

Division: Pharmacy Policy	Subject: Prior Authorization Criteria
Original Development Date: Original Effective Date: Revision Date:	May 8, 2018  April 5, 2023

**FASENRA™ (benralizumab)**

**LENGTH OF AUTHORIZATION:** Initial: SIX MONTHS Continuation: ONE YEAR

**CLINICAL NOTES:** Fasentra™ is an interleukin-5 receptor alpha-directed cytolytic monoclonal antibody (IgG1, kappa) indicated for the add-on maintenance treatment of patients with severe asthma aged 12 years and older, and with an eosinophilic phenotype.

**REVIEW CRITERIA:**

**INITIAL REVIEW:**

- Patient is 12 years of age or older.
- Prescribed or in consultation with an allergist, pulmonologist, or immunologist.
- Verified diagnosis of severe persistent asthma; must be an eosinophilic phenotype **with or without oral corticosteroids**.
- Must have a blood eosinophil count of  $\geq 150$  cells/mcL within the past six weeks or  $\geq 300$  cells/mcL within the past year (submit documentation).
- Must have adherence to optimized medication therapy regimen, yet uncontrolled:
  - Hospitalization for asthma within the past year; OR
  - Two occurrences in the past year requiring systemic corticosteroids (oral or parenteral) to control exacerbations of asthma; OR
  - Daily use of corticosteroids with inability to taper off the medication.
- Trial of high dose inhaled corticosteroids and one of the following:
  - Inhaled long acting beta 2-agonist
  - theophylline
  - leukotriene receptor antagonist

**CONTINUATION OF THERAPY:**

- Patient has met initial review requirements
- Improvement of asthma while on current regimen including Fasentra™ through:
  - A reduction in the frequency or severity of symptoms or exacerbations; OR
  - A reduction in the daily maintenance oral corticosteroid dose; OR
  - A reduction in the number of rescued medications; OR
  - A reduction in the number of hospitalizations or emergency room visits.

**DOSING:**

The recommended dosage of Fasentra™ is 30mg administered subcutaneously once every 4 weeks into the upper arm, abdomen or thigh for the first three doses, followed by once every 8 weeks thereafter. It is administered by a healthcare provider.