

## PHARMACY POLICY STATEMENT Ohio Medicaid

<b>DRUG NAME</b>	<b>Rituxan (rituximab)</b>
BILLING CODE	J9312
BENEFIT TYPE	Medical
SITE OF SERVICE ALLOWED	Home/Office/Outpatient
STATUS	Prior Authorization Required

Rituxan is a monoclonal antibody that targets the CD20 antigen expressed on the surface of pre-B and mature B-lymphocytes. Upon binding to CD20, rituximab mediates B-cell lysis. B cells are believed to play a role in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and associated chronic synovitis. In this setting, B cells may be acting at multiple sites in the autoimmune/inflammatory process.

Rituxan (rituximab) will be considered for coverage when the following criteria are met:

### Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (GPA) (Wegener's Granulomatosis) and Microscopic Polyangiitis (MPA)

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is 2 years old or older; AND
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with a nephrologist or rheumatologist; AND
3. Member has a diagnosis of one of the following:
  - a) Severe GPA or MPA,
  - b) Non-severe GPA or MPA (non-organ threatening, non-life-threatening) refractory to glucocorticoid in combination with methotrexate or mycophenolate mofetil (MMF); AND
4. Rituxan will be initiated in combination with glucocorticoids.
5. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** Please refer to the Dosing and Administration section of the package insert.

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

For **reauthorization**:

1. Chart notes demonstrate clinical improvement of disease signs and symptoms.

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

### Pemphigus Vulgaris (PV)

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is 18 years old or older; AND
2. Must be prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist; AND
3. Member has a documented diagnosis of moderate to severe PV; AND
4. Rituxan will be initiated in combination with a corticosteroid taper (unless contraindicated).
5. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** Initial: Two 1000mg doses separated by 2 weeks; Maintenance: 500mg infusion at month 12 and every 6 months thereafter or based on clinical evaluation. Relapse:

1000mg infusion. Subsequent infusions may be administered no sooner than 16 weeks following the previous infusion.

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

For **reauthorization**:

1. Chart notes demonstrate clinical improvement of signs and symptoms (e.g. healed lesions, fewer new lesions, etc.)

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

## Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is 18 years old or older; AND
2. Medication is being prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist; AND
3. Member has a documented diagnosis of moderately- to severely- active RA; AND
4. Rituxan is being used in combination with methotrexate, or another non-biologic DMARD if unable to tolerate methotrexate; AND
5. Member must have inadequate response or intolerance to one or more tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists (e.g. adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab) for at least 3 months each. Note: TNF antagonists require prior authorization.
6. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** Two 1000mg doses separated by 2 weeks; subsequent courses repeated no sooner than every 16 weeks (every 24 weeks is typical).

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

For **reauthorization**:

1. Chart notes demonstrate improvement of RA signs and symptoms (e.g. fewer number of painful and swollen joints, achievement of remission, etc.)

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

## Acquired Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (aTTP)

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is 18 years old or older; AND
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with a hematologist; AND
3. Member has a presumptive or confirmed diagnosis of aTTP including ALL of the following:
  - a) Lab results showing thrombocytopenia (platelet count less than 150,000);
  - b) Microangiopathic hemolytic anemia (MAHA) confirmed by presence of schistocytes on blood smear;
  - c) Documentation of a PLASMIC score between 5 and 7 (intermediate to high risk);<sup>25</sup>
  - d) Testing shows an ADAMTS13 activity level less than 10%, OR test has been ordered and results are pending.
4. Member's platelet count has not responded after at least 4 days of plasma exchange and glucocorticoid; AND
5. Rituxan is being used in addition to plasma exchange and glucocorticoid.
6. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** 375mg/m<sup>2</sup> once weekly for 4 doses (off label).<sup>26</sup>

***If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for 30 days.***

For **reauthorization**:

1. Member is experiencing a relapse of symptoms (thrombocytopenia and MAHA); AND
2. ADAMTS13 activity is less than 20% (lab report required).

***If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for an additional 30 days.***

## Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (NMOSD)

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is 18 years old or older; AND
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist; AND
3. Member has a diagnosis of NMOSD and is seropositive for aquaporin-4 (AQP4) IgG antibodies (documentation required).
4. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** 1g on day 1 and day 15, then 1g every 6 months<sup>32</sup> (off label)

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

For **reauthorization**:

1. Chart notes must document disease stabilization, symptom improvement, and/or reduced frequency of relapses.

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

## Generalized Myasthenia Gravis (gMG)

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is at least 18 years of age; AND
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist; AND
3. Member meets one of the following:
  - a) Member has a documented diagnosis of gMG that is seropositive for MuSK antibodies AND has tried and failed corticosteroid treatment with or without a non-steroid immunosuppressant
  - b) Member has a documented diagnosis of refractory gMG that is seropositive for AChR antibodies AND has tried and failed ALL of the following: pyridostigmine, corticosteroid, and at least 2 non-steroid immunosuppressives (e.g., azathioprine, mycophenolate mofetil, tacrolimus)
4. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** Consult updated clinical literature for recommendations. A variety of regimens have shown efficacy. (Off label use)

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

For **reauthorization**:

1. Chart notes must document clinically meaningful improvement in symptom severity and functioning compared to previous treatment.

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

## Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL)

These requests must be submitted through [NantHealth/Eviti](#) portal.

## Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)

These requests must be submitted through [NantHealth/Eviti](#) portal.

**CareSource considers Rituxan (rituximab) 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
08/20/2013	Change in diagnosis
07/15/2014	Added diagnosis TTP and additional criteria to CD20+ CLL
07/15/2015	Added MCG 19th edition criteria
10/04/2016	Change in diagnoses to FDA approved uses, updated references with supporting guidelines and literature
06/09/2020	Transferred policy to new template, indicated Eviti carve-outs. Revised criteria for vasculitis diagnoses (GPA, MPA); previously listed as ANCA vasculitis – updated age, specified trial for non-severe, simplified the cyclophosphamide trial language. Revised criteria for Rheumatoid Arthritis – changed from trial of 2 TNF to 1 TNF. Added new diagnosis Pemphigus Vulgaris and its criteria
07/28/2020	Added criteria for aTTP.
10/13/2020	Added criteria for NMOSD. For RA, stated they must use another DMARD if they can't use MTX.
02/09/2022	Transferred to new template. RA: Added new reference. GPA/MPA: Added references and made updates per new guidelines. Added MMF to #3. Removed requirement for trial/failure of cyclophosphamide. PV: Added new references. Removed required trial/failure of steroid and adjuvant immunosuppressant. Added new section for myasthenia gravis (off label).

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