



## PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

**POLICY:** Inflammatory Conditions – Leqselvi Prior Authorization Policy

- Leqselvi™ (deuruxolitinib tablets – Sun)

**REVIEW DATE:** 08/20/2025

### 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.

## CIGNA NATIONAL FORMULARY COVERAGE:

### OVERVIEW

Leqselvi, a Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor, is indicated for the treatment of **severe alopecia areata** in patients  $\geq 18$  years of age.<sup>1</sup> Leqselvi has greater inhibitory potency for JAK1, JAK2, and tyrosine kinase (TYK)-2 relative to JAK3.

### Guidelines

Although specific drugs are not mentioned, JAK inhibitors (JAKis) as a therapeutic class are addressed in an international expert opinion on treatments for alopecia areata (2020).<sup>2</sup> JAKis are identified amongst the therapies for treatment of extensive hair loss. First-line treatments for adults include high- or super-high potency topical corticosteroids and/or systemic corticosteroids. Steroid-sparing therapies to mitigate the risk associated with prolonged use of corticosteroids include cyclosporine, methotrexate, azathioprine, and JAKis. Based on the expert opinion, JAKis are considered the ideal option amongst systemic, steroid-sparing agents.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Leqselvi. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. In cases where the approval is authorized in months, 1 month is equal to 30 days. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Leqselvi as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, initial approval requires Leqselvi to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

• **Leqselvi™ (deuruxolitinib tablets – Sun)**  
**is(are) covered as medically necessary when the following criteria is(are) met for FDA-approved indication(s) or other uses with supportive evidence (if applicable):**

### FDA-Approved Indication

**1. Alopecia Areata.** Approve for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

Note: Alopecia universalis and alopecia totalis are subtypes of alopecia areata.

**A) Initial Therapy.** Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, iii, iv, v, and vi):

**i.** Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND

**ii.** Patient is not a cytochrome P450 2C9 poor metabolizer as assessed by an approved test; AND

**iii.** Patient has a current episode of alopecia areata lasting for  $\geq 6$  months; AND

**iv.** Patient has  $\geq 50\%$  scalp hair loss; AND

**v.** Patient has tried at least ONE of the following for alopecia areata (a or b):

**a)** Conventional systemic therapy; OR

Note: Examples of conventional systemic therapies include corticosteroids, methotrexate, and cyclosporine. An exception to the requirement for a trial of one conventional systemic agent can be made if the patient has already tried Litfulo (ritlecinib capsules) or Olumiant (baricitinib tablets).

**b)** High- or super-high potency topical corticosteroid; AND

**vi.** The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist; OR

**B) Patient is Currently Receiving Leqselvi.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, iii, and iv):

**i.** Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND

**ii.** Patient has been established on Leqselvi for at least 6 months; AND

Note: A patient who has received  $< 6$  months of therapy or who is restarting therapy with the requested drug is reviewed under criterion A (Initial Therapy).

**iii.** Patient experienced a beneficial clinical response, defined as improvement from baseline (prior to initiating Leqselvi) in extent and density of scalp hair loss; AND

- iv. According to the prescriber, the patient continues to require systemic therapy for treatment of alopecia areata.

Note: International consensus states that systemic treatment is best discontinued once complete regrowth has been achieved and maintained for 6 months or when regrowth is sufficient to be managed topically.

## CONDITIONS NOT COVERED

• **Leqselvi™ (deuruxolitinib tablets – Sun)**  
**is(are) considered not medically necessary for ANY other use(s) including the following (this list may not be all inclusive; criteria will be updated as new published data are available):**

- 1. Concurrent Use with a Biologic or with a Targeted Synthetic Oral Small Molecule Drug.** This medication should not be administered in combination with another biologic or with a targeted synthetic oral small molecule drug used for an inflammatory condition (see [Appendix](#) for examples). Combination therapy is generally not recommended due to a potentially higher rate of adverse events and lack of controlled clinical data supporting additive efficacy.

- 2. Concurrent Use with a Topical Janus Kinase Inhibitor (JAKi).<sup>1</sup>** Leqselvi should not be administered in combination with another topical JAKi. Combination therapy is generally not recommended due to a potential for a higher rate of adverse effects and lack of evidence for additive efficacy.

Note: Examples include Opzelura (ruxolitinib cream) and Anzupgo (delgocitinib cream).

- 3. Concurrent Use with a Biologic Immunomodulator.** Leqselvi is not recommended in combination with biologic immunomodulators.<sup>1</sup>

Note: Examples include Adbry (tralokinumab-ldrm subcutaneous injection), Cinqair (reslizumab intravenous), Dupixent (dupilumab subcutaneous injection), Ebglyss (lebrikizumab-lbkz subcutaneous injection), Nemluvio (nemolizumab-ilot subcutaneous injection), Fasenra (benralizumab subcutaneous injection), Nucala (mepolizumab subcutaneous injection), Tezspire (tezepelumab-ekko subcutaneous injection), and Xolair (omalizumab subcutaneous injection).

- 4. Concurrent Use with Other Potent Immunosuppressants** (e.g., cyclosporine, azathioprine).<sup>1</sup> Co-administration with other potent immunosuppressive drugs has the risk of added immunosuppression and has not been evaluated.

## REFERENCES

1. Leqselvi™ tablets [prescribing information]. Whippany, NJ: Sun; July 2024.
2. Meah N, Wall D, York K, et al. The Alopecia Areata Consensus of Experts (ACE) study: Results of an international expert opinion on treatments for alopecia areata. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2020;83:123-30.

## HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
New Policy	--	08/21/2024
Selected Revision	<b>Conditions Not Covered:</b> Concurrent use with a Biologic or with a Targeted Synthetic Oral Small Molecule Drug was added. Additionally, concomitant use with an oral or topical JAK inhibitor was changed to list "Concomitant Use with a Topical JAK Inhibitor."	09/11/2024
Annual Revision	<b>Conditions Not Covered:</b> Anzupgo (delgocitinib cream) was added as an example of a topical JAK inhibitor not recommended for concomitant use with Leselvi. Additionally, Ebglyss (lebrikizumab-lbkz) and Nemluvio (nemolizumab-ilto) were added as examples of biologic immunomodulators which are not recommended concurrently with Legselvi	08/20/2025

## APPENDIX

	Mechanism of Action	Examples of Indications*
<b>Biologics</b>		
<b>Adalimumab SC Products</b> (Humira®, biosimilars)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, CD, JIA, PsO, PsA, RA, UC
<b>Cimzia®</b> (certolizumab pegol SC injection)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, CD, nr-axSpA, PsO, PsA, RA
<b>Etanercept SC Products</b> (Enbrel®, biosimilars)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, JIA, PsO, PsA, RA
<b>Infliximab IV Products</b> (Remicade®, biosimilars)	Inhibition of TNF	AS, CD, PsO, PsA, RA, UC
<b>Zymfentra®</b> (infliximab-dyyb SC injection)	Inhibition of TNF	CD, UC
<b>Simponi®, Simponi Aria®</b> (golimumab SC injection, golimumab IV infusion)	Inhibition of TNF	SC formulation: AS, PsA, RA, UC
		IV formulation: AS, PJIA, PsA, RA
<b>Tocilizumab Products</b> (Actemra® IV, biosimilar; Actemra SC, biosimilar)	Inhibition of IL-6	SC formulation: PJIA, RA, SJIA
		IV formulation: PJIA, RA, SJIA
<b>Kevzara®</b> (sarilumab SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-6	RA
<b>Orencia®</b> (abatacept IV infusion, abatacept SC injection)	T-cell costimulation modulator	SC formulation: JIA, PSA, RA
		IV formulation: JIA, PsA, RA
<b>Rituximab IV Products</b> (Rituxan®, biosimilars)	CD20-directed cytolytic antibody	RA
<b>Kineret®</b> (anakinra SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-1	JIA^, RA
<b>Omvoh®</b> (mirikizumab IV infusion, SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-23	CD, UC
<b>Ustekinumab Products</b> (Stelara® IV, biosimilar; Stelara SC, biosimilar)	Inhibition of IL-12/23	SC formulation: CD, PsO, PsA, UC
		IV formulation: CD, UC
<b>Siliq®</b> (brodalumab SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-17	PsO
<b>Cosentyx®</b> (secukinumab SC injection; secukinumab IV infusion)	Inhibition of IL-17A	SC formulation: AS, ERA, nr-axSpA, PsO, PsA
		IV formulation: AS, nr-axSpA, PsA
<b>Taltz®</b> (ixekizumab SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-17A	AS, nr-axSpA, PsO, PsA
<b>Bimzelx®</b> (bimekizumab-bkzx SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-17A/17F	PsO, AS, nr-axSpA, PsA
<b>Ilumya®</b> (tildrakizumab-asmn SC injection)	Inhibition of IL-23	PsO
<b>Skyrizi®</b> (risankizumab-rzaa SC injection, risankizumab-rzaa IV infusion)	Inhibition of IL-23	SC formulation: CD, PSA, PsO, UC
		IV formulation: CD, UC
<b>Tremfya®</b> (guselkumab SC injection, guselkumab IV infusion)	Inhibition of IL-23	SC formulation: CD, PsA, PsO, UC
		IV formulation: CD, UC
<b>Entyvio®</b> (vedolizumab IV infusion, vedolizumab SC injection)	Integrin receptor antagonist	CD, UC
<b>Oral Therapies/Targeted Synthetic Oral Small Molecule Drugs</b>		
<b>Otezla®</b> (apremilast tablets)	Inhibition of PDE4	PsO, PsA
<b>Cibinqo™</b> (abrocitinib tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AD
<b>Olumiant®</b> (baricitinib tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	RA, AA

<b>Litfulo</b> ® (ritlecitinib capsules)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AA
<b>Leqselvi</b> ® (deuruxolitinib tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AA
<b>Rinvoq</b> ® (upadacitinib extended-release tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	AD, AS, nr-axSpA, RA, PsA, UC
<b>Rinvoq</b> ® <b>LQ</b> (upadacitinib oral solution)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	PsA, PJIA
<b>Sotyktu</b> ® (deucravacitinib tablets)	Inhibition of TYK2	PsO
<b>Xeljanz</b> ® (tofacitinib tablets/oral solution)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	RA, PJIA, PsA, UC
<b>Xeljanz</b> ® <b>XR</b> (tofacitinib extended-release tablets)	Inhibition of JAK pathways	RA, PsA, UC
<b>Zeposia</b> ® (ozanimod tablets)	Sphingosine 1 phosphate receptor modulator	UC
<b>Velsipity</b> ® (etrasimod tablets)	Sphingosine 1 phosphate receptor modulator	UC

\* Not an all-inclusive list of indications. Refer to the prescribing information for the respective agent for FDA-approved indications; SC – Subcutaneous; TNF – Tumor necrosis factor; AS – Ankylosing spondylitis; CD – Crohn’s disease; JIA – Juvenile idiopathic arthritis; PsO – Plaque psoriasis; PsA – Psoriatic arthritis; RA – Rheumatoid arthritis; UC – Ulcerative colitis; nr-axSpA – Non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis; IV – Intravenous, PJIA – Polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis; IL – Interleukin; SJIA – Systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis; ^ Off-label use of Kineret in JIA supported in guidelines; ERA – Enthesitis-related arthritis; DMARD – Disease-modifying antirheumatic drug; PDE4 – Phosphodiesterase 4; JAK – Janus kinase; AD – Atopic dermatitis; AA – Alopecia areata; TYK2 – Tyrosine kinase 2.

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