

Clinical Policy: Rituximab (Rituxan), Rituximab-arrx (Riabni), Rituximab-pvvr (Ruxience), Rituximab-abbs (Truxima), Rituximab-Hyaluronidase (Rituxan Hycela)

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Line of Business: Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

****Please note: This policy is for medical benefit****

Description

Rituximab (Rituxan[®]) and its biosimilars [rituximab-arrx (Riabni[™]), rituximab-pvvr (Ruxience[™]), rituximab-abbs (Truxima[®])] are CD20-directed cytolytic antibodies.

Rituximab and hyaluronidase (Rituxan Hycela[™]) is a combination of rituximab and human hyaluronidase that is used to increase the dispersion and absorption of the co-administered drugs when given subcutaneously.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Indications	Rituxan	Riabni	Ruxience	Truxima	Rituxan Hycela*
<i>Oncology indications (for adults unless otherwise indicated)</i>					
Low-grade and follicular B-cell NHL					
Relapsed or refractory, low-grade [Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima] or follicular [Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima, Rituxan Hycela], CD20-positive, B-cell NHL as a single agent	X	X	X	X	X
Previously untreated follicular, CD20-positive B-cell NHL in combination with first-line chemotherapy and, in patients achieving a complete or partial response to a rituximab product in combination with chemotherapy, as single-agent maintenance therapy	X	X	X	X	X
Non-progressing (including stable disease), low-grade [Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima] or follicular [Rituxan Hycela], CD20-positive B-cell NHL as a single agent after first-line CVP chemotherapy	X	X	X	X	X

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



Indications		Rituxan	Riabni	Ruxience	Truxima	Rituxan Hycela*
DLBCL (a B-cell NHL)	Previously untreated CD20-positive DLBCL in combination with CHOP or other anthracycline-based chemotherapy regimens	X	X	X	X	X
CLL (a B-cell NHL)	Previously untreated and treated CD20-positive CLL in combination with FC chemotherapy	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Pediatric B-cell NHL and B-cell acute leukemia</u>	<u>Previously untreated, advanced stage, CD20-positive, DLBCL, Burkitt lymphoma (BL), Burkitt-like lymphoma (BLL) or mature B-cell acute leukemia (B-AL) in combination with chemotherapy</u>	<u>X (6 months and older)</u>				
Non-oncology indications (for adults unless otherwise indicated)						
RA	Moderately to severely active RA in combination with methotrexate (MTX) in patients who have inadequate response to one or more TNF antagonist therapies	X	<u>X</u>	X	X	
GPA, MPA	GPA and MPA in combination with glucocorticoids	X (2 years and older)	X	X	X	
PV	Moderate to severe PV	X				

Abbreviations: B-AL (B-cell acute leukemia), BL (Burkitt lymphoma), BLL (Burkitt-like lymphoma), CLL (chronic lymphocytic leukemia), DLBCL (diffuse large B-cell lymphoma), GPA (granulomatosis with polyangiitis; Wegener's granulomatosis), MPA (microscopic polyangiitis), NHL (Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma), PV (pemphigus vulgaris), RA (rheumatoid arthritis).

*Rituxan Hycela limitations of use: 1) Initiate treatment with Rituxan Hycela only after patients have received at least one full dose of a rituximab product by intravenous infusion; 2) Rituxan Hycela is not indicated for the treatment of non-malignant conditions.

Policy/Criteria

Prior authorization required. Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of Louisiana Healthcare Connections that Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima, and Rituxan Hycela are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. B-Cell Lymphomas (includes CLL) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of any of the following non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) subtypes (a-n):
 - a. AIDS-related B-cell lymphomas;
 - b. B-cell acute leukemia; (B-AL);

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



- c. Burkitt ~~lymphoma~~ lymphoma (BL) or Burkitt-like lymphoma; (BLL);
- d. Castleman's disease;
- e. Chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma (CLL/SLL)
- f. Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL);
- g. Follicular lymphoma (FL);
- h. Hairy cell leukemia (Rituxan/-Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima only);
- i. Low- or high-grade B-cell lymphoma;
- j. MALT lymphoma (gastric or nongastric);
- k. Mantle cell lymphoma;
- l. Marginal zone lymphoma (nodal or splenic);
- m. Post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder;
- n. Primary cutaneous B-cell lymphoma;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Age \geq 18 years;
 - b. Age < 18 years with mature B-cell lymphoma;
4. If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, member must use ~~TWO~~ ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (i and ii):
 - i. Ruxience and Truxima;
 - ii. If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni*
 - b. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima*
 - c. Request is for ~~Stage IV or metastatic cancer or treatment~~ associated ~~conditions~~.
Exception if "clinically equivalent cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy, contains identical active ingredient(s), and proven to have same efficacy" in certain oncology settings (see Appendix E);
5. If request is for Rituxan Hycela, member has received at least one full dose of Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, or Truxima;
6. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
7. Request meets either of the following (a or b):*
 - a. Dose does not exceed the number of cycles as indicated in *Section V* and the following per administration (i or ii):
 - i. Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima: 500 mg/m² per IV infusion (*see Section V for cycle regimens*);
 - ii. Rituxan Hycela: 1,600 mg/26,800 units per SC injection (*see Section V for cycle regimens*);
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Rheumatoid Arthritis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of RA per American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria (*see Appendix F*);
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
4. Age ≥ 18 years;
5. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of MTX at up to maximally indicated doses;
 - b. Member has intolerance or contraindication to MTX (*see Appendix D*), and failure of a ≥ 3 consecutive month trial of at least ONE conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drug [DMARD] (e.g., sulfasalazine, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine) at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
6. Member meets one of the following (a or b, *see Appendix D*):
 - a. Failure of ~~Avsola, Inflectra, or Renflexis~~ one of the following, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced: AvsolaTM, InflectraTM, RenflexisTM;
 - b. History of failure of two TNF blockers:
**Prior authorization may be required for Avsola, Inflectra and Renflexis*
7. Documentation of one of the following baseline assessment scores (a or b):
 - a. Clinical disease activity index (CDAI) score (*see Appendix G*);
 - b. Routine assessment of patient index data 3 (RAPID3) score (*see Appendix H*);
8. If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, member must use ~~TWO~~ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (i and ii):
 - i. Ruxience and Truxima;
 - ii. If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni*
 - b. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima*
9. Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima will be administered in combination with MTX unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
10. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
11. Dose does not exceed two-1,000 mg IV infusions separated by 2 weeks followed by two-1,000 mg IV infusions every 16 weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

C. Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (Wegener's Granulomatosis) and Microscopic Polyangiitis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of GPA or MPA;

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist;
4. For Rituxan: age ≥ 2 years;
5. For age ≥ 18 years: if request is for Rituxan or Riabni, one of the following (a or b):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, member must use ~~TWO~~ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (i and ii):
 - i. Ruxience and Truxima;
 - ii. If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni*
 - b. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima*
6. Prescribed in combination with a glucocorticoid (e.g. prednisone, prednisolone, dexamethasone);
7. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
8. Dose does not exceed (a or b):
 - a. Induction: 375 mg/m² weekly for 4 weeks;
 - b. Follow up treatment: two-500 mg infusions separated by 2 weeks, then 500 mg every 6 months.

Approval duration: 6 months

D. Pemphigus Vulgaris and Pemphigus Foliaceus (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of PV or pemphigus foliaceus (PF);
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist;
4. Age ≥ 18 years;
5. If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, member must use ~~TWO~~ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (i and ii):
 - i. Ruxience and Truxima;
 - ii. If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni*
 - b. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima*
6. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
7. Dose does not exceed (a or b):
 - a. Initial: two-1,000 mg infusions separated by 2 weeks;
 - b. Maintenance: 500 mg every 6 months (starting 12 months after initial dose).

Approval duration: 6 months

E. NCCN Compendium Indications (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of any of the following (a-h):
 - a. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia in patients who are CD20-positive;
 - b. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicities;
 - c. Steroid refractory graft-versus-host disease;
 - d. Leptomeningeal metastases from lymphoma;
 - e. Nodular lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma;
 - f. Primary CNS lymphoma;
 - g. Rosai-Dorfman disease;
 - h. Waldenström's macroglobulinemia/lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma;
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
4. Age ≥ 18 years;
5. If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, member must use TWO ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (i and ii):
 - i. Ruxience and Truxima;
 - ii. If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni*
 - b. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima*
 - c. Request is for ~~Stage IV or metastatic cancer or treatment~~ associated ~~conditions~~.
Exception if "clinically equivalent with cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy, contains identical active ingredient(s), and proven to have same efficacy; in certain oncology settings (see Appendix E);
6. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
7. Dose is within FDA maximum limit for any FDA-approved indication or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: 6 months

F. Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD);
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist;
4. Age ≥ 18 years;
5. Member has experienced at least one relapse within the previous 12 months;
6. Baseline Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) score ≤ 8 ;
7. If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (a or b):

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



- a. If request is for Rituxan, member must use ~~TWO~~ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (i and ii):
 - i. Ruxience and Truxima;
 - ii. If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni*
- b. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima*
8. Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima is not prescribed concurrently with Soliris[®], Enspryng[™], or Uplizna[®];
9. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
10. Request meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Dose does not exceed 375 mg/m² per week for 4 weeks as induction, followed by 375 mg/m² biweekly every 6 to 12 months;
 - b. Dose does not exceed 1,000 mg biweekly every 6 to 12 months;
 - c. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: 6 months

G. Immune Thrombocytopenia (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of immune thrombocytopenia (ITP);
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a hematologist;
4. Current (within 30 days) platelet count is < 30,000/μL or member has an active bleed;
5. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Failure of a systemic corticosteroid;
 - b. Member has intolerance or contraindication to systemic corticosteroids, and failure of an immune globulin, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (*see Appendix B*);
**Prior authorization may be required for immune globulins*
6. If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, member must use ~~TWO~~ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (i and ii):
 - i. Ruxience and Truxima;
 - ii. If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni*
 - b. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima*
7. Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima is not prescribed concurrently with a thrombopoietin receptor agonist (e.g., Nplate[®], Promacta[®], Doptelet[®]);

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



8. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
9. Request meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Dose does not exceed 375 mg/m² per week for 4 weeks;
 - b. Dose does not exceed 1,000 mg on days 1 and 15;
 - c. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: 1 month

~~H. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet all):~~

- ~~1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):~~

H. Dermatomyositis (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of dermatomyositis (DM);
2. Request is for ~~Stage IV~~Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or ~~metastatic cancer~~in consultation with a dermatologist, rheumatologist, neurologist, or associated conditions. Exception if “neuromuscular specialist;
- ~~1-4.~~Failure of a 4-month trial of a systemic corticosteroid (e.g. prednisone) in combination with one of the following immunosuppressive agents, both at up to maximally indicated doses unless clinically equivalent therapy, contains identical active ingredient(s), and proven to have same efficacy.; significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated: methotrexate, azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, mycophenolate mofetil, tacrolimus, cyclosporine (*see Appendix D*);
- ~~2-5.~~If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (~~ia~~ or ~~ib~~):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, member must use ~~TWO~~ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (~~1i~~ and ~~2ii~~):
 - i. Ruxience and Truxima;
 - ii. If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni*
 - b. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima*
6. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (*see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized*);
- ~~6-7.~~Request meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Dose does not exceed both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Initial 1,000 mg/m² IV infusion;
 - ii. Followed by another 1,000 mg/m² dose given two weeks after the initial dose;
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: 1 month

I. Nephrotic Syndrome (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of nephrotic syndrome (NS) associated with one of the following (a - f):
 - a. Idiopathic membranous nephropathy (IMN);
 - b. Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis;
 - c. Minimal change disease (MCD);
 - d. Membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis;
 - e. Lupus nephritis;
 - f. IgA nephropathy;
2. Request is for Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a nephrologist;
4. Failure of oral corticosteroid therapy, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Failure of one of the following immunosuppressant agents, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated:
cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil, tacrolimus, cyclosporine, mycophenolate mofetil;
6. If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. If request is for Rituxan, member must use ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (i and ii):
 - i. Ruxience and Truxima;
 - ii. If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni*
 - b. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima*
7. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized);
8. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Dose does not exceed 375 mg/m² IV infusion once weekly up to 4 doses;
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (prescriber must submit supporting evidence).

Approval duration: 1 month**J. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet all):**

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. For stage 4 advanced, metastatic cancer or associated conditions. Exception if “clinically equivalent therapy, contains identical active ingredient(s), and proven to have same efficacy.
 - b. If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. If request is for Rituxan, member must use ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (1 and 2):
 - 1) Ruxience and Truxima;

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-arrx, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



- 2) If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni*
- ii. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima*
- 2. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - ~~a.~~ Members with the following diagnosis may be covered if the off-label criteria policy is met:
 - ~~b.a.~~ Myasthenia gravis;
 - ~~i.~~ Nephrotic syndrome;
 - b. Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosisIf this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to LA.PMN.255
 - c. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized):LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid;AND criterion 1 above does not apply,refer to the off-label use policy LA.PMN.53

II. Continued Approval

A. Immune Thrombocytopenia (off-label):

- 1. Re-authorization is not permitted. Members must meet the initial approval criteria.
Approval duration: Not applicable

B. All Other Indications in Section I (must meet all):

- 1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connections or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Documentation supports that member is currently receiving Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima, or Rituxan Hycela for a covered oncology indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
- 2. Meets one of the following (a, b, c, d, or ~~de~~):
 - a. For NMOSD: Member is responding positively to therapy – including but not limited to improvement or stabilization in any of the following parameters:
 - i. Frequency of relapses;
 - ii. EDSS score;
 - iii. Visual acuity;
 - b. For PV or PF: Member is responding positively to therapy, or member has experienced relapse;
 - c. For RA: member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. A decrease in CDAI (*see Appendix G*) or RAPID3 (*see Appendix H*) score from baseline;

- ii. Medical justification stating inability to conduct CDAI re-assessment, and submission of RAPID3 score associated with disease severity that is similar to initial CDAI assessment or improved;
- d. For DM (both i and ii):
 - i. Provider documentation that states member has continual resistant DM after receiving initial rituximab dose and is previously or currently resistant to a systemic corticosteroid in combination with one of the following immunosuppressive agents, both at up to maximally indicated doses unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated: methotrexate, azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, mycophenolate mofetil, tacrolimus, cyclosporine (see Appendix D);
 - ii. Request for proceeding dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (prescriber must submit supporting evidence);
- ~~d.e.~~ For all other indications: Member is responding positively to therapy;
- 3. If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):*
 - * For GPA or MPA requests, requirements apply for members ≥ 18 years of age
 - a. Request is ~~Stage IV or metastatic cancer or for treatment~~ associated ~~conditions. Exception if “clinically equivalent with cancer for a State with regulations against step~~ therapy, ~~contains identical active ingredient(s), and proven to have same efficacy; in certain oncology settings (see Appendix E);~~
 - b. If request is for Rituxan, member must use ~~TWO~~ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (i and ii):
 - i. Ruxience and Truxima;
 - ii. If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;
 - *Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni
 - c. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
 - *Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima
- 4. For NMOSD: Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima is not prescribed concurrently with Soliris, Enspryng, or Uplizna;
- 5. Member does not have combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or Janus kinase inhibitors (see Section III: Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized);
- 6. If request is for a dose increase, request meets either of the following (a or b):*
 - a. New dose does not exceed the following (i-vii):
 - i. NHL: (1 or 2):
 - 1) Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima: 500 mg/m² per IV infusion;
 - 2) Rituxan Hycela: 1,600 mg/26,800 units per SC injection;
 - ii. RA (Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima): two-1,000 mg IV infusions every 16 weeks;
 - iii. GPA/MPA (Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima) (1 and 2):
 - 1) Induction: 375 mg/m² IV weekly for up to 4 weeks total;
 - 2) Follow-up treatment: two-500 mg IV infusions separated by two weeks, then 500 mg IV every 6 months;

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-arrx, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



- iv. PV or PF (Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima) (a1 or b2):
 - 1) Maintenance: 500 mg IV every 6 months (starting 12 months after initial dose);
 - 2) Relapse: 1,000 mg IV once then 500 mg IV 16 weeks later, then 500 mg IV every 6 months;
- v. -NMOSD (Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima): 375 mg/m² or 1,000 mg biweekly every 6 to 12 months;
- vi. DM (Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima) (both 1 and 2):
 - 1) Initial 1,000 mg/m² IV infusion;
 - 2) Followed by another 1,000 mg/m² dose given two weeks after the initial dose;
- vii. NS (Rituxan/Riabni/Ruxience/Truxima): 375 mg/m² IV infusion once weekly up to 4 doses;
- b. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration: ~~12 months~~

DM, NS – 1 month

All other indications – 12 months

C. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet all):

- 1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Request is for ~~Stage IV or metastatic cancer or treatment~~ associated ~~conditions~~. Exception if “clinically equivalent with cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy, contains identical active ingredient(s), and proven to have same efficacy; in certain oncology settings (see Appendix E);
 - ~~d. a. If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (i or ii):~~
 - b. If request is for Rituxan or Riabni, member meets one of the following (i or ii):
 - ~~i. If request is for Rituxan, member must use TWO of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (1 and 2):~~
 - ~~1) Ruxience and Truxima;~~
 - ~~2) 1) If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;~~
 - ~~*Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni~~
 - ~~ii. i. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;~~
 - ~~*Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima~~
 - ~~2. 1. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):~~
 - ~~b. Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connections benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.~~
- Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or**
- i. ALL of the following, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (1 and 2):
 - 1) Ruxience and Truxima;

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



2) If member has failed Ruxience and Truxima, then member must use Riabni;

**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience, Truxima, and Riabni*

ii. If request is for Riabni, member must use Ruxience and Truxima, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;

**Prior authorization may be required for Ruxience and Truxima*

2. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):

~~e.~~—Members with the following diagnosis may be covered if the off-label criteria policy is met:

~~a.~~ Myasthenia gravis;

~~i. Nephrotic syndrome;~~

b. Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosisIf this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to LA.PMN.255

~~e.c.~~ If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid.) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy LA.PMN.53

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policy – LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.
- B. Combination use with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) or potent immunosuppressants, including but not limited to any tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists [e.g., Cimzia®, Enbrel®, Humira® and its biosimilars, Simponi®, Avsola™, Inflectra™, Remicade®, Renflexis™], interleukin agents [e.g., Arcalyst® (IL-1 blocker), Ilaris® (IL-1 blocker), Kineret® (IL-1RA), Actemra® (IL-6RA), Kevzara® (IL-6RA), Stelara® (IL-12/23 inhibitor), Cosentyx® (IL-17A inhibitor), Taltz® (IL-17A inhibitor), Siliq™ (IL-17RA), Ilumya™ (IL-23 inhibitor), Skyrizi™ (IL-23 inhibitor), Tremfya® (IL-23 inhibitor)], Janus kinase inhibitors (JAKi) [e.g., Xeljanz®/Xeljanz® XR, Cibinqo™, Olumiant™, Rinvoq™], anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies [Rituxan®, Riabni™, Ruxience™, Truxima®, Rituxan Hycela®], selective co-stimulation modulators [Orencia®], and integrin receptor antagonists [Entyvio®] because of the additive immunosuppression, increased risk of neutropenia, as well as increased risk of serious infections.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

AAN: American Academy of Neurology

ACR: American College of Rheumatology

ARR: annualized relapse rate

B-AL: b-cell acute leukemia

BL: Burkitt lymphoma

BLL: Burkitt-like lymphomas

CDAI: clinical disease activity index

CHOP: cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone

CLL: chronic lymphocytic leukemia

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-arrx, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



CVP: cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone	MS: multiple sclerosis
DLBCL: diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	MTX: methotrexate
<u>DM: dermatomyositis</u>	NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network
DMARD: disease-modifying antirheumatic drug	NHL: Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
EDSS: expanded disability status scale	NMOSD: neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder
FC: fludarabine and cyclophosphamide	<u>NS: nephrotic syndrome</u>
FDA: Food and Drug Administration	PF: pemphigus foliaceus
FL: follicular lymphoma	PPMS: primary progressive MS
GPA: granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis)	PV: pemphigus vulgaris
<u>IMN: idiopathic membranous nephropathy</u>	RA: rheumatoid arthritis
ITP: immune thrombocytopenia	RAPID3: routine assessment of patient index data 3
JAKi: Janus kinase inhibitors	RCT: randomized controlled trial
MALT: mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue	RRMS: relapsing-remitting MS
<u>MCD: minimal change disease</u>	SLL: small lymphocytic lymphoma
MPA: microscopic polyangiitis	

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
RA		
azathioprine (Azasan [®] , Imuran [®])	1 mg/kg/day PO QD or divided BID	2.5 mg/kg/day
Cuprimine [®] (d-penicillamine)*	<u>Initial dose:</u> 125 or 250 mg PO QD <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 500 – 750 mg/day PO QD	1,500 mg/day
cyclosporine (Sandimmune [®] , Neoral [®])	2.5 – 4 mg/kg/day PO divided BID	4 mg/kg/day
hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil [®])*	<u>Initial dose:</u> 400 – 600 mg/day PO QD <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 200 – 400 mg/day PO QD	5 mg/kg/day
leflunomide (Arava [®])	100 mg PO QD for 3 days, then 20 mg PO QD	20 mg/day
methotrexate (Rheumatrex [®])	7.5 mg/week PO, SC, or IM or 2.5 mg PO Q12 hr for 3 doses/week	30 mg/week
Ridaura [®] (auranofin)	6 mg PO QD or 3 mg PO BID	9 mg/day
sulfasalazine (Azulfidine [®])	2 g/day PO in divided doses	3 gm/day
Enbrel (etanercept)	25 mg SC twice weekly or 50 mg SC once weekly	50 mg/week

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Humira (adalimumab)	40 mg SC every other week (may increase to once weekly)	40 mg/week
Avsola TM , Renflexis TM , Inflectra [®] (infliximab)	In conjunction with MTX <u>Initial dose:</u> 3 mg/kg IV at weeks 0, 2 and 6 <u>Maintenance dose:</u> 3 mg/kg IV every 8 weeks Some patients may benefit from increasing the dose up to 10 mg/kg or treating as often as every 4 weeks	10 mg/kg every 4 weeks
<i>GPA, MPA</i>		
glucocorticoids	Varies	Varies
<i>ITP</i>		
corticosteroids	Varies	Varies
immune globulins (e.g., Carimune [®] NF, Flebogamma [®] DIF 10%, Gammagard [®] S/D, Gammaked TM , Gamunex [®] -C, Gammaplex [®] , Octagam [®] 10%, Privigen [®])	Refer to prescribing information	Refer to prescribing information
<i>DM</i>		
<u>azathioprine (Imuran[®])*</u>	<u>2 mg/kg PO QD or 50 mg/day PO up to 2 to 3 mg/kg/day</u>	<u>Not applicable</u>
<u>cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan[®])*</u>	<u>1 to 3 mg/kg/day PO QD or 500 mg IV every 2 weeks for 6 doses</u>	<u>Not applicable</u>
<u>cyclosporine (Gengraf[®], Neoral[®], Sandimmune[®])*</u>	<u>5 to 10 mg/kg/day PO</u>	<u>Not applicable</u>
<u>methotrexate (Rheumatrex[®])*</u>	<u>10 to 25 mg/week PO/IV</u>	<u>50 mg/week</u>
<u>mycophenolate mofetil (Cellcept[®])*</u>	<u>250 to 500 mg PO BID, increasing to a target dose of 1,500-3,000 mg/day</u>	<u>3 g/day</u>
<u>tacrolimus (Prograf[®])*</u>	<u>0.075 mg/kg/day PO BID OR begin at 1 mg PO BID, increase to reach trough of 5-10 ng/mL</u>	<u>Not applicable</u>
<u>Systemic corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone,</u>	<u>Varies</u>	<u>Varies</u>

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-arrx, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
<u>prednisolone,</u> <u>methylprednisolone)</u>		
<u>NS</u>		
<u>Systemic corticosteroids*</u> <u>(e.g., prednisone)</u>	<u>prednisone: 60 mg/m² PO per day or 2 mg/kg</u> <u>PO per day until urine protein tests are</u> <u>negative or trace for three consecutive days</u>	<u>Varies</u>
<u>tacrolimus (Prograf®)*</u>	<u>0.05-0.1 mg/kg/day PO (starting dose) given in</u> <u>two divided doses</u>	<u>Varies</u>
<u>cyclosporine (Neoral®),</u> <u>Sandimmune®)*</u>	<u>4-5 mg/kg/day PO in two equally divided</u> <u>doses 12 hours apart</u>	<u>5 mg/kg/day</u>
<u>cyclophosphamide*</u>	<u>2 mg/kg/day PO for 12 weeks</u>	<u>2 mg</u> <u>mg/kg/day</u>
<u>mycophenolate</u> <u>(CellCept®)*</u>	<u>1,200 mg/m²/day PO given in two divided</u> <u>doses</u>	<u>1,200</u> <u>mg/m²/day</u>
<u>Leukeran® (chlorambucil)*</u>	<u>0.1-0.2 mg/kg/day PO given for 8 weeks</u>	<u>Varies</u>

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

**Off-label*

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): none reported
- Boxed warning(s):
 - Fatal infusion reactions (Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima)
 - Severe mucocutaneous reactions, hepatitis B virus reactivation, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima, Rituxan Hycela)

Appendix D: General Information

- Definition of MTX or disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) failure
 - Child-bearing age is not considered a contraindication for use of MTX. Each drug has risks in pregnancy. An educated patient and family planning would allow use of MTX in patients who have no intention of immediate pregnancy.
 - Social use of alcohol is not considered a contraindication for use of MTX. MTX may only be contraindicated if patients choose to drink over 14 units of alcohol per week. However, excessive alcohol drinking can lead to worsening of the condition, so patients who are serious about clinical response to therapy should refrain from excessive alcohol consumption.
- Examples of positive response to RA therapy may include, but are not limited to:
 - Reduction in joint pain/swelling/tenderness
 - Improvement in ESR/CRP levels
 - Improvements in activities of daily living
- Off-label use in multiple sclerosis (MS):

- The off-label use of rituximab in relapsing-remitting MS (RRMS) and primary progressive MS (PPMS) is supported by Class IIb recommendations in Micromedex with the following clinical evidence:
 - RRMS: 1 randomized controlled trial (RCT) (N = 104) found there was a significant difference in T1-weighted lesion count at 24 weeks and annualized relapse rate (ARR) at 24 weeks (but not at 48 weeks) for patients receiving rituximab compared to placebo. Important limitations of this study are poor methodological quality and high risk of attrition bias resulting from a high dropout rate (40% in placebo and 15.9% in rituximab).
 - PPMS: 1 RCT (N = 439) found there was no significant difference in confirmed disability progression for patients receiving rituximab compared to placebo.
- In the 2018 MS guidelines, the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) does not prefer any one disease-modifying therapy over another for the treatment of RRMS, except for Gilenya®, Tysabri®, and Lemtrada® for highly active disease. The recommended agent in PPMS is Ocrevus®. AAN makes the following comments on rituximab:
 - RRMS:
 - Rituximab is probably more effective than placebo in decreasing the risk of relapse at 1 year.
 - There is insufficient evidence to determine the efficacy of rituximab compared with placebo in decreasing the ARR at 1 year.
 - Rituximab is probably more effective than placebo in decreasing the volume of T2 lesions from baseline to week 36.
 - PPMS: The randomized controlled trial of rituximab in PPMS was promising but inconclusive.
- Off-label use in NMOSD:
 - Rituxan is considered a standard first-line treatments for NMOSD per clinical reviews and the 2010 European Federation of Neurological Societies guideline. Comparative analyses shows that rituximab significantly reduces attack frequency and stabilizes or reduces neurological disabilities while achieving long-term safety. Neurological disability was assessed via the EDSS score, which ranges from 0 (no disability) to 10 (death).
 - In a 5-year follow-up of 30 patients from a 2-year retrospective case series, 18 (60%) were relapse free and 28 (93%) had improved or stabilized disability as evidenced by improvement in the EDSS score. The mean (SD) pretreatment versus posttreatment annualized relapse rate (ARR) was 2.4 (1.5) versus 0.3 (1.0) ($p < 0.001$). No serious adverse events resulted in discontinuation of therapy.
 - In a 1-year RCT with 68 patients who had a baseline EDSS score ≤ 7 , rituximab demonstrated a higher proportion decrease in ARR (SD) than azathioprine (0.83 (0.37) compared to 0.56 (0.50), $p = 0.022$). The mean change in EDSS score (SD) was -0.98 (1.14) with rituximab versus -0.44 (0.54) with azathioprine ($p < 0.001$). There were no statistically significant difference in adverse effects.
 - A 2019 meta-analysis that included 26 studies and 577 patients showed a significant mean decrease in the ARR after rituximab therapy (-1.56 (95% CI -

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-arrx, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



1.82 to -1.29). There was no significant correlation found between AQP4-IgG serostatus and ARR or EDSS.

- Off-label use of Ruxience in DM:

- Per the 2020 American Academy of Dermatology treatment guidelines for RA:DM, rituximab is the appropriate next step in therapy in cases where a combination of systemic corticosteroids and an oral immunosuppressant fail. In individuals with vasculopathic or calcinotic lesions, adults with anti-MDA5 positivity, or children with NXP-2 positivity, rituximab plus systemic corticosteroids can be considered first-line treatment. Additionally, patients with juvenile DM and calcinosis should be preferentially treated with IVIG because it has the best data supporting its use for calcinosis specifically.

- While

- While Ruxience currently does not have an FDA indication for RA, the biosimilar was studied in a phase 1 trial comparing its pharmacokinetic (PK) versus EU- and US-licensed reference rituximab. MabThera and Rituxan, respectively, in 220 patients with active RA. The PK profiles of all 3 rituximab products were similar, and all resulted in sustained, profound B cell suppression up to week 25. The incidence of antidrug antibodies was similar across all 3 study arms, and no clinically meaningful differences in adverse events was noted.

Appendix F: The 2010 ACR Classification Criteria for RA

Add score of categories A through D; a score of ≥ 6 out of 10 is needed for classification of a patient as having definite RA.

A	Joint involvement	Score
	1 large joint	0
	2-10 large joints	1
	1-3 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)	2
	4-10 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)	3
	> 10 joints (at least one small joint)	5
B	Serology (at least one test result is needed for classification)	
	Negative rheumatoid factor (RF) and negative anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA)	0
	Low positive RF or low positive ACPA * Low: $< 3 \times$ upper limit of normal	2
	High positive RF or high positive ACPA * High: $\geq 3 \times$ upper limit of normal	3
C	Acute phase reactants (at least one test result is needed for classification)	
	Normal C-reactive protein (CRP) and normal erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)	0
	Abnormal CRP or abnormal ESR	1
D	Duration of symptoms	
	< 6 weeks	0
	≥ 6 weeks	1

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-~~pvvr~~, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



Appendix G: Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) Score

The ~~Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI)~~ is a composite index for assessing disease activity in RA. CDAI is based on the simple summation of the count of swollen/tender joint count of 28 joints along with patient and physician global assessment on VAS (0–10 cm) Scale for estimating disease activity. The CDAI score ranges from 0 to 76.

CDAI Score	Disease state interpretation
≤ 2.8	Remission
> 2.8 to ≤ 10	Low disease activity
> 10 to ≤ 22	Moderate disease activity
> 22	High disease activity

Appendix H: Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID3) Score

The ~~Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID3)~~ is a pooled index of the three patient-reported ACR core data set measures: function, pain, and patient global estimate of status. Each of the individual measures is scored 0 – 10, and the maximum achievable score is 30.

RAPID3 Score	Disease state interpretation
≤ 3	Remission
3.1 to 6	Low disease activity
6.1 to 12	Moderate disease activity
> 12	High disease activity

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	Low-grade and follicular B-cell NHL	<p>375 mg/m² IV infusion according to the following schedules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relapsed or refractory, low-grade or follicular, CD20+, B-cell NHL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once weekly for 4 or 8 doses Retreatment: once weekly for 4 doses Previously untreated, follicular, CD20+, B-cell NHL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer on Day 1 of each cycle of chemotherapy for up to 8 doses; If complete or partial response, initiate rituximab maintenance treatment as a single-agent every 8 weeks for 12 doses to start 8 weeks following completion of a rituximab product in combination with chemotherapy. Non-progressing, low-grade, CD20+, B-cell NHL, after first-line CVP chemotherapy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following completion of 6-8 cycles of CVP chemotherapy, administer once weekly for 4 doses at 6-month intervals to a maximum of 16 doses. 	375 mg/m ² IV infusion
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	Low-grade and follicular B-cell NHL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rituximab in combination with Zevalin for low-grade or follicular B-cell NHL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 mg/m² IV within 4 hrs prior to administration of Indium-111-(In-111-) Zevalin and Yttrium-90-(Y-90) Zevalin. Administer rituximab and In-111-Zevalin 7–9 days prior to rituximab and Y-90-Zevalin. Refer to the Zevalin package insert for full prescribing information regarding the Zevalin therapeutic regimen. 	375 mg/m ² IV infusion

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Rituxan	Pediatric patients \geq 6 months with previously untreated mature B-cell NHL/ B-AL	375 mg/m ² IV infusion, in combination with cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, and vincristine chemotherapy, given as 2 separate doses during each of the induction courses and one dose during each consolidation course, for a total of 6 infusions	375 mg/m ² IV infusion
Rituxan Hycela	Follicular B-cell NHL	<p>1,400 mg rituximab and 23,400 units hyaluronidase SC according to the following schedules:</p> <p><i>First dose must be with IV rituximab if indicated with an asterisk (*).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relapsed or refractory FL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once weekly for 3 or 7 weeks (i.e., 4 or 8 weeks in total)* Retreatment: once weekly for 3 weeks (i.e., 4 weeks in total)* Previously untreated FL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer on Day 1 of Cycles 2–8 of chemotherapy (every 21 days), for up to 7 cycles (i.e., up to 8 cycles in total)* If complete/partial response, initiate Rituxan Hycela maintenance treatment as a single-agent every 8 weeks for 12 doses to start 8 weeks following completion of Rituxan Hycela in combination with chemotherapy Non-progressing FL after first-line CVP chemotherapy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following completion of 6–8 cycles of CVP chemotherapy, administer once weekly for 3 weeks (i.e., 4 weeks in total) at 6 month intervals to a maximum of 16 doses* 	1,400 mg/23,400 units SC per injection
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	DLBCL (a B-cell NHL)	375 mg/m ² IV infusion on Day 1 of each cycle of chemotherapy for up to 8 doses total.	375 mg/m ² IV infusion

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Rituxan Hycela	DLBCL (a B-cell NHL)	<i>First dose must be with IV Rituxanrituximab</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,400 mg rituximab and 23,400 units hyaluronidase SC on Day 1 of Cycles 2–8 of CHOP chemotherapy for up to 7 cycles (i.e., up to 6–8 cycles in total) 	1,400 mg/23,400 units SC per injection
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	CLL (a B-cell NHL)	375 mg/m ² IV infusion on the day prior to initiation of FC chemotherapy, then 500 mg/m ² on Day 1 of cycles 2-6 (every 28 days).	500 mg/m ² per day
Rituxan Hycela	CLL (a B-cell NHL)	<i>First dose must be with IV Rituxanrituximab</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,600 mg/26,800 units on Day 1 of Cycles 2–6 (every 28 days) for a total of 5 cycles (i.e., 6 cycles in total) 	1,600 mg/26,800 units SC per injection
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	RA	Two 1,000 mg IV infusions separated by 2 weeks (i.e., day 1 and day 15), followed by two 1,000 mg IV infusions <u>every 24 weeks or based on clinical evaluation, but not sooner than every 16 weeks</u> . Rituximab is given in combination with MTX.	Initial: 1,000 mg on day 1 and 15 <u>Maintenance: 1,000 mg every 16 weeks</u>
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilar	Pediatric B-cell NHL/B-AL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 375 mg/m² IV infusions for a total of 6 doses in combination with Lymphome Malin B chemotherapy (2 doses in first and second induction courses and 1 dose in each consolidation course) 	375 mg/m ² for total 6 doses
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	GPA/ MPA	<p>Induction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 375 mg/m² IV once weekly for 4 weeks in combination with glucocorticoids <p>Follow-up treatment if disease control with induction treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two 500 mg IV infusions separated by 2 weeks, followed by 500 mg IV every 6 months thereafter based on clinical evaluation. Follow up treatment should be initiated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 24 weeks after the last rituximab induction infusion or based on clinical evaluation, but no sooner than 16 weeks after the last rituximab induction infusion. 	<p>Induction: 375 mg/m² per week</p> <p>Follow-up treatment: 500 mg/dose (see regimen for dosing frequency)</p>

CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-arrx, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the 4 week period following achievement of disease control if induction was achieved with other immunosuppressants. 	
Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars	PV	Initial and maintenance therapy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two 1,000 mg IV infusions separated by 2 weeks with a tapering course of glucocorticoids, then 500 mg IV at month 12 and every 6 months thereafter or based on clinical evaluation Relapse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,000 mg IV once. Subsequent infusions may be administered no sooner than 16 weeks following the previous infusion. 	Initial/relapse: 1,000 mg/dose Maintenance: 500 mg/6 months
<u>Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars</u>	<u>DM*</u>	<u>1,000 mg/m² IV weekly x 2 weeks</u>	<u>1,000 mg/m² per week for total 2 doses</u>
<u>Rituxan and rituximab biosimilars</u>	<u>NS*</u>	<u>375 mg/m² IV infusion once weekly for 1 to 4 doses</u>	<u>375 mg/m²/week for up to 4 doses</u>

**Off-label use*

VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Rituximab (Rituxan)	Single-dose vials for IV injection: 100 mg/10 mL, 500 mg/50 mL
Rituximab-arrx (Riabni)	Single-dose vials for IV injection: 100 mg/10 mL, 500 mg/50 mL
Rituximab-pvvr (Ruxience)	Single-dose vials for IV injection: 100 mg/10 mL, 500 mg/50 mL
Rituximab-abbs (Truxima)	Single-dose vials for IV injection: 100 mg/10 mL, 500 mg/50 mL
Rituximab-hyaluronidase (Rituxan Hycela)	Single-dose vials for SC injection: 1,400 mg/23,400 units, 1,600 mg/26,800 units

VII. References

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CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, ~~Rituximab~~-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs, Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPSC Codes	Description
J9311	Injection, rituximab 10 mg and hyaluronidase
J9312	Injection, rituximab, 10 mg
Q5115	Injection, rituximab-abbs, biosimilar, (Truxima), 10 mg
Q5119	Injection, rituximab-pvvr, biosimilar, (Ruxience), 10 mg
Q5123	Injection, rituximab-arrx, biosimilar, (Riabni), 10 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	LDH Approval Date
Converted corporate policy to local policy	01.21	04.21
Added GVHD (2A) to NCCN Compendium (off-label) section; ensured alignment of biosimilars with Rituxan throughout policy; added FDA-approved biosimilar Riabni to all policy criteria applicable to Rituxan; added combination of bDMARDs under Section III; updated CDAI table with ">" to prevent overlap in classification of severity; modified Avsola to parity status with Inflectra and Renflexis; for Ruxience updated FDA approved indications to include RA per updated prescribing information. clarified GVHD use as steroid-refractory; added NCCN-recommended off-label use for Rosai-Dorfman disease; updated existing off-label pediatric mature B-Cell NHL criteria to reflect FDA-approved status; reiterated requirement against combination use with a bDMARD or JAKi from Section III to Sections I and II; references reviewed and updated.	04.22	<u>05.17.22</u>
<u>For Riabni, updated FDA approved indications to include RA per updated prescribing information. Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section. Criteria added for off-label use in dermatomyositis. Criteria added for off-label use in NS; for RA, added TNFi criteria to allow bypass if member has had history of failure of two TNF blockers; removed nephrotic syndrome in other diagnoses/indications section in initial and continued therapy; continued therapy approval duration for DM updated to 1 month; updated Appendix D with recommendations from the 2019 ACR/AR guideline for the treatment of JIA stating that rituximab is not favored as pJIA therapy; references reviewed and updated.</u> <u>Added verbiage this policy is for medical benefit only.</u>	<u>06.02.23</u>	

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. LHCC makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable LHCC administrative policies and procedures.

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This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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CLINICAL POLICY

Rituximab, Rituximab-~~arrx~~, Rituximab-pvvr, Rituximab-abbs,
Rituximab-Hyaluronidase



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