

# Tezspire® (tezepelumab-ekko) (Subcutaneous)

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## I. Length of Authorization

- Initial: 6 months
- Renewal: 12 months

## II. Dosing Limits

**Max Units (per dose and over time) [HCPCS Unit]:**

- 210 billable units (210 mg) every 4 weeks

## III. Initial Approval Criteria

**Target Agent(s)** will be approved when ALL of the following are met:

1. ONE of the following:
  - A. The requested agent is eligible for continuation of therapy AND ONE of the following:

Agents Eligible for Continuation of Therapy
All target agents are eligible for continuation of therapy

1. The patient has been treated with the requested agent (starting on samples is not approvable) within the past 90 days **OR**
  2. The prescriber states the patient has been treated with the requested agent (starting on samples is not approvable) within the past 90 days AND is at risk if therapy is changed **OR**
- B. BOTH of the following:
    1. ONE of the following:
      - A. BOTH of the following:
        1. The patient has a diagnosis of severe asthma **AND**
        2. The patient has a history of uncontrolled asthma while on asthma control therapy as demonstrated by ONE of the following:

- A. Frequent severe asthma exacerbations requiring two or more courses of systemic corticosteroids (steroid burst) within the past 12 months **OR**
- B. Serious asthma exacerbations requiring hospitalization, mechanical ventilation, or visit to the emergency room or urgent care within the past 12 months **OR**
- C. Controlled asthma that worsens when the doses of inhaled and/or systemic corticosteroids are tapered **OR**
- D. The patient has baseline (prior to therapy with the requested agent) Forced Expiratory Volume (FEV1) that is less than 80% of predicted **OR**
- B. The patient has another FDA labeled indication for the requested agent and route of administration **AND**
- 2. If the patient has an FDA labeled indication, then ONE of the following:
  - A. The patient's age is within FDA labeling for the requested indication for the requested agent **OR**
  - B. The prescriber has provided information in support of using the requested agent for the patient's age for the requested indication **OR**
- C. The patient has another indication that is supported in compendia for the requested agent and route of administration **AND**
- 2. If the patient has a diagnosis of severe asthma, then ALL of the following:
  - A. ONE of the following
    - 1. The patient is NOT currently treated with the requested agent AND is currently treated with a maximally tolerated inhaled corticosteroid for at least 3 months AND has been adherent for 90 days within the past 120 days **OR**
    - 2. The patient is currently treated with the requested agent AND ONE of the following:
      - A. The patient is currently treated with an inhaled corticosteroid for at least 3 months that is adequately dosed to control symptoms AND has been adherent for 90 days within the past 120 days **OR**
      - B. The patient is currently treated with a maximally tolerated inhaled corticosteroid for at least 3 months AND has been adherent for 90 days within the past 120 days **OR**
    - 3. The patient has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to therapy with an inhaled corticosteroid **OR**
    - 4. The patient has an FDA labeled contraindication to ALL inhaled corticosteroids **AND**
  - B. ONE of the following:
    - 1. The patient is currently treated for at least 3 months AND has been adherent for 90 days within the past 120 days with ONE of the following:
      - A. A long-acting beta-2 agonist (LABA) **OR**

- B. A long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA) **OR**
  - C. A leukotriene receptor antagonist (LTRA) **OR**
  - D. Theophylline **OR**
- 2. The patient has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to therapy with a long-acting beta-2 agonist (LABA), a long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA), a leukotriene receptor antagonist (LTRA), or theophylline **OR**
- 3. The patient has an FDA labeled contraindication to ALL long-acting beta-2 agonists (LABA) AND long-acting muscarinic antagonists (LAMA) **AND**
- C. The patient will continue asthma control therapy (e.g., ICS, ICS/LABA, LTRA, LAMA, theophylline) in combination with the requested agent **AND**
- 3. The prescriber is a specialist in the area of the patient's diagnosis (e.g., allergist, immunologist, pulmonologist) or the prescriber has consulted with a specialist in the area of the patient's diagnosis **AND**
- 4. ONE of the following (Please refer to "Agents NOT to be used Concomitantly" table):
  - A. The patient will NOT be using the requested agent in combination with another immunomodulatory agent (e.g., TNF inhibitors, JAK inhibitors, IL-4 inhibitors) **OR**
  - B. The patient will be using the requested agent in combination with another immunomodulatory agent AND BOTH of the following:
    - 1. The prescribing information for the requested agent does NOT limit the use with another immunomodulatory agent **AND**
    - 2. There is support for the use of combination therapy (submitted copy of clinical trials, phase III studies, or guidelines required) **AND**
- 5. The patient does NOT have any FDA labeled contraindications to the requested agent **AND**
- 6. The requested quantity (dose) is within FDA labeled dosing (or supported in compendia) for the requested agent for the requested indication

**Compendia Allowed:** AHFS, DrugDex 1 or 2a level of evidence, or NCCN 1 or 2a recommended use

## IV. Renewal Criteria

**Target Agent(s)** will be approved when ALL of the following are met:

- 1. The patient has been previously approved for the requested agent through the plan's Medical Drug Review process [Note: patients not previously approved for the requested agent will require initial evaluation review] **AND**
- 2. ONE of the following:
  - A. The patient has a diagnosis of severe asthma AND BOTH of the following:
    - 1. The patient has had improvements or stabilization with the requested agent from baseline (prior to therapy with the requested agent) as indicated by ONE of the following:
      - A. The patient has had an increase in percent predicted Forced Expiratory Volume (FEV1) **OR**
      - B. The patient has had a decrease in the dose of inhaled corticosteroids required to control the patient's asthma **OR**

- C. The patient has had a decrease in need for treatment with systemic corticosteroids due to exacerbations of asthma **OR**
    - D. The patient has had a decrease in number of hospitalizations, need for mechanical ventilation, or visits to urgent care or emergency room due to exacerbations of asthma **AND**
  - 2. The patient is currently treated within the past 90 days and is compliant with asthma control therapy (e.g., inhaled corticosteroids [ICS], ICS/long-acting beta-2 agonist [ICS/LABA], leukotriene receptor antagonist [LTRA], long-acting muscarinic antagonist [LAMA], theophylline) **OR**
  - B. The patient has a diagnosis other than severe asthma AND has had clinical benefit with the requested agent **AND**
- 3. The prescriber is a specialist in the area of the patient's diagnosis (e.g., allergist, immunologist, pulmonologist) or the prescriber has consulted with a specialist in the area of the patient's diagnosis **AND**
- 4. ONE of the following (Please refer to "Agents NOT to be used Concomitantly" table):
  - A. The patient will NOT be using the requested agent in combination with another immunomodulatory agent (e.g., TNF inhibitors, JAK inhibitors, IL-4 inhibitors) **OR**
  - B. The patient will be using the requested agent in combination with another immunomodulatory agent AND BOTH of the following:
    - 1. The prescribing information for the requested agent does NOT limit the use with another immunomodulatory agent **AND**
    - 2. There is support for the use of combination therapy (submitted copy of clinical trials, phase III studies, or guidelines required) **AND**
- 5. The patient does NOT have an FDA labeled contraindications to the requested agent **AND**
- 6. The requested quantity (dose) is within FDA labeled dosing (or supported in compendia) for the requested agent for the requested indication

**Compendia Allowed:** AHFS, DrugDex 1 or 2a level of evidence, or NCCN 1 or 2a recommended use

Contraindicated as Concomitant Therapy
<b>Agents NOT to be used Concomitantly</b>  Abrilada (adalimumab-afzb) Actemra (tocilizumab) Adalimumab Adbry (tralokinumab-ldrm) Amjevita (adalimumab-atto) Arcalyst (rilonacept) Avsola (infliximab-axxq) Benlysta (belimumab) Bimzelx (bimekizumab-bkzx) Cibinqo (abrocitinib) Cimzia (certolizumab) Cinqair (reslizumab) Cosentyx (secukinumab) Cyltezo (adalimumab-adbm)

# **Contraindicated as Concomitant Therapy**

Dupixent (dupilumab)  
 Ebglyss (lebrikizumab-lbkz)  
 Enbrel (etanercept)  
 Entyvio (vedolizumab)  
 Fasenra (benralizumab)  
 Hadlima (adalimumab-bwwd)  
 Hulio (adalimumab-fkjp)  
 Humira (adalimumab)  
 Hyrimoz (adalimumab-adaz)  
 Idacio (adalimumab-aacf)  
 Ilaris (canakinumab)  
 Ilumya (tildrakizumab-asmn)  
 Inflectra (infliximab-dyyb)  
 Infliximab  
 Kevzara (sarilumab)  
 Kineret (anakinra)  
 Leqselvi (deuruxolitinib)  
 Litfulo (ritlecitinib)  
 Nemludio (nemolizumab-ilto)  
 Nucala (mepolizumab)  
 Olumiant (baricitinib)  
 Omvoh (mirikizumab-mrkz)  
 Opzelura (ruxolitinib)  
 Oencia (abatacept)  
 Otezla (apremilast)  
 Otulfi (ustekinumab-aaaz)  
 Pyzchiva (ustekinumab-ttwe)  
 Remicade (infliximab)  
 Renflexis (infliximab-abda)  
 Riabni (rituximab-arrx)  
 Rinvoq (upadacitinib)  
 Rituxan (rituximab)  
 Rituxan Hycela (rituximab/hyaluronidase human)  
 Ruxience (rituximab-pvvr)  
 Saphnelo (anifrolumab-fnia)  
 Selarsdi (ustekinumab-aekn)  
 Siliq (brodalumab)  
 Simlandi (adalimumab-ryvk)  
 Simponi (golimumab)  
 Simponi ARIA (golimumab)  
 Skyrizi (risankizumab-rzaa)  
 Sotyktu (deucravacitinib)  
 Spevigo (spesolimab-sbzo) subcutaneous injection  
 Stelara (ustekinumab)  
 Taltz (ixekizumab)  
 Tezspire (tezepelumab-ekko)

#### Contraindicated as Concomitant Therapy

Tofidence (tocilizumab-bavi)  
 Tremfya (guselkumab)  
 Truxima (rituximab-abbs)  
 Tyenne (tocilizumab-aazg)  
 Tysabri (natalizumab)  
 Velsipity (etrasimod)  
 Wezlana (ustekinumab-auub)  
 Xeljanz (tofacitinib)  
 Xeljanz XR (tofacitinib extended release)  
 Xolair (omalizumab)  
 Yuflyma (adalimumab-aaty)  
 Yusimry (adalimumab-aqvh)  
 Zeposia (ozanimod)  
 Zymfentra (infliximab-dyyb)

## V. Dosage/Administration

Indication	Dose
Severe Asthma	Administer 210 mg subcutaneously once every 4 weeks.

## VI. Billing Code/Availability Information

#### HCPCS Code:

- J2356 – Injection, tezepelumab-ekko, 1 mg; 1 billable unit = 1 mg

#### NDC:

- Tezspire 210 mg/1.91 mL single-dose prefilled pen: 55513-0123-xx
- Tezspire 210 mg/1.91 mL single-dose prefilled syringe: 55513-0112-xx
- Tezspire 210 mg/1.91 mL single-dose vial: 55513-0100-xx

## VII. References

- Tezspire [package insert]. Sodertalje, Sweden; AstraZeneca AB; May 2023. Accessed August 2024.
- Chung KF, Wenzel SE, Brozek JL, et al. International ERS/ATS Guidelines on Definition, Evaluation, and Treatment of Severe Asthma. Eur Respir J 2014; 43: 343-373.
- Holguin F, Cardet JC, Chung KF, et al. Management of severe asthma: a European Respiratory Society/American Thoracic Society guideline. Eur Respir J 2020; 55: 1900588 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.00588-2019].

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5. National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP). 2020 Focused Updates to the Asthma Management Guidelines: A Report from the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Coordinating Committee Expert Panel Working Group. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI); December 2020.
6. Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention. 2021 Update. Available from: <http://www.ginasthma.org>. Accessed December 2021.
7. Menzies-Gow A, Corren J, Bourdin A, et al. Tezepelumab in Adults and Adolescents with Severe, Uncontrolled Asthma. N Engl J Med. 2021 May 13;384(19):1800-1809. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2034975.
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10. Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) Report: Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention. 2023 Update. Available from: <http://www.ginasthma.org/2023-gina-main-report>. Accessed September 2023
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## Appendix 1 – Covered Diagnosis Codes

ICD-10	ICD-10 Description
J45.50	Severe persistent asthma, uncomplicated

## Appendix 2 – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

The preceding information is intended for non-Medicare coverage determinations. Medicare coverage for outpatient (Part B) drugs is outlined in the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (Pub. 100-2), Chapter 15, §50 Drugs and Biologicals. In addition, National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and/or Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) may exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) may also exist for claims payment purposes or to clarify benefit eligibility under Part B for drugs which may be self-administered. The following link may be used to search for NCD, LCD, or LCA documents: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search.aspx>. Additional indications, including any preceding information, may be applied at the discretion of the health plan.

Medicare Part B Covered Diagnosis Codes (applicable to existing NCD/LCD/LCA): N/A

Medicare Part B Administrative Contractor (MAC) Jurisdictions		
Jurisdiction	Applicable State/US Territory	Contractor
E (1)	CA, HI, NV, AS, GU, CNMI	Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC
F (2 & 3)	AK, WA, OR, ID, ND, SD, MT, WY, UT, AZ	Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC
5	KS, NE, IA, MO	Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corp (WPS)
6	MN, WI, IL	National Government Services, Inc. (NGS)
H (4 & 7)	LA, AR, MS, TX, OK, CO, NM	Novitas Solutions, Inc.
8	MI, IN	Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corp (WPS)
N (9)	FL, PR, VI	First Coast Service Options, Inc.
J (10)	TN, GA, AL	Palmetto GBA
M (11)	NC, SC, WV, VA (excluding below)	Palmetto GBA
L (12)	DE, MD, PA, NJ, DC (includes Arlington & Fairfax counties and the city of Alexandria in VA)	Novitas Solutions, Inc.
K (13 & 14)	NY, CT, MA, RI, VT, ME, NH	National Government Services, Inc. (NGS)
15	KY, OH	CGS Administrators, LLC