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Medical benefit drug policies are a source for BCBSM and BCN medical policy information only. These documents are not to be used to determine benefits or reimbursement. Please reference the appropriate certificate or contract for benefit information. This policy may be updated and therefore subject to change.

**P&T Date: 04/10/2025**

**Omvoh™ (mirikizumab-mrkz)**

**HCPCS: J2267**

**Policy:**

*Requests must be supported by submission of chart notes and patient specific documentation.*

- A. Coverage of the requested drug is provided when all the following are met:
  - a. FDA approved indication
  - b. FDA approved age
  - c. Diagnosis of ulcerative colitis (UC)
    - i. Treatment with an adequate course of conventional therapy (such as steroids for 7 days, immunomodulators such as azathioprine for at least 2 months) has been ineffective or is contraindicated or not tolerated
  - d. Diagnosis of Crohn's disease (CD)
    - i. Treatment with an adequate course of conventional therapy (such as steroids for 7 days, immunomodulators such as azathioprine for at least 2 months) has been ineffective or is contraindicated or not tolerated
  - e. Not to be used in combination with biologic therapies or targeted disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) for the same indication
  - f. Trial and failure, contraindication, OR intolerance to the preferred drugs as listed in BCBSM/BCN's utilization management medical drug list and/or BCBSM/BCN's prior authorization and step therapy documents.
- B. Quantity Limitations, Authorization Period and Renewal Criteria
  - a. Quantity Limit: Align with FDA recommended dosing
  - b. Initial Authorization Period: One year at a time
  - c. Renewal Criteria: Clinical documentation must be provided to confirm that current criteria are met and that the medication is providing clinical benefit

\*\*\*Note: Coverage and approval duration may differ for Medicare Part B members based on any applicable criteria outlined in Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) or National Coverage Determinations (NCD) as determined by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). See the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/>. Determination of coverage of Part B drugs is based on medically accepted indications which have supported citations included or approved for inclusion determined by CMS approved compendia.

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## Background Information:

- Omvoh is an interleukin (IL)-23 antagonist that selectively binds the p19 subunit of IL-23 and is indicated for the treatment of moderately to severely active UC and moderately to severely active CD in adults.
- UC and CD are two of the most common forms of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Both UC and CD are chronic, relapsing, remitting, inflammatory conditions of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. UC only involves the large intestine as opposed to CD, which can affect any part of the GI tract from mouth to anus. CD can also affect the entire thickness of the bowel wall, while UC only involves the innermost lining of the large intestine. UC can present with symptoms of abdominal discomfort or loose bowel movements, including blood. The cause of UC or CD is not fully understood; however, research suggests that an interplay between environmental factors, genetics, and intestinal microbiota may contribute to the development of UC or CD. UC has an incidence of 9 to 20 cases per 100,000 persons per year. Its prevalence is 156 to 291 cases per 100,000 persons per year.
- The 2019 American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) guidelines and the 2020 American Gastroenterology Association (AGA) guidelines state therapeutic management in UC should be guided by the specific diagnosis, an assessment of disease activity, and disease prognosis. Treatment selection should be based not only on inflammatory activity but also on disease prognosis. Remission can be induced using a variety of medications, including oral 5-aminosalicylic acid (5-ASA), corticosteroids, or biologic agents. Thiopurines, such as azathioprine and mercaptopurine, can be used to maintain remission. The tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi) agents infliximab, adalimumab, and golimumab are effective for treatment of patients with UC. Treatment guidelines do not recommend the use of one agent over another as there have been no head-to-head trials comparing the agents to one another. Vedolizumab is another guideline recommended option in patients with moderately to severely active UC for induction of remission, and in patients with moderately to severely active UC who have previously failed anti-TNF therapy, for induction of remission. Sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) receptor modulators have not been included in these guidelines.
- The 2018 ACG guidelines establish therapeutic recommendations for patients with CD based upon disease location, disease severity, disease-associated complications, and future disease prognosis. Therapeutic approaches are individualized according to the symptomatic response and tolerance to medical intervention. Current therapeutic approaches should be considered a sequential continuum to treat acute disease or induce clinical remission and then to maintain response/remission. In general, clinical evidence of improvement should be evident within 2 – 4 weeks and the maximal improvement should occur within 12 – 16 weeks. Those with continued symptoms should be treated with an alternative therapy for mild to moderate disease, have their medication dose adjusted in order to attempt to optimize therapy, or advance to treatment for moderate to severe disease according to their clinical status.
- Corticosteroids are used primarily for the treatment of flares of CD. Conventional corticosteroids are effective for reducing the signs and symptoms of active CD and induction of remission in patients with moderately to severely active CD. Oral corticosteroids are effective and can be used for short-term use in alleviating signs and symptoms of moderate to severely active disease. The ACG guidelines recommend prednisone equivalent doses ranging from 40 to 60 mg per day. These doses are typically maintained for 1 –2 weeks and tapered at 5 mg weekly until 20 mg and then 2.5 –5 mg weekly. Once begun, care should be taken to ensure that corticosteroids are successfully discontinued, and steroid-sparing agents should be used.
- In patients with moderate-to-severe CD who remain symptomatic despite current or prior corticosteroid therapy, mercaptopurine, azathioprine, and intramuscular or subcutaneous methotrexate are effective steroid-sparing agents and guideline recommended. Maximum effectiveness of these agents can be seen between 8 to 12 weeks from therapy initiation. Methotrexate is also recommended in combination with steroids as effective for treatment of moderately active steroid-dependent/resistant CD. Cyclosporine, tacrolimus, and mycophenolate are not recommended for treatment of CD.

- Biologics, such as TNFi are recommended to treat CD that is resistant to treatment with corticosteroids, thiopurines, or methotrexate. The ACG guidelines also recommend the use of biologics in combination with immunosuppressants to help decrease the formation of antibodies against the biologic therapy. There are no robust, published studies to support use of biologic agents in combination.
- The 2021 AGA guidelines include similar recommendations for the management of moderate-to-severe CD compared to the recommendations cited in the 2018 ACG guidelines. Both guidelines recommend corticosteroids over no treatment for induction of remission. Additionally, both guidelines recommend thiopurines, such as azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine, as steroid-sparing agents for maintenance of remission. The AGA guidelines also recommend the same biologic agents cited in the ACG guidelines for treatment of CD, with the exception of Tysabri® (natalizumab), which the ACG suggests against use of due to its associated risk of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML).
- Of note, the AGA guidelines conditionally recommend earlier introduction of biologic therapy prior to failure of corticosteroids; however, this recommendation is supported by a low level of clinical evidence. To date, no blinded randomized controlled trials (RCTs) have demonstrated the superiority of early introduction of biologic therapy compared to conventional induction therapy with corticosteroids followed by steroid-sparing therapy. The 2021 AGA guideline authors also acknowledge that earlier therapy with either combination immunomodulator plus biologic therapy or biologic monotherapy may result in over-treating some patients and potentially exposing them to treatment-related risks and costs with limited benefit.
- The efficacy of Omvoh for UC was based on results from the LUCENT program, which included two randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase III clinical trials consisting of one 12-week induction study (UC-1) and one 40-week maintenance study (UC-2) for 52 weeks of continuous treatment. All patients in the LUCENT program were required to have had an inadequate response to, loss of response to, or inability to take one or more glucocorticoids or immunomodulators for the treatment of UC (i.e., conventional treatment failure), or biologic therapy or a Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor for the treatment of UC (i.e., treatment failure with biologic agent or tofacitinib). Patients were allowed to receive oral 5-ASA, oral glucocorticoids, azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine, or methotrexate at stable doses throughout the trial.
  - The primary endpoint of UC-1 and UC-2 was clinical remission at Week 12 and Week 52, respectively. The secondary endpoints of UC-1 were clinical response, endoscopic improvement, and histologic-endoscopic mucosal improvement (HEMI) at 12 weeks. The secondary endpoints of UC-2 were endoscopic improvement, maintenance of clinical remission in subjects who achieved clinical remission at 12 weeks, corticosteroid-free clinical remission, and HEMI at 40 weeks (a total of 52 weeks of treatment).
    - Of patients treated with Omvoh at 12 weeks in UC-1:
      - 24% achieved clinical remission compared to 15% with placebo (p<0.001).
      - 65% achieved a clinical response compared to 43% with placebo (p<0.001).
      - 34% achieved endoscopic improvement compared to 21% with placebo (p<0.001).
      - 25% achieved histologic-endoscopic mucosal improvement compared to 14% with placebo (p<0.001).
    - Of patients treated with Omvoh at 40 weeks (a total of 52 weeks of treatment) in UC-2:
      - 51% achieved clinical remission compared to 27% with placebo (p<0.001).

- 50% achieved corticosteroid-free clinical remission compared to 27% with placebo (p<0.001). Patients in steroid-free remission stopped using corticosteroids for at least the previous 12 weeks prior to the one-year assessment.
- 58% achieved endoscopic improvement compared to 30% with placebo (p<0.001).
- 66% achieved maintenance of clinical remission in patients who achieved clinical remission at Week 12 compared to 40% with placebo (p<0.001).
- 43% achieved histologic-endoscopic mucosal improvement compared to 22% with placebo (p<0.001).
- Clinical trials have not evaluated the safety and efficacy of Omvoh when used in combination with other biologics or targeted DMARDs.

## References:

1. Omvoh [prescribing information] Indianapolis, IN: Eli Lilly. January 2025.
2. Feuerstein JD, Isaacs KL, Schneider Y, et al. AGA clinical practice guidelines on the management of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis. *Gastroenterology*. 2020; 158: 1450 - 61.
3. Rubin DT, Ananthakrishnan AN, Siegel CA, et al. ACG clinical guideline: ulcerative colitis in adults. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2019; 114: 384–413.
4. Lynch WD, Hsu R. Ulcerative Colitis. [Updated 2023 Jun 5]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK459282/>
5. Lichtenstein GR, Loftus EV, Isaacs KL, et al. ACG clinical guideline: management of Crohn's disease in adults. *AJG*. 2018 April; 113 (4): 481-517.
6. Feuerstein JD, Ho EY, Shmidt E, et al. AGA Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Medical Management of Moderate to Severe Luminal and Perianal Fistulizing Crohn's Disease. *Gastroenterology*. 2021;160(7):2496-2508. doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2021.04.022

Policy History												
#	Date	Change Description										
1.3	Effective Date: 04/10/2025	Updated to include the new indication for Crohn’s disease										
1.2	Effective Date: 10/03/2024	Added “for the same indication” to the not to be used in combination with other biologics or targeted DMARDs criteria										
1.1	Effective Date: 12/14/2023	New policy										
1.0	Effective Date: 11/23/2023	UM medical management system update for BCBS and BCN <table><tr><th>Line of Business</th><th>PA Required in Medical Management System (Yes/No)</th></tr><tr><td>BCBS</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>BCN</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>MAPPO</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>BCNA</td><td>No</td></tr></table>	Line of Business	PA Required in Medical Management System (Yes/No)	BCBS	Yes	BCN	Yes	MAPPO	No	BCNA	No
Line of Business	PA Required in Medical Management System (Yes/No)											
BCBS	Yes											
BCN	Yes											
MAPPO	No											
BCNA	No											

\* The prescribing information for a drug is subject to change. To ensure you are reading the most current information it is advised that you reference the most updated prescribing information by visiting the drug or manufacturer website or <http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/index.cfm>

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Blue Cross Blue Shield/Blue Care Network of Michigan  
Medication Authorization Request Form  
Omvoh™ (mirikizumab-mrkz)  
HCPCS CODE: J2267



This form is to be used by participating physicians to obtain coverage for Omvoh. For commercial members only, please complete this form and submit via fax to 1-877-325-5979. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact BCBSM Provider Relations and Servicing or the Medical Drug Helpdesk at 1-800-437-3803 for assistance.

PATIENT INFORMATION	PHYSICIAN INFORMATION
Name	Name
ID Number	Specialty
D.O.B. <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female Pt weight (in kg) Date recorded: _____	Address
Diagnosis	City /State/Zip
Drug Name <input type="checkbox"/>	Phone/Fax: P: (     )     -     F: (     )     -
Dose and Quantity	NPI
Directions	Contact Person
Date of Service(s)	Contact Person Phone / Ext.

STEP 1: DISEASE STATE INFORMATION

- Is this request for initiation or renewal of therapy? ☐ Initiation ☐ Continuation Date patient started therapy: \_\_\_\_\_
- How is this medication being administered? ☐ Self-administered (**Please fax this completed form to BCBSM at (866) 601-4425**)  
☐ Health Care Professional administered (**Continue to #3**)
- Site of administration? ☐ Provider office/Home infusion ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Hospital outpatient facility (go to #4) Reason for Hospital Outpatient administration: \_\_\_\_\_
- Please specify location of administration if hospital outpatient infusion:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Please provide the NPI number for the place of administration:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Initiation of therapy:**
  - Please check the patient's diagnosis: ☐ Ulcerative colitis (UC) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Has the patient tried and failed therapy with at least one conventional therapy?  
☐ Systemic corticosteroid daily for 7 days: Please list name of drug(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Sulfasalazine, Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Mercaptopurine, Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Azathioprine, Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Methotrexate, Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_, Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Which of the following biologic treatment(s) has the patient tried and failed therapy with? Check all that apply.  
☐ Humira, Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Simponi, Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Stelara, Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Xeljanz, Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Rinvoq, Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_, Date started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ended: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Will the patient be receiving Omvoh with other biologic agents (for example: Remicade, Humira, Kineret, Entyvio, Tremfya, etc.) or with targeted DMARD medications (for example: Otezla)? ☐ Yes, Please provide rationale: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ No
- Continuation request:** Omvoh start date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Have the patient's signs and symptoms improved with Omvoh?  
☐ Yes ☐ No, Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add any other supporting medical information necessary for our review

Coverage will not be provided if the prescribing physician's signature and date are not reflected on this document.

☐ Request for expedited review: I certify that applying the standard review time frame may seriously jeopardize the life or health of the member or the member's ability to regain maximum function

Physician's Name

Physician Signature

Date

Step 2: Checklist	<input type="checkbox"/> Form Completely Filled Out <input type="checkbox"/> Attached Chart Notes	<input type="checkbox"/> Weight (specify lb or kg) , BSA
Step 3: Submit	By Fax: BCBSM Specialty Pharmacy Mailbox 1-877-325-5979	By Mail: BCBSM Specialty Pharmacy Program P.O. Box 312320, Detroit, MI 48231-2320

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04/01/2024, 07/01/2024