



Drug Coverage Policy

Effective Date11/01/2025

Coverage Policy NumberIP0212

Policy TitleOcrevus

Multiple Sclerosis (Injectable – CD20-Directed Cytolytic Antibody) – Ocrevus

- Ocrevus® (ocrelizumab intravenous infusion – Genentech/Roche)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

The following Coverage Policy applies to health benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Certain Cigna Companies and/or lines of business only provide utilization review services to clients and do not make coverage determinations. References to standard benefit plan language and coverage determinations do not apply to those clients. Coverage Policies are intended to provide guidance in interpreting certain standard benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Please note, the terms of a customer's particular benefit plan document [Group Service Agreement, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, Summary Plan Description (SPD) or similar plan document] may differ significantly from the standard benefit plans upon which these Coverage Policies are based. For example, a customer's benefit plan document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a Coverage Policy. In the event of a conflict, a customer's benefit plan document always supersedes the information in the Coverage Policies. In the absence of a controlling federal or state coverage mandate, benefits are ultimately determined by the terms of the applicable benefit plan document. Coverage determinations in each specific instance require consideration of 1) the terms of the applicable benefit plan document in effect on the date of service; 2) any applicable laws/regulations; 3) any relevant collateral source materials including Coverage Policies and; 4) the specific facts of the particular situation. Each coverage request should be reviewed on its own merits. Medical directors are expected to exercise clinical judgment where appropriate and have discretion in making individual coverage determinations. Where coverage for care or services does not depend on specific circumstances, reimbursement will only be provided if a requested service(s) is submitted in accordance with the relevant criteria outlined in the applicable Coverage Policy, including covered diagnosis and/or procedure code(s). Reimbursement is not allowed for services when billed for conditions or diagnoses that are not covered under this Coverage Policy (see "Coding Information" below). When billing, providers must use the most appropriate codes as of the effective date of the submission. Claims submitted for services that are not accompanied by covered code(s) under the applicable Coverage Policy will be denied as not covered. Coverage Policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans. Coverage Policies are not recommendations for treatment and should never be used as treatment guidelines. In certain markets, delegated vendor guidelines may be used to support medical necessity and other coverage determinations.

Overview

Ocrevus is a CD20-directed cytolytic antibody indicated for the treatment of:¹

- **Relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS)** to include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing remitting MS, and active secondary progressive MS, in adults.
- **Primary progressive MS**, in adults.

Disease Overview

MS is a chronic, inflammatory, demyelinating, autoimmune disease of the central nervous system that impacts almost 1,000,000 people in the US.²⁻⁴ The condition is marked by inflammation and demyelination, as well as degenerative alterations. Patients usually experience relapses and remissions in their neurological symptoms. For most patients, the onset of MS symptoms occurs when patients are 20 to 40 years of age; however, children can get MS and new onset disease can occur in older adults. The MS disease course is heterogeneous but has some patterns. Approximately 85% to 90% of patients have a relapsing pattern at onset. However, this transitions over time in patients who are untreated to a worsening with very few or no relapses or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) activity (secondary progressive MS). Around 10% to 15% of patients have a steady progression of symptoms over time (primary progressive MS), marked by some clinical manifestations or by MRI activity. Primary progressive MS is generally diagnosed in patients on the upper level of the typical age range (e.g., almost 40 years of age) and the distribution is equivalent among the two genders.²⁻⁴ Advances in the understanding of the MS disease process, as well as in MRI technology, spurred updated disease course descriptions in 2013,⁵ as well as in 2017.⁶ The revised disease courses are clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing remitting MS, primary progressive MS, and secondary progressive MS.²⁻⁶ Clinically isolated syndrome is now more recognized among the course descriptions of MS. It is the first clinical presentation of MS that displays characteristics of inflammatory demyelination that may possibly be MS but has yet to fulfill diagnostic criteria.

Guidelines

In September 2019, a consensus paper was updated by the MS Coalition that discusses the use of disease-modifying therapies in MS.² Many options from various disease classes, involving different mechanisms of action and modes of administration, have shown benefits in patients with MS.

Coverage Policy

Policy Statement

Prior Authorization is required for benefit coverage of Ocrevus. Approval is recommended for those who meet the **Criteria** and **Dosing** for the listed indications. Extended approvals are allowed if the patient continues to meet the Criteria and Dosing. Requests for doses outside of the established dosing documented in this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis by a clinician (i.e., Medical Director or Pharmacist). All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Ocrevus as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, approval requires Ocrevus to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

Ocrevus is considered medically necessary when ONE of the following criteria is met:

FDA-Approved Indications

1. **Multiple Sclerosis, Relapsing Forms.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ONE of the following criteria (A or B):
 - A. Initial Therapy. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (i, ii, and iii):
 - i. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND

- ii. Patient has a relapsing form of multiple sclerosis; AND
Note: Examples of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease
 - iii. Medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist or a physician who specializes in the treatment of multiple sclerosis; OR
- B. Patient is Currently Receiving Ocrevus for ≥ 1 Year.** Approve if the patient meets

ALL of the following (i, ii, iii, and iv):

Note: A patient who has received < 1 year of therapy or who is restarting therapy with Ocrevus should be considered under criterion 1A (Multiple Sclerosis [Relapsing Forms], Initial Therapy).

- i. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND
- ii. Patient has a relapsing form of multiple sclerosis; AND
Note: Examples of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing remitting disease, and active secondary progressive multiple sclerosis.
- iii. Patient meets one of the following [(1) or (2)]:
 - (1) Patient experienced a beneficial clinical response when assessed by at least one objective measure; OR
Note: Examples include stabilization or reduced worsening in disease activity as evaluated by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) [absence or a decrease in gadolinium enhancing lesions, decrease in the number of new or enlarging T2 lesions]; stabilization or reduced worsening on the Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) score; achievement in criteria for No Evidence of Disease Activity-3 (NEDA-3) or NEDA-4; improvement on the fatigue symptom and impact questionnaire-relapsing multiple sclerosis (FSIQ-RMS) scale; reduction or absence of relapses; improvement or maintenance on the six-minute walk test or 12-Item Multiple Sclerosis Walking Scale; improvement on the Multiple Sclerosis Functional Composite (MSFC) score; and/or attenuation of brain volume loss.
 - (2) Patient experienced stabilization, slowed progression, or improvement in at least one symptom such as motor function, fatigue, vision, bowel/bladder function, spasticity, walking/gait, or pain/numbness/tingling sensation; AND
- iv. Medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist or a physician who specializes in the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

Dosing. Approve the following dosing regimens (A and/or B):

- A) Initial Dosing:** 300 mg by intravenous infusion, followed 2 weeks later by a second 300 mg intravenous infusion; AND/OR
- B) Maintenance Dosing:** 600 mg by intravenous infusion once every 6 months

2. Multiple Sclerosis, Primary Progressive. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following criteria (A and B):

- A.** Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND
- B.** Ocrevus is prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the treatment of multiple sclerosis and/or a neurologist.

Dosing. Approve the following dosing regimens (A and/or B):

- A) Initial Dosing:** 300 mg by intravenous infusion, followed 2 weeks later by a second 300 mg intravenous infusion; OR
- B) Maintenance Dosing:** 600 mg by intravenous infusion once every 6 months

Conditions Not Covered

Ocrevus for any other use is considered not medically necessary including the following (this list may not be all inclusive):

- 1. Concurrent Use with Other Disease-Modifying Agents Used for Multiple Sclerosis.** These agents are not indicated for use in combination (see [Appendix](#) for examples). Additional data are required to determine if use of disease-modifying multiple sclerosis agents in combination is safe provides added efficacy.

Coding Information

- 1) This list of codes may not be all-inclusive.
- 2) Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement.

Considered Medically Necessary when criteria in the applicable policy statements listed above are met:

HCPCS Codes	Description
J2350	Injection, ocrelizumab, 1 mg

References

1. Ocrevus® intravenous infusion [prescribing information]. San Francisco, CA: Genentech/Roche; June 2024.
2. A Consensus Paper by the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition. The use of disease-modifying therapies in multiple sclerosis. Updated September 2019.
3. McGinley MP, Goldschmidt C, Rae-Grant AD. Diagnosis and treatment of multiple sclerosis. A review. *JAMA*. 2021;325(8):765-779.
4. The Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics. Drugs for multiple sclerosis. *Med Lett Drugs Ther*. 2021;63(1620):42-48.
5. Lublin FD, Reingold SC, Cohen JA, et al. Defining the clinical course of multiple sclerosis: the 2013 revisions. *Neurology*. 2014;83:278-286.
6. Thompson AJ, Banwell BL, Barkhof F, et al. Diagnosis of multiple sclerosis: 2017 revisions of the McDonald criteria. *Lancet Neurol*. 2018;17(2):162-173.

Appendix

Medication	Mode of Administration
Aubagio® (teriflunomide tablets, generic)	Oral
Avonex® (interferon beta-1a intramuscular injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Bafiertam® (monomethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules)	Oral
Betaseron® (interferon beta-1b subcutaneous injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Briumvi® (ublituximab-xiiv intravenous infusion)	Intravenous infusion

Copaxone® (glatiramer acetate subcutaneous injection, generic)	Injection (self-administered)
Gilenya® (fingolimod capsules, generic)	Oral
Glatopa® (glatiramer acetate subcutaneous injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Kesimpta® (ofatumumab subcutaneous injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Lemtrada® (alemtuzumab intravenous infusion)	Intravenous infusion
Mavenclad® (cladribine tablets)	Oral
Mayzent® (siponimod tablets)	Oral
Ocrevus® (ocrelizumab intravenous infusion)	Intravenous infusion
Ocrevus Zunovo™ (ocrelizumab and hyaluronidase-ocsq subcutaneous injection)	Subcutaneous Injection (not self-administered)
Plegridy® (peginterferon beta-1a subcutaneous or intramuscular injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Ponvory® (ponesimod tablets)	Oral
Rebif® (interferon beta-1a subcutaneous injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Tascenso ODT® (fingolimod orally disintegrating tablets)	Oral
Tecfidera® (dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules, generic)	Oral
Tyruko® (natalizumab-sztn intravenous infusion)	Intravenous infusion
Tysabri® (natalizumab intravenous infusion)	Intravenous infusion
Vumerity® (diroximel fumarate delayed-release capsules)	Oral
Zeposia® (ozanimod capsules)	Oral

Revision Details

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Date
Selected Revision	Updated the Individual and Family Plans preferred product requirement to apply any treatment naïve individual.	03/01/2024
Selected Revision	Added a definition of documentation. Removed Employer Plans preferred product requirements. Added a specialist prescribing requirement. Added criteria for a Patient Currently Receiving Ocrevus for ≥ 1 Year. Ocrevus Zunovo added to the Appendix.	12/01/2024
Selected Revision	Removed Individual and Family Plans preferred product requirements.	01/01/2025
Early Annual Revision	The Policy name was changed to add "Injectable – CD20-Directed Cytolytic Antibody". Added a policy statement. Removed documentation requirements. Updated the conditions not covered statement. Removed Extavia from the Appendix. Dosing for Multiple Sclerosis (Relapsing Forms) and Multiple Sclerosis (Primary Progressive) were	11/01/2025

	revised to divide into Initial Dosing and Maintenance Dosing. Also, instead of approve one of the following cited regimens, wording was changed from "A or B" to "A and/or B" to allow both dosing regimens to be approved.	
--	---	--

The policy effective date is in force until updated or retired.

"Cigna Companies" refers to operating subsidiaries of The Cigna Group. All products and services are provided exclusively by or through such operating subsidiaries, including Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company, Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, Evernorth Behavioral Health, Inc., Cigna Health Management, Inc., and HMO or service company subsidiaries of The Cigna Group. © 2025 The Cigna Group.