



AmeriHealth.

Policy Title Etanercept (Enbrel®)

Policy Number FS.CLIN.54

Application of pharmacy policy is determined by benefits and contracts. Benefits may vary based on product line, group, or contract. Some medications may be subject to precertification and age, gender or quantity restrictions. Individual member benefits must be verified.

This pharmacy policy document describes the status of pharmaceutical information and/or technology at the time the document was developed. Since that time, new information relating to drug efficacy, interactions, contraindications, dosage, administration routes, safety, or FDA approval may have changed. If the Medical/Pharmacy Reviewer is aware of any new information on the subject of this document, please provide it promptly to the Medical/Pharmacy Policy Department. This information may include new FDA approved indications, withdrawals or other FDA alerts. This type of information is relevant not only when considering whether this policy should be updated, but also when applying it to current requests for coverage.

Members are advised to use participating pharmacies in order to receive the highest level of benefits.

Policy **Etanercept (Enbrel®)** is indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis, moderate to severe juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.

The use of etanercept (Enbrel®) requires prior authorization (i.e. clinical pharmacy and/or Medical Director review).

Policy description **Etanercept (Enbrel®)** is a biologic agent, a dimeric fusion protein that consists of the extracellular ligand-binding portion of the human tumor necrosis factor (TNF) receptor linked to human immunoglobulin G1 (IgG1). TNF is a naturally occurring protein in the human body that is involved in normal inflammatory and immune responses. Etanercept (Enbrel®) reduces disease activity by binding specifically to TNF and limiting its inflammatory activity in the body. By reducing TNF to normal levels, etanercept (Enbrel®) has been shown to produce symptomatic relief in individuals.

Policy guideline inclusion **Etanercept (Enbrel®)** is approved when **any** of the following inclusion criteria is met:

- Documentation of a diagnosis of moderate to severe Rheumatoid Arthritis, Ankylosing Spondylitis or Psoriatic Arthritis and ALL of the following:
 - Patient is an adult (≥ 18 years)
 - Medication is being recommended and prescribed by a rheumatologist
 - Patient had at least a 30 day trial and failure with ONE of the following disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) OR contraindication to ALL of the following DMARDs:
 - Methotrexate
 - Hydroxychloroquine
 - Leflunomide
 - Azathioprine
 - Sulfasalazine
 - Adalimumab (Humira®)

- Patient is not on concurrent therapy with Anakinra (Kineret®) or other tumor necrosis factor antagonists
- Patient does not have active infections or sepsis
- Patient has been evaluated (i.e. tuberculin skin test) and does not have active or latent tuberculosis
- Patient does not have active malignancy
- Documentation of a diagnosis of moderate to severe Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) and ALL of the following:
 - Patient is ≥ 2 years old
 - Medication is being recommended and prescribed by a rheumatologist
 - Patient had at least a 30 day trial and failure with ONE of the following disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) OR contraindication to ALL of the following DMARDs:
 - Methotrexate
 - Hydroxychloroquine
 - Leflunomide
 - Azathioprine
 - Sulfasalazine
 - Adalimumab (Humira®)
 - Patient is not on concurrent therapy with Anakinra (Kineret®) or other tumor necrosis factor antagonists
 - Patient does not have active infections or sepsis
 - Patient has been evaluated (i.e. tuberculin skin test) and does not have active or latent tuberculosis
 - Patient does not have active malignancy
- Documentation of a diagnosis of moderate to severe chronic Plaque Psoriasis and ALL of the following:
 - Patient is an adult (≥ 18 years)
 - Medication is being recommended and prescribed by a dermatologist
 - Patient had at least a 30 day trial and failure with ONE of the following drugs OR contraindication to ALL of the following drugs:
 - Topical Calcipotriene containing products
 - Topical Anthralin
 - Topical Steroids
 - Topical immunomodulators (Elidel®, Protopic®)
 - Topical retinoids
 - Efudex
 - Adalimumab (Humira®)
 - Patient is not on concurrent therapy with Anakinra (Kineret®) or other tumor necrosis factor antagonists
 - Patient does not have active infections or sepsis
 - Patient has been evaluated (i.e. tuberculin skin test) and does not have active or latent tuberculosis
 - Patient does not have active malignancy

Policy guideline exclusion

For a diagnosis of moderate to severe Rheumatoid Arthritis, Ankylosing Spondylitis or Psoriatic Arthritis, **Etanercept (Enbrel®)** is denied when **any** of the following exclusion criteria is present:

- Patient is less than 18 years old
- Medication is not being prescribed by a rheumatologist
- Patient does not have at least a 30 day trial and failure with ONE of the following disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) or contraindication to ALL of the following DMARDs:
 - Methotrexate
 - Hydroxychloroquine
 - Leflunomide
 - Azathioprine
 - Sulfasalazine
 - Adalimumab (Humira®)

- Patient is on concurrent therapy with Anakinra (Kineret®) or other tumor necrosis factor antagonists
- Patient has active infections or sepsis
- Patient has not been evaluated using tuberculin skin test
- Patient has active or latent tuberculosis
- Patient has active malignancy

For a diagnosis of moderate to severe Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA), **Etanercept (Enbrel®)** is denied when **any** of the following exclusion criteria is present:

- Patient is less than 2 years old
- Medication is not being prescribed by a rheumatologist
- Patient does not have at least a 30 day trial and failure with ONE of the following disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) or contraindication to ALL of the following DMARDs:
 - Methotrexate
 - Hydroxychloroquine
 - Leflunomide
 - Azathioprine
 - Sulfasalazine
 - Adalimumab (Humira®)
- Patient is on concurrent therapy with Anakinra (Kineret®) or other tumor necrosis factor antagonists
- Patient has active infections or sepsis
- Patient has not been evaluated using tuberculin skin test
- Patient has active or latent tuberculosis
- Patient has active malignancy

For a diagnosis of moderate to severe chronic Plaque Psoriasis, **Etanercept (Enbrel®)** is denied when **any** of the following exclusion criteria is present:

- Patient is less than 18 years old
- Medication is not being prescribed by a dermatologist
- Patient does not have at least a 30 day trial and failure with ONE of the following drugs OR contraindication to ALL of the following drugs:
 - Topical Calcipotriene containing products
 - Topical Anthralin
 - Topical Steroids
 - Topical immunomodulators (Elidel®, Protopic®)
 - Topical retinoids
 - Efudex
 - Adalimumab (Humira®)
- Patient is on concurrent therapy with Anakinra (Kineret®) or other tumor necrosis factor antagonists
- Patient has active infections or sepsis
- Patient has not been evaluated using tuberculin skin test
- Patient has active or latent tuberculosis
- Patient has active malignancy

Policy List of Applicable Drugs

Brand Name	Generic Name
Enbrel	Etanercept

Dosing and administration	Refer to the specific manufacturer's prescribing information for administration and dosage details for each specific agent.
Policy references	<p>Aboulafia DM, Bundow D, Wilske K, et al: Etanercept for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus- associated psoriatic arthritis. <i>Mayo Clin Proc</i> 2000; 75:1093-1098.</p> <p>American College of Rheumatology Subcommittee on Rheumatoid Arthritis Guidelines. Guidelines for the management of rheumatoid arthritis: 2002 update. [American College of Rheumatology Web site]. Available at: http://www.rheumatology.org/publications/guidelines/raguidelines02.asp?aud=mem. [Link is no longer active]</p> <p>American Thoracic Society, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Targeted tuberculin testing and treatment of latent tuberculosis infection. <i>Am J Respir Crit Care Med</i>. 2000;161:S221-S247.</p> <p>Barrera P, Joosten LA, den Broeder AA, et al: Effects of treatment with a fully human anti-tumour necrosis factor alpha monoclonal antibody on the local and systemic homeostasis of interleukin 1 and TNFalpha in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> 2001; 60:660-669.</p> <p>Bos JD, Hagens C, Das PK, et al. Predominance of "memory" T cells (CD4+, CDw29+) over "naïve" T cells (CD4+, CD45R+) in both normal and diseased human skin. <i>Arch Dermatol Res</i> 1989; 281:24-30.</p> <p>Bresnihan B, Alvaro-Gracia JM, Cobby M, et al. Treatment of rheumatoid arthritis with recombinant human interleukin-1 receptor antagonist. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i>. 1998; 41:2196-2204.</p> <p>Deleuran BW, Shu CQ, Field M, et al. Localization of interleukin-1 alpha, type 1 interleukin-1 receptor and interleukin-1 receptor antagonist in the synovial membrane and cartilage/pannus junction in rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Br J Rheumatol</i>. 1992; 31:801-809.</p> <p>Donahue KE, Gartlehner G, Jonas DE, Lux LJ, Thieda P, Jonas B, Hansen RA, Morgan LC, Williams SC, Lohr KN. Comparative Effectiveness of Drug Therapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis and Psoriatic Arthritis in Adults. Comparative Effectiveness Review No. 11. (Prepared by RTI-University of North Carolina Evidence-based Practice Center under Contract No. 290-02-0016.) Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. November 2007. Available at: http://derp.ohsu.edu/about/final-products.cfm. [Link is no longer active]</p> <p>Dorner, T, Rümeler, G. The role of B-cells in rheumatoid arthritis: mechanisms and therapeutic targets. <i>Curr Op Rheum</i> 2003;15:246-52.</p> <p>Elliott MJ, Maini RN, Feldmann M, et al. Randomised double-blind comparison of chimeric monoclonal antibody to tumour necrosis factor alpha (cA2) vs. placebo in rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Lancet</i>. 1994;344(8930):1105-1110.</p> <p>Ellis C, Krueger GG. Treatment of chronic plaque psoriasis by selective targeting of memory effector T lymphocytes. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2001; 345:248-255.</p> <p>Enbrel® (Etanercept) In: Facts and Comparisons [online through Facts and Comparisons Online]. Indy, IN: Walter Kluwer Health Inc. Accessed September 9, 2010.</p> <p>Enbrel® (Etanercept) In: Drugdex [online through Micromedex Healthcare Series]. Greenwood Village, CO: Thomson Micromedex. Accessed September 9, 2010.</p> <p>Enbrel® (Etanercept) [package insert]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Immunex Corporation; 2007.</p>

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Policy link to related policies	
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