

Anti Tumor Necrosis Factor – Alpha (TNF-a) Adjudication Guideline

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Medical

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**Related Adjudication
Guidelines:**

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1. Abstract

1.1 For Members

Tumor necrosis factor (TNF-alpha) is a protein molecule that promotes the inflammatory response, which in turn causes many of the clinical problems associated with autoimmune disorders. These disorders are sometimes treated by using Anti-TNF alpha drugs.

Anti-tumor necrosis factor drugs are a class of drugs that have been used worldwide to treat inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, juvenile arthritis, Crohn's colitis, ankylosing spondylitis and psoriasis. These drugs are able to reduce inflammation and stop disease progression.

Serious side effects that have been most extensively related to TNF blockers include lymphoma, infections (sometimes severe like tuberculosis, septicaemia), congestive heart failure, and injection site reactions.

1.2 For Medical Professionals

This Adjudication Rule highlights the coverage of Anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor Alpha (Anti TNF- α) which includes Adalimumab, Infliximab, Golimumab, Certolizumab and Etanercept.

Daman covers Anti-TNF alpha when prescribed by a physician of appropriate specialty, and as per policy terms and conditions for each health insurance plan administered by Daman.

2. Scope

This adjudication rule highlights the coverage of Anti-TNF alpha medications, which are approved for the treatment of inflammatory conditions, according to the guidelines and international best practice.

Approval of the TNF- alpha inhibitors will be subjected upon the questionnaire and attached documents requested by Daman.

Five recommended and widely used anti-TNF alpha drugs have been developed and introduced to clinical medicine: -

- Infliximab
- Adalimumab and Golimumab
- Certolizumab
- Etanercept

All of the Five agents have been approved for the use in the treatment of:

- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Psoriatic Arthritis
- Ankylosing Spondylitis
- Ulcerative Colitis

- Crohn’s disease (except for Etanercept).
- Plaque psoriasis
- Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

3. Adjudication Policy

3.1 Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

All the above-mentioned Anti-TNF medications (Infliximab, Adalimumab, Golimumab, Certolizumab and Etanercept) are covered for all Daman plans, except for Visitor’s plan. Coverage of these drugs for Abu Dhabi plan depends on HAAD basic drug list effective at the time of prescription.

Food and Drug administration stated that Anti-TNF α can lead to serious infections (like; TB and malignancy), and the patient should be fully aware about both of these serious side effects before taking the medication.

Daman will cover ANTI-TNF- α for the above-mentioned diagnosis when prescribed by a physician of appropriate specialty. They are used only after the failure of other management plans. Severity of those cases should be proven and documented properly.

3.2 Requirements for Coverage

ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity.

3.3 Non-Coverage

Anti TNF- α is not covered for Visitor’s Plan. Coverage of these drugs for Abu Dhabi plan depends on HAAD basic drug list effective at the time of prescription.

3.4 Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply HAAD payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, CPT, etc.

4. Denial Codes

Code	Code Description
MNEC-003	Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice
NCOV-003	Service(s) is (are) not covered
CODE-010	Activity/Diagnosis inconsistency with clinician speciality
MNEC-004	Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice, without additional supporting diagnosis/activities.

5. Appendices

5.1 References

- FDA
- American College of Rheumatology
- The European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)
- NICE guidelines
- The British Medical Journal
- <http://www.basdai.com>
- <http://www.asas-group.org/clinical-instruments.php?id=01>

5.2 Revision History

Date	Change(s)
15/7/2014	Creation of Adjudication Guideline-External Instruction Template.
30/12/2021	Criteria Update
09/08/2023	Template updated

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