, allergist, or immunologist; AND
3. Member has a documented diagnosis of moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis; AND
4. Member's atopic dermatitis involves 10% or more of the body surface area (BSA) OR involves highly visible or functional areas (e.g., neck, face, genitals, palms) and is significantly impairing quality of life; AND
5. Member has a documented trial and failure to **ONE** of the following:
  - a) **TWO** trials of medium to very high potency topical corticosteroids for 2 weeks;  
*Note: a topical calcineurin inhibitor (e.g., tacrolimus, pimecrolimus) for 6 weeks, Eucrisa for 4 weeks or Opzelura for 8 weeks may also be acceptable.*
  - b) At least 8 weeks of phototherapy treatment (i.e., UV-A, UV-B, a combination of both or UV-B1 (narrow-band UV-B)) AND **ONE** trial of medium to very high potency topical corticosteroids for 2 weeks;  
*Note: a topical calcineurin inhibitor (e.g., tacrolimus, pimecrolimus) for 6 weeks, Eucrisa for 4 weeks or Opzelura for 8 weeks may also be acceptable.*
  - c) **ONE** 12-week trial of an oral immunomodulatory agent (e.g., cyclosporine, methotrexate, azathioprine) AND **ONE** trial of medium to very high potency topical corticosteroids for 2 weeks.  
*Note: a topical calcineurin inhibitor (e.g., tacrolimus, pimecrolimus) for 6 weeks, Eucrisa for 4 weeks or Opzelura for 8 weeks may also be acceptable.*
6. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:**  
Adults: Initial dose of 600 mg (two 300 mg injections), followed by 300 mg given every other week.  
Pediatric patients 6 to 17 years of age:

Body Weight	Initial Loading Dose	Subsequent Dosage <sup>a</sup>
15 to less than 30 kg	600 mg (two 300 mg injections)	300 mg Q4W
30 to less than 60 kg	400 mg (two 200 mg injections)	200 mg Q2W
60 kg or more	600 mg (two 300 mg injections)	300 mg Q2W

<sup>a</sup> Q2W – every other week; Q4W – every 4 weeks

**Pediatric patients 6 months to 5 years of age:**

Body Weight	Initial and Subsequent Dosage
5 to less than 15 kg	200 mg (one 200 mg injection) every 4 weeks (Q4W)
15 to less than 30 kg	300 mg (one 300 mg injection) every 4 weeks (Q4W)

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

For **reauthorization**:

1. Chart notes demonstrate improvement of signs and symptoms such as fewer flares, less itching/erythema, improved quality of life, etc.

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

## Asthma

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member must be 6 years of age or older; AND
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with a pulmonologist, immunologist or allergist; AND
3. Member has **ONE** of the following:
  - a) Severe eosinophilic asthma including:
    - i) Blood eosinophil count of at least 150 cells/ $\mu$ L; AND
    - ii) At least **TWO** documented severe asthma exacerbations requiring oral corticosteroids (OCS), or at least **ONE** requiring hospitalization, within last year; OR
  - b) Oral corticosteroid (OCS) dependent asthma; AND
4. 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
5. Medication is being used as the add-on maintenance treatment to conventional therapies for asthma (i.e., ICS, LABA, etc.); AND
6. Medication is **NOT** used in conjunction with any other biologic therapy for asthma.
7. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:**

**Adults and adolescents 12 years of age and older:**

Initial Loading Dose	Subsequent Dosage
400 mg (two 200 mg injections)	200 mg every 2 weeks (Q2W)
or	
600 mg (two 300 mg injections)	300 mg every 2 weeks (Q2W)
<b>Dosage for patients with oral corticosteroid-dependent asthma or with co-morbid moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis or adults with co-morbid chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyposis</b>	
600 mg (two 300 mg injections)	300 mg every 2 weeks (Q2W)

Pediatric patients age 6 to 11 years of age:

Body Weight	Initial Dose and Subsequent Dosage
15 to less than 30 kg	300 mg every four weeks (Q4W)
≥30 kg	200 mg every other week (Q2W)

\*No loading dose for this age group

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

For **reauthorization**:

1. Medication is **NOT** being used as monotherapy for asthma; AND
2. Chart notes have been provided that show the member has demonstrated improvement (i.e. increased FEV<sub>1</sub>, 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.***

## Chronic Rhinosinusitis with Nasal Polyps (CRSwNP)

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is 18 years old or older; AND
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist, immunologist, or otorhinolaryngologist (ENT); AND
3. Member has a diagnosis of severe CRSwNP with at least **TWO** of the following symptoms for 12 weeks or more:
  - a) Nasal blockage/obstruction/congestion;
  - b) Nasal discharge;
  - c) Facial pain/pressure;
  - d) Reduction in smell; AND
4. Chart notes must show documentation of bilateral nasal polyps by direct examination, endoscopy, or sinus CT scan; AND
5. Member has failed a 4-week trial with an intranasal corticosteroid (e.g., mometasone, fluticasone) in combination with nasal saline irrigation; AND
6. Member has tried and failed **BOTH** of the following:
  - a) Prior sinonasal surgery;
  - b) Systemic corticosteroids; AND
7. Medication is used as an add-on maintenance treatment in combination with intranasal corticosteroid; AND
8. Medication is **NOT** used in combination with other biologic therapies for CRSwNP.
9. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** 300 mg every other week. Quantity limit: 2 pens/syringes per 28 days.

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

For **reauthorization**:

1. Medication is being used as add-on maintenance therapy in combination with intranasal corticosteroids; AND
2. Chart notes have been provided showing improvement of nasal congestion/obstruction symptoms, and/or reduced nasal polyp size.

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

## Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EOE)

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is at least 12 years of age AND weighs at least 40 kg; AND
2. Medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist, immunologist, otorhinolaryngologist (ENT), or gastroenterologist; AND
3. Member has a diagnosis of EOE confirmed by endoscopy with esophageal biopsy showing  $\geq 15$  intraepithelial eosinophils per high-power field (eos/hpf); AND
4. Member has symptoms of dysphagia; AND
5. Member has had a trial and failure of **TWO** of the following:
  - a) High dose proton pump inhibitor (PPI) for 8 weeks;
  - b) Topical (swallowed) corticosteroid therapy (i.e., budesonide or fluticasone) for 12 weeks;
  - c) Dietary modifications.
6. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** 300 mg every week. Quantity limit: 4 pens/syringes 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 documenting at least **ONE** of the following:
  - a) Histological remission (peak esophageal intraepithelial eosinophil count  $\leq 6$  eos/hpf);
  - b) Improvement in frequency or severity of dysphagia symptoms.

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

## Prurigo Nodularis (PN)

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is at least 18 years of age; AND
2. Medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist; AND
3. Member has a documented diagnosis of prurigo nodularis with **ALL** of the following:
  - a) Chronic pruritis lasting more than 6 weeks;
  - b) Severe itch with repeated scratching;
  - c) At least 20 total lesions present; AND
4. Member has had a trial and failure of a medium to super high potency topical corticosteroid for at least 2 weeks.
  - a) NOTE: If topical corticosteroids are contraindicated, must alternatively try and fail **ONE** of the following: topical emollient, capsaicin, calcipotriol, calcineurin inhibitor, phototherapy, or oral antihistamine.
5. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** Initial dose of 600 mg (two 300 mg injections), followed by 300 mg given every other week. Quantity limit: 2 pens/syringes per 28 days after loading dose.

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

For **reauthorization**:

1. Chart notes have been provided documenting clinically significant reduction of itch intensity and/or nodule clearance compared to baseline.

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

**CareSource considers Dupixent (dupilumab) 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
06/12/2017	New policy for Dupixent created.
05/22/2019	New indication of Moderate-to-Severe Persistent Asthma added. For Atopic Dermatitis: age requirements expanded (covered for 12 years old members and older); topical corticosteroids use required for at least 3 months; clarification on tanning beds for UV exposure entered; step therapy for topical calcineurin inhibitors revised.
10/14/2019	New diagnosis of Chronic Rhinosinusitis with Nasal Polyposis (CRSwNP) was added.
06/05/2020	Age lowered to 6 years old for atopic dermatitis and pediatric dosing table added.
01/12/2021	<p><u>Persistent Asthma</u>: eosinophil count was updated to be consistent with guidelines; exacerbation number was updated to be consistent with guidelines (2 requiring OCS or 1 requiring hospitalization in the last year); ICS + LTRA treatment removed; requirements despite adherence to therapy removed (i.e. intubation, urgent care visit or hospital admin); changed from not to be used with Nucala, Cinqair, or Fasenra to not to be used with any other asthma biologic.</p> <p><u>CRSwNP</u>: removed documentation of severity/amount of polyposis; removed “use in the past 2 years” for systemic steroid. Specified 4 weeks of trial for intranasal steroid and added that it must be used with nasal saline. Specified that Dupixent must be used as add-on treatment with intranasal steroid for initial and reauth. Removed list of symptoms of sinusitis. Removed Hep B &amp; C requirement. Specified what improvement looks like for reauth. Reduced the list of exclusion to only ask that member does not have AFRS.</p> <p><u>Atopic Dermatitis</u>: removed EASI score requirement. Added diagnosis of AD. Added that AD involvement that significantly affects QoL also qualifies for moderate to severe. Reduced topical trials to just one trial of steroid for 4 weeks. Made Eucrisa and TCI optional if member cannot use steroid. Reduced phototherapy trial to 8 weeks. Changed from phototherapy and immunosuppressant to phototherapy OR immunosuppressant. Removed requirement of combination with another biologic. Updated reauth to require specific signs and symptoms of AD improvements. Increased reauth length to 12 months. Updated references.</p>
11/16/2021	Transferred to new template. For <u>asthma</u> , amended minimum age from 12 years to 6 years per recent label update and added dosing information for the new age group.
06/14/2022	Updated min age for atopic dermatitis from 6 years to 6 months and added dosing. Added new indication for diagnosis of EOE.
10/19/2022	Added new indication for prurigo nodularis.
11/13/2023	<p>Added/removed/updated references.</p> <p><u>Asthma</u>: Updated dosing chart for pediatric patients 6 to 11 years of age, increased initial authorization length to 6 months, simplified reauthorization criteria to allow for improvement in signs and symptoms with specific examples.</p> <p><u>AD</u>: changed trials to two topicals, one topical and phototherapy or one immunomodulator and one topical; changed duration of steroid topicals to 2 weeks, added duration of 6 weeks for TCI, 4 weeks for Eucrisa; added option of Opzelura for 8 weeks duration; changed steroid requirement from high to very high.</p> <p><u>CRSwNP</u>: removed contraindication of AFRS and nasal polyp surgery in the past 6 months</p>

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