I. Length of Authorization

Coverage will be provided for 6 months (12 months initially for pemphigus vulgaris) and may be renewed unless otherwise specified.

- Maintenance therapy for oncology indications (excluding ALL) may be renewed for up to a maximum of 2 years.
- Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) may not be renewed.
- Relapse therapy for pemphigus vulgaris must be at least 16 weeks past a prior infusion

II. Dosing Limits

A. Max Units (per dose and over time) [Medical Benefit]:

- 300 billable units every 28 days

Guideline

III. Initial Approval Criteria

- Patient is at least 18 years old; AND
- Prescriber and patient must be enrolled in and meet the conditions of the TOUCH program; **AND**
- Documented negative JCV antibody ELISA test within the past 6 months; **AND**
- Not used in combination with antineoplastic, immunosuppressant, or immunomodulating agents; **AND**
- Patient must not have a systemic medical condition resulting in significantly compromised immune system function; **AND**

**Multiple Sclerosis †**
- Patient has been diagnosed* with a relapsing form of multiple sclerosis [i.e. relapsing-remitting disease (RRMS) or secondary progressive disease (SPMS) with relapses]; **AND**
- Confirmed diagnosis* of MS as documented by laboratory report (i.e. MRI); **AND**
- Must be used as single agent therapy

**Crohn’s Disease †**
- Patient has moderate to severe active disease; **AND**
- Physician has assessed baseline disease severity utilizing an objective measure/tool; **AND**
- Documented trial and failure on **ONE** oral immunosuppressive therapy for at least 3 months, unless use is contraindicated, such as corticosteroids, methotrexate, azathioprine, and/or 6-mercaptopurine; **AND**
- Documented trial and failure on **ONE** TNF-Inhibitor therapy for at least 3 months, unless contraindicated, such as infliximab, certolizumab, or adalimumab; **AND**
- Used as single agent therapy [Not used concurrently with another biologic drug or immunosuppressant (e.g., 6-mercaptopurine, azathioprine, cyclosporine, methotrexate, etc.) used for Crohn’s Disease]

† FDA Approved Indication(s)

*Definitive diagnosis of MS with a relapsing-remitting course is based upon **BOTH** dissemination in time and space. Unless contraindicated, MRI should be obtained (even if criteria are met).*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dissemination in time</th>
<th>Dissemination in space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>(Development/appearance of new CNS lesions over time)</em></td>
<td><em>(Development of lesions in distinct anatomical locations within the CNS; multifocal)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• ≥ 2 clinical attacks; OR
• 1 clinical attack AND one of the following:
  o MRI indicating simultaneous presence of gadolinium-enhancing and non-enhancing lesions at any time or by a new T2-hyperintense or gadolinium-enhancing lesion on follow-up MRI compared to baseline scan
  o CSF-specific oligoclonal bands

• ≥ 2 lesions; OR
• 1 lesion AND one of the following:
  o Clear-cut historical evidence of a previous attack involving a lesion in a distinct anatomical location
  o MRI indicating ≥ 1 T2-hyperintense lesions characteristic of MS in ≥ 2 of 4 areas of the CNS (periventricular, cortical or juxtacortical, infratentorial, or spinal cord)

§ Risk factors for the development of Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML)  \(^{13,14}\)

• Presence of anti-JCV antibodies
• Prior treatment with an immunosuppressant
• Natalizumab treatment, especially beyond 2 years
• Elevated levels of anti-JCV antibody response index (i.e., index > 0.9)*

*In those using natalizumab for 25–36 months with no prior use of immunosuppressants, the PML risk is 0.2 per 1,000 in those with an index of 0.9 or less, 0.3 per 1,000 in those with an index of 0.9–1.5, and 3 per 1,000 in those with an index greater than 1.5.

IV. Renewal Criteria

Authorizations can be renewed based on the following criteria:

• Patient continues to meet the criteria identified above; AND
• Absence of unacceptable toxicity from the drug. Examples of unacceptable toxicity include the following: hypersensitivity reactions, hepatotoxicity, signs or symptoms of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), development of severe infections (including pneumonias, pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, pulmonary mycobacterium avium intracellulare, bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, herpes, urinary tract infections, gastroenteritis, vaginitis, tonsillitis, meningitis), etc.; AND
• Documented negative JCV antibody ELISA test within the past 6 months; AND
Multiple Sclerosis

- Continuous monitoring of response to therapy [manifestations of MS disease activity include, but are not limited to, an increase in annualized relapse rate (ARR), development of new/worsening T2 hyperintensities or enhancing lesions on brain/spinal MRI, and progression of sustained impairment as evidenced by expanded disability status scale (EDSS), timed 25-foot walk (T25-FW), 9-hole peg test (9-HPT)]
  - Inadequate response, in those who have been adherent and receiving therapy for sufficient time to realize the full treatment effect, is defined as ≥ 1 relapse, ≥ 2 unequivocally new MRI-detected lesions, or increased disability on examination over a one-year period
  - Infusion reactions or breakthrough disease activity may indicate neutralizing natalizumab antibodies. Therapy should be discontinued in patients who have persistent neutralizing antibodies to natalizumab

Crohn’s Disease

- **Initial renewal only:**
  - Clinical response and remission of disease is seen by 12 weeks

- **Second renewal only:**
  - Patient has been tapered off of oral corticosteroids within six months of starting Tysabri; AND
  - Disease response as indicated by improvement in signs and symptoms compared to baseline such as endoscopic activity, number of liquid stools, presence and severity of abdominal pain, presence of abdominal mass, body weight compared to IBW, hematocrit, presence of extra intestinal complications, tapering or discontinuation of corticosteroid therapy, use of anti-diarrheal drugs, and/or an improvement on a disease activity scoring tool [e.g. an improvement on the Crohn’s Disease Activity Index (CDAI) score or the Harvey-Bradshaw Index score.]

- **All subsequent renewals:**
  - Patient does not require additional steroid use that exceeds three months in a calendar year to control their Crohn’s disease; AND
  - Disease response as indicated by improvement in signs and symptoms compared to baseline such as endoscopic activity, number of liquid stools, presence and severity of abdominal pain, presence of abdominal mass, body weight compared to IBW, hematocrit, presence of extra intestinal complications, tapering or discontinuation of corticosteroid therapy, use of anti-diarrheal drugs, and/or an improvement on a disease activity scoring tool [e.g. an improvement on the Crohn’s Disease Activity Index (CDAI) score or the Harvey-Bradshaw Index score.]
V. Dosage/Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Indications</td>
<td>300 mg intravenously over one hour every four weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Limitations/Exclusions

Tysabri® (natalizumab) is not considered medically necessary for indications other than those listed above due to insufficient evidence of therapeutic value.

Applicable Procedure Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J2323</td>
<td>Injection, natalizumab, 1 mg</td>
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</table>

Applicable NDCs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64406-0008-xx</td>
<td>Tysabri 300 mg/15 mL single-use vial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicable Diagnosis Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G35</td>
<td>Multiple Sclerosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K50.00</td>
<td>Crohn's disease of small intestine without complications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K50.011</td>
<td>Crohn's disease of small intestine with rectal bleeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K50.012</td>
<td>Crohn's disease of small intestine with intestinal obstruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K50.013</td>
<td>Crohn's disease of small intestine with fistula</td>
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<tr>
<td>K50.014</td>
<td>Crohn's disease of small intestine with abscess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K50.018</td>
<td>Crohn's disease of small intestine with other complication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K50.019</td>
<td>Crohn's disease of small intestine with unspecified complications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K50.10</td>
<td>Crohn's disease of large intestine without complications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K50.111</td>
<td>Crohn's disease of large intestine with rectal bleeding</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Revision History

N/A

### VI. References


