

## Cytokine and CAM Antagonists: Interleukin-17 (IL-17) Antibody/ IL-17 Receptor Antagonists Utilization Management Criteria

<b>Therapeutic Class:</b>	Cytokine and CAM Antagonists: IL-17 Antibody/ IL-17 Receptor Antagonists
<b>Non-Preferred Agents:</b>	Bimzelx (bimekizumab-bkzx), Cosentyx (secukinumab), Taltz (ixekizumab)
<b>Preferred Agents:</b>	None
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	1/1/2026
<b>Prepared For:</b>	CT
<b>PDL Status:</b>	Non-preferred agents
<b>Purpose:</b>	The IL-17 inhibitors, ixekizumab and secukinumab, are monoclonal antibodies that bind to IL-17A, a pro-inflammatory cytokine. Bimekizumab is the first and only approved biologic to selectively target both IL-17A and IL-17F, another inflammatory cytokine. All four IL-17 inhibitors are approved for the treatment of moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis (PsO) in patients who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy. Ixekizumab, bimekizumab, and secukinumab carry additional indications for other conditions as summarized in Table 1. There are currently no approved biosimilars to ixekizumab, secukinumab, or bimekizumab. Limited active-controlled trials have been conducted for the IL-17 inhibitors and network meta-analyses provide some general information as to the ranked efficacy of agents for treatment of their approved indications. According to the available guidelines for various autoimmune conditions, these agents are commonly reserved for patients with moderate-to-severe conditions after failure to control with first line therapies.

**Table 1. Cytokine and CAM Antagonists: IL-17 Antibody/ IL-17 Receptor Antagonists**

Generic Name	Brand Name	Approved Indications	Route of Administration	Biosimilar Availability
Bimekizumab-bkzx	Bimzelx®	AS, HS, nr-axSpA, PsA, PSO	SC	No
Ixekizumab	Taltz®	AS, nr-axSpA, PsA, PSO	SC	No
Secukinumab	Cosentyx®	AS, ERA, HS, nr-axSpA, PsA, PSO	IV, SC	No

Abbreviations: AS, ankylosing spondylitis; ERA, enthesitis-related arthritis; IV, intravenous; HS, hidradenitis suppurativa; nr-axSpA, non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis; PsA, psoriatic arthritis; PSO, plaque psoriasis; SC, subcutaneous

**All authorizations must be prescribed in accordance with FDA approved labeling. Use of samples to initiate therapy does not meet step therapy and/or continuation of therapy prior authorization requirements. Prior therapies will be verified through pharmacy claims and/or submitted chart notes.**

### General Approval Criteria:

- Claim is for a preferred agent **OR**
- Requested agent is **NOT** used in combination with other targeted immunomodulators **AND**
- Patient does **NOT** have active TB, or other active infection prior to initiation **AND**
- Requested quantity in accordance with FDA approved product labelling

### Initial Therapy – All the following must be met:

#### For Active Ankylosing Spondylitis (Bimzelx, Cosentyx, Taltz)

- Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist or any other specialist familiar with the treated disease state
- Documentation of diagnosis (listed above)
- Trial of a preferred tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi) (30 days) **OR** documented adverse event/adverse drug reaction or contraindication
- Patient aged 18 years and older

#### For Active Non-radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis (Bimzelx, Cosentyx, Taltz)

- Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist or any other specialist familiar with the treated disease state
- Documentation of diagnosis (listed above)
- Documentation of objective signs of inflammation (e.g. elevated C-reactive protein, evidence of sacroiliitis on MRI)
- Trial of a tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi) (30 days) **OR** documented adverse event/adverse drug reaction or contraindication
- Patient aged 18 years and older

#### For Active Enthesitis-related Arthritis (Cosentyx)

- Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist
- Documentation of diagnosis (listed above)
- Patient aged 4 years and older

#### For Moderate to Severe Hidradenitis Suppurativa (Bimzelx, Cosentyx)

- Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist
- Documentation of diagnosis (listed above)
- Trial of a preferred tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi) (adalimumab) (30 days) **OR** documented adverse event/adverse drug reaction or contraindication
- The following age restrictions apply
  - Bimzelx: 18 years and older
  - Cosentyx: 12 years and older

#### For Active Psoriatic Arthritis (Bimzelx, Cosentyx, Taltz)

- Prescribed by or in consultation with a rheumatologist or dermatologist
- Documentation of diagnosis (listed above)
- Trial of a preferred tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi) or preferred ustekinumab biosimilar (30 days) **OR** documented adverse event/adverse drug reaction or contraindication
- The following age restrictions apply
  - Bimzelx and Taltz: 18 years and older

- Cosentyx: 2 years and older

### **For Moderate to Severe Plaque Psoriasis (Bimzelx, Cosentyx, Taltz)**

- Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist
- Documentation of diagnosis (listed above)
- Patient is a candidate for systemic therapy or phototherapy
- Trial of a preferred tumor necrosis factor inhibitor (TNFi) or preferred ustekinumab biosimilar (30 days) **OR** documented adverse event/adverse drug reaction or contraindication
- The following age restrictions apply
  - Bimzelx: 18 years and older
  - Cosentyx, Taltz: 6 years and older

**Initial PA length: 1 year**

**Exclusion Criteria: Approval criteria not met**

**Continuation Therapy:** Documented compliance on current therapy regimen **AND** Documentation of continued clinical benefit

**Continuation Length: 1 year**

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## Revision History

Date	Version	Revisions
11/7/2025	V1	Document approved by DSS
3/19/2026	V2	Edits made to coverage criteria for Cosentyx

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