

# Ilumya® (Tildrakizumab-Asmn)

**Policy Number:** CS2024D0074M  
**Effective Date:** June 1, 2024

[Instructions for Use](#)

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<a href="#">Application</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Coverage Rationale</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Applicable Codes</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Background</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Clinical Evidence</a> .....	3
<a href="#">U.S. Food and Drug Administration</a> .....	3
<a href="#">References</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Policy History/Revision Information</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Instructions for Use</a> .....	4

<b>Commercial Policy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Ilumya® (Tildrakizumab-Asmn)</a></li> </ul>

## Application

This Medical Benefit Drug Policy does not apply to the states listed below; refer to the state-specific policy/guideline, if noted:

State	Policy/Guideline
Indiana	<a href="#">Immunomodulators for Inflammatory Conditions (for Indiana Only)</a>
Kansas	Refer to the state’s Medicaid clinical policy
Louisiana	Refer to the state’s Medicaid clinical policy
North Carolina	None
Ohio	<a href="#">Ilumya® (Tildrakizumab-Asmn) (for Ohio Only)</a>
Pennsylvania	Refer to the state’s Medicaid clinical policy
Washington	Refer to the state’s Medicaid clinical policy

## Coverage Rationale

Ilumya (tildrakizumab), to be used as a self-administered, subcutaneous injection for the treatment of plaque psoriasis, should be obtained under the pharmacy benefit.

### Initial Therapy

**Ilumya (tildrakizumab) is proven and medically necessary for provider administration for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis when the following criteria are met:**

- Submission of medical records (e.g., chart notes, laboratory values) documenting **all** of the following:
  - Diagnosis of chronic moderate to severe plaque psoriasis; **and**
  - Greater than or equal to 3% body surface area involvement, palmoplantar, facial, genital involvement, or severe scalp psoriasis<sup>1,2,3,6,8</sup>; **and**
  - **One** of the following:
    - **Both** of the following:
      - History of failure, contraindication, or intolerance to **one** of the following topical therapies:<sup>4</sup>
        - Corticosteroids (e.g., betamethasone, clobetasol, desonide)
        - Vitamin D analogs (e.g., calcitriol, calcipotriene)
        - Tazarotene
        - Calcineurin inhibitors (e.g., tacrolimus, pimecrolimus)

- Anthralin
- Coal tar

**and**

- History of failure to a 3-month trial of methotrexate at maximally indicated dose, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced<sup>6,7</sup>

**or**

- Patient has been previously treated with a biologic or targeted synthetic DMARD FDA-approved for the treatment of plaque psoriasis [e.g., Enbrel (etanercept), Cimzia (certolizumab), adalimumab, Orenzia (abatacept), Stelara (ustekinumab), Skyrizi (risankizumab), Tremfya (guselkumab), Cosentyx (secukinumab), Taltz (ixekizumab), Siliq (brodalumab), Ilumya (tildrakizumab), Otezla (apremilast)]

**and**

- History of failure, contraindication, or intolerance to **three** biologic DMARDs FDA-approved for the treatment of plaque psoriasis (document drug, date, and duration of trial); **and**
- Physician attestation that the patient is unable to self-administer or there is no competent caregiver to administer the drug. Physician must submit explanation; **and**
- Patient is not receiving Ilumya in combination with **any** of the following:<sup>1</sup>
  - Biologic DMARD [e.g., adalimumab, Cimzia (certolizumab), Simponi (golimumab), Cosentyx (secukinumab), Orenzia (abatacept), Skyrizi (risankizumab), Taltz (ixekizumab)]
  - Janus kinase inhibitor [e.g., Xeljanz (tofacitinib)]
  - Phosphodiesterase 4 (PDE4) inhibitor [e.g., Otezla (apremilast)]

**and**

- Dosing is in accordance with the United States Food and Drug Administration approved labeling; **and**
- Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist; **and**
- Initial authorization will be for no longer than 12 months

## Continuation Therapy

**Ilumya (tildrakizumab) will be reauthorized for provider administration based on all of the following criteria:**

- Documentation of positive clinical response to Ilumya therapy; **and**
  - Physician attestation that the patient is unable to self-administer or there is no competent caregiver to administer the drug. Physician must submit explanation; **and**
  - Patient is not receiving Ilumya in combination with **any** of the following:
    - Biologic DMARD [e.g., adalimumab, Cimzia (certolizumab), Simponi (golimumab), Cosentyx (secukinumab), Orenzia (abatacept), Skyrizi (risankizumab), Taltz (ixekizumab)]
    - Janus kinase inhibitor [e.g., Xeljanz (tofacitinib)]
    - Phosphodiesterase 4 (PDE4) inhibitor [e.g., Otezla (apremilast)]
- and**
- Dosing is in accordance with the United States Food and Drug Administration approved labeling; **and**
  - Reauthorization will be for no longer than 12 months

## Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

HCPCS Code	Description
J3245	Injection, tildrakizumab, 1 mg

Diagnosis Code	Description
L40.0	Psoriasis vulgaris

## Background

Ilumya (tildrakizumab) is a humanized IgG1/k monoclonal antibody that selectively binds to the p19 subunit of IL - 23 and inhibits its interaction with the IL - 23 receptor. IL - 23 is a naturally occurring cytokine that is involved in inflammatory and immune responses. Tildrakizumab inhibits the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines.

## Clinical Evidence

### Plaque Psoriasis

Ilumya (tildrakizumab) is an interleukin - 23 antagonist indicated for the treatment of adults with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy.<sup>1,9</sup>

### Professional Societies

#### *American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)*

In 2019, the AAD and the National Psoriasis Foundation published updated treatment guidelines for the management and treatment of psoriasis with biologic therapies. In regards to tildrakizumab and/or IL - 23 inhibitors, the guidelines state:

- Tildrakizumab is recommended as a monotherapy treatment option in adult patients with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis.
- The recommended dose is 100 mg given by in office physician-administered subcutaneous injection at week 0 and week 4 and every 12 weeks thereafter.
- There is no evidence to support combination of tildrakizumab with topical or systemic therapies, but there is no reason to consider such combination unsafe.
- Definitive response (positive or negative) to treatment with IL - 23 antagonists is best ascertained after 12 weeks of continuous therapy. Consider dose escalation in partially responding patients. Consider the addition of other modalities (such as topical corticosteroids or vitamin D analogues, methotrexate, or ultraviolet B light) in partially responding patients. Although there are no published data supporting combination therapy for the IL - 23 inhibitors, there is no reason to consider such combination therapy unsafe.
- The effect of guselkumab on solid tumor or lymphoreticular malignancy, when used as monotherapy for moderate-to-severe psoriasis, is unknown. Large long-term follow-up studies are necessary to more fully define the risk of cancer associated with IL - 23 inhibitors.

## U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

This section is to be used for informational purposes only. FDA approval alone is not a basis for coverage.

Ilumya (tildrakizumab) is an interleukin-23 antagonist indicated for the treatment of adults with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy.

## References

1. Ilumya [package insert]. Cranbury, NJ: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.; December 2022.
2. Menter A, Gottlieb A, Feldman SR, et al. Guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis: Section 1. Overview of psoriasis and guidelines of care for the treatment of psoriasis with biologics. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2008; 58(5):826-50.
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9. Reich K, Papp KA, Blauvelt A, et al. Tildrakizumab versus placebo or etanercept for chronic plaque psoriasis (reSURFACE 1 and reSURFACE 2): results from two randomized controlled, phase 3 trials. Lancet. 2017 Jul 15;390(10091):276-288.
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11. Elewski B, Menter A, Crowley J, et al. Sustained and Continuously Improved Efficacy of Tildrakizumab in Patients with Moderate-to-Severe Plaque Psoriasis. J Dermatolog Treat. 2019 Jul 3:1-19.
12. Menter A, Strober BE, Kaplan DH, et al. Joint AAD-NPF guidelines of care for the management and treatment of psoriasis with biologics. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2019 Apr;80(4):1029-1072.

## Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
06/01/2024	<p><b>Coverage Rationale</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised coverage criteria:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initial Therapy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Updated list of biologic or targeted synthetic DMARDs the patient must have been previously treated with for plaque psoriasis:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Added Cosentyx (secukinumab), Enbrel (etanercept), Ilumya (tildrakizumab), Orencia (abatacept), Siliq (brodalumab), and Taltz (ixekizumab)</li> <li>▪ Replaced “Humira (adalimumab)” with “adalimumab”</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Updated list of biologic DMARDs the patient must not be receiving in combination with Ilumya:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Added Skyrizi (risankizumab) and Taltz (ixekizumab)</li> <li>▪ Replaced “Humira (adalimumab)” with “adalimumab”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Continuation of Therapy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Updated list of biologic DMARDs the patient must not be receiving in combination with Ilumya:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Added Cosentyx (secukinumab), Orencia (abatacept), Skyrizi (risankizumab), and Taltz (ixekizumab)</li> <li>▪ Removed Enbrel (etanercept)</li> <li>▪ Replaced “Humira (adalimumab)” with “adalimumab”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Supporting Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated <i>References</i> section to reflect the most current information</li> <li>• Archived previous policy version CS2023D0074L</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Instructions for Use

This Medical Benefit Drug Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage must be referenced as the terms of the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage may differ from the standard benefit plan. In the event of a conflict, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage govern. Before using this policy, please check the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Benefit Drug Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual® criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. The UnitedHealthcare Medical Benefit Drug Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.