

# DRUG DETERMINATION POLICY

**Title:** DDP-09 Orencia

**Effective Date:** 08/31/2021



Physicians Health Plan  
PHP Insurance Company  
PHP Service Company

## Important Information - Please Read Before Using This Policy

The following policy applies to health benefit plans administered by PHP and may not be covered by all PHP plans. Please refer to the member's benefit document for specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member's benefit document, the member's benefit document will be used to determine coverage. For example, a member's benefit document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a coverage policy.

Benefit determinations for individual requests require consideration of:

1. The terms of the applicable benefit document in effect on the date of service.
2. Any applicable laws and regulations.
3. Any relevant collateral source materials including coverage policies.
4. The specific facts of the particular situation.

Contact PHP Customer Service to discuss plan benefits more specifically.

### 1.0 Policy:

This policy describes the determination process for coverage of specific drugs.

This policy does not guarantee or approve benefits. Coverage depends on the specific benefit plan. Drug Determination Policies are not recommendations for treatment and should not be used as treatment guidelines.

### 2.0 Background or Purpose:

Orencia is a specialty drug indicated for a number of diagnoses and is associated with significant toxicity. These criteria were developed and implemented to ensure appropriate use for the intended diagnoses and mitigation of toxicity, if possible.

Note that this policy applies only to the intravenous infusion formulation of Orencia, not the self-administered subcutaneous (SQ) formulation.

### 3.0 Clinical Determination Guidelines:

Document the following with chart notes:

#### I. General Considerations.

A. Orencia subcutaneous (abatacept SQ) is an excluded product.

1. Contraindication, inadequate response after four months, or significant adverse effects to all preferred biologic products.

B. Medication administration [must meet both listed below]:

1. At required site-of-care as determined by the Health Plan.
2. Concomitant immunosuppressives: Orencia is not to be used with other immunosuppressives (e.g., biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs and Janus Kinase inhibitors).

- C. Appropriate medication use [must meet one listed below]:
  - 1. FDA approval status [must meet one listed below]:
    - a. FDA approved: product, indication, and/or dosage regimen.
    - b. Non-FDA approved: Compendium support (Lexicomp™) for use of a drug for a non-FDA approved indication or dosage regimen
  - 2. Place in therapy: sequence of therapy supported by national or international accepted guidelines and/or studies (e.g., oncologic, infectious conditions).

II. Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis [must meet all listed below]:

- A. Age: at least six years.
- B. Diagnosis and severity: moderate to severe active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis.
- C. Other therapies: contraindicated, inadequate response after four months with each agent or had significant adverse effects to one disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) and one biological drug
  - 1. Chronic traditional DMARD: sulfasalazine, methotrexate.
  - 2. Biological: pharmacy self-injected agent - Humira, Enbrel; medical infused agent - Renflexis, Inflectra
- D. Dosage Regimen: Orencia intravenous (abatacept IV).

Weight	Dose	# of vials	Initial	Maintenance	Route
< 75 kg	10 mg/kg	N/A	0, 2, 4 weeks	Every 4 weeks	IV Infusion
75 - 100 kg	750 mg	3			
>100 kg	1,000 mg	4			

- E. Approval.
  - 1. Initial: six months.
  - 2. Re-approval: one year (decreased or sustained reduction in disease activity).

III. Rheumatoid Arthritis [must meet all listed below]:

- A. Age: at least 18 years.
- B. Disease severity: moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis.
- C. Other therapies: contraindicated, inadequate response after four months with each agent or significant adverse effects to two DMARDs and one biological drug.
  - 1. Chronic traditional DMARD: methotrexate, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine.
  - 2. Biologic: pharmacy self-injected agent: Humira, Enbrel; medical infused product – Renflexis, Inflectra, Simponi Aria.

D. Dosage regimen: Orenzia (abatacept):

Weight	Dose	# of vials	Initial	Maintenance	Route
< 60 kg	500 mg	2	0, 2, 4 weeks	Every 4 weeks	IV Infusion
60-100 kg	750 mg	3			
>100 kg	1,000 mg	4			

E. Approval.

1. Initial: six months.
2. Re-approval: one year (decreased or sustained reduction in disease activity).

IV. Psoriatic Arthritis [must meet all listed below]:

- A. Age: at least 18 years.
- B. Diagnosis and severity: active psoriatic arthritis with at least five swollen and tender joints.
- C. Other therapies: contraindicated, inadequate response after four months with each agent or significant adverse effects to one based on location and one biological drug.
  1. Per location.
    - a. Peripheral disease: disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug - methotrexate, leflunomide, sulfasalazine.
    - b. Axial disease, enthesitis, dactylitis and uveitis: nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.
  2. Biological therapy: pharmacy self-injected agent - Enbrel, Humira, Otezla; medical infused agent - Renflexis, Inflectra, Simponi Aria.
- D. Dosage regimen: Orenzia intravenous (abatacept IV).

Weight	Dose	# of vials	Initial	Maintenance	Route
< 60 kg	500 mg	2	0, 2, 4 weeks	Every 4 weeks	IV Infusion
60-100 kg	750 mg	3			
>100 kg	1,000 mg	4			

E. Approval.

- a. Initial: six months.
- b. Re-approval: one year (decreased or sustained reduction in disease activity).

4.0 Coding:

AFFECTED CODES				
HCPSC Code	Brand Name	Generic Name	HCPSC units (per 1 unit)	Prior authorization
J0129	Orenzia	abatacept	10 mg	Yes

## 5.0 References, Citations & Resources:

1. Lexicomp Online®, Lexi-Drugs® , Hudson, Ohio: Lexi-Comp, Inc.; Orenca, accessed July, 2020.
2. Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. Pediatric Clinics of North America.2005;52(2).
3. 2015 college of Rheumatology Guideline for the treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis. Arthritis & Rheumatology. 2016;68(1):1-26.
4. 2013 Update of the 2011 American College of Rheumatology recommendations for the treatment of juvenile Idiopathic arthritis. Arthritis & Rheumatology. 2013;65(10):2499-2512.
5. British Association of Dermatologists guidelines for the biological therapy for psoriasis 2017;177(3):628-36.
6. Clinical Practice Guidelines for the treatment of patients with axial spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis. Madrid, (Spain): Spanish Society of Rheumatology (SER);2015.
7. Treatment of Psoriatic arthritis[https://www.uptodate.com/contents/treatment-of-psoriatic-arthritis?search=psoriatic%20arthritis%20treatment&source=search\\_result&selectedTitle=1~150&usage\\_type=default&display\\_rank=1](https://www.uptodate.com/contents/treatment-of-psoriatic-arthritis?search=psoriatic%20arthritis%20treatment&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1~150&usage_type=default&display_rank=1) UpToDate accessed June 2021.

## 6.0 Appendices:

See page 5.

## 7.0 Revision History:

Original Effective Date: March 18, 2010

Next Review Date: 07/28/2022

Revision Date	Reason for Revision
3/19	Moving to new format
4/29/19	Edition revised format
7/19	Annual review; clarifications added; replaced abbreviations
6/20	Annual review; replaced abbreviations, added no use with other biologicals, changed other therapies language, clarified criteria instructions, approved by P&T Committee 8/26/20.
6/21	Annual review; formatting, clarified criteria instructions, replaced abbreviations, added reference #7, added appropriate use and reformatted

Appendix I: Monitoring & Patient Safety

Drug	Adverse Reactions	Monitoring	REMS
Orencia (abatacept)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Nervous System: headache (<math>\leq 18\%</math>)</li> <li>• Gastrointestinal: nausea (10%),</li> <li>• Respiratory: bronchitis (5-13%), nasopharyngitis (12%), upper respiratory infection (13%)</li> <li>• Miscellaneous: infection (36-54%), antibodies (2-41%)</li> <li>• Pregnancy Category: C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infection: monitor signs and symptoms</li> <li>• TB skin test pretreatment</li> <li>• Viral Hepatitis B test pretreatment</li> </ul>	None needed