

# Ilumya® (Tildrakizumab-Asmn)

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[Instructions for Use](#)

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Related Commercial Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Provider Administered Drugs – Site of Care</a></li> <li><a href="#">Self-Administered Medications</a></li> </ul>
Community Plan Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Ilumya® (Tildrakizumab-Asmn)</a></li> </ul>

## Coverage Rationale

[See Benefit Considerations](#)

Ilumya to be used as a self-administered, subcutaneous injection for the treatment of plaque psoriasis should be obtained under the pharmacy benefit, unless otherwise specified in the member’s benefit plan documents. Exception: For members enrolled in UnitedHealthcare of California plans with a delegated provider group conducting the prior authorization review, the self-administered Ilumya may be obtained under the medical benefit.

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

- For **initial therapy**:
  - Diagnosis of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis; **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 another systemic targeted immunomodulator [e.g., adalimumab, Bimzelx (bimekizumab-bkzx), Cimzia (certolizumab), Cosentyx (secukinumab), Enbrel (etanercept), Otezla (apremilast), Skyrizi (risankizumab), Siliq (brodalumab), Sotyktu (deucravacitinib), Taltz (ixekizumab), Tremfya (guselkumab), ustekinumab] for treatment of the same indication; **and**
  - Dosing is in accordance with the United States Food and Drug Administration approved labeling; **and**
  - Initial authorization will be for no longer than 12 months
- For **continuation of therapy**:
  - 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 another systemic targeted immunomodulator [e.g., adalimumab, Bimzelx (bimekizumab-bkzx), Cimzia (certolizumab), Cosentyx (secukinumab), Enbrel (etanercept), Otezla (apremilast), Skyrizi (risankizumab), Siliq (brodalumab), Sotyktu (deucravacitinib), Taltz (ixekizumab), Tremfya (guselkumab), ustekinumab] for treatment of the same indication; **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

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

- For **initial therapy**, 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; **and**
  - One of the following:
    - Both of the following:
      - History of failure, contraindication, or intolerance to **one** of the following topical therapies:
        - 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
    - or
    - Patient has been previously treated with a systemic targeted immunomodulator FDA-approved for the treatment of plaque psoriasis [e.g., adalimumab, Bimzelx (bimekizumab-bkzx), Cimzia (certolizumab), Cosentyx (secukinumab), Enbrel (etanercept), Otezla (apremilast), Skyrizi (risankizumab), Siliq (brodalumab), Sotyktu (deucravacitinib), Taltz (ixekizumab), Tremfya (guselkumab), ustekinumab]
  - and**
  - History of failure, contraindication, or intolerance to three of the following preferred biologic products: (For Medicare reviews, refer to the [CMS](#) section.)\*
    - One of the preferred adalimumab products\*
    - Cimzia (certolizumab)
    - Cosentyx (secukinumab)
    - Enbrel (etanercept)
    - Skyrizi (risankizumab)
    - Sotyktu (deucravacitinib)
    - One of the preferred ustekinumab products\*
    - Tremfya (guselkumab)
  - 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 another systemic targeted immunomodulator [e.g., adalimumab, Bimzelx (bimekizumab-bkzx), Cimzia (certolizumab), Cosentyx (secukinumab), Enbrel (etanercept), Otezla (apremilast), Skyrizi (risankizumab), Siliq (brodalumab), Sotyktu (deucravacitinib), Taltz (ixekizumab), Tremfya (guselkumab), ustekinumab] for treatment of the same indication; **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
- For **continuation of therapy**:
  - 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 another systemic targeted immunomodulator [e.g., adalimumab, Bimzelx (bimekizumab-bkzx), Cimzia (certolizumab), Cosentyx (secukinumab), Enbrel (etanercept), Otezla (apremilast), Skyrizi (risankizumab), Siliq (brodalumab), Sotyktu (deucravacitinib), Taltz (ixekizumab), Tremfya (guselkumab), ustekinumab] for treatment of the same indication; **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

\*For a list of preferred products, reference drug coverage tools.

## 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 the member specific benefit plan document 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.

## Benefit Considerations

Some Certificates of Coverage allow for coverage of experimental/investigational/unproven treatments for life-threatening illnesses when certain conditions are met. The member specific benefit plan document must be consulted to make coverage decisions for this service. Some states mandate benefit coverage for off-label use of medications for some diagnoses or under some circumstances when certain conditions are met. Where such mandates apply, they supersede language in the benefit document or in the medical or drug policy.

## 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>1,9,10,11</sup>

### Professional Societies

#### Plaque Psoriasis

#### 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 regard 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.

## Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Coverage guidelines for certain Part B drugs may be found in the Medicare Advantage Medical Policy titled [Medications/Drugs \(Outpatient/Part B\)](#). National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) may exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. These NCDs/LCDs/LCAs are available at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/new-search/search.aspx>.

In general, Medicare covers outpatient (Part B) drugs that are furnished "incident to" a physician's service provided that certain criteria are met, including that the drugs are not usually self-administered by the patients who take them. Refer to the [Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, §50 - Drugs and Biologicals](#).

\*Preferred therapy criteria for Medicare Advantage members, refer to [Medicare Part B Step Therapy Programs](#).

## References

1. Ilumya [package insert]. Cranbury, NJ: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.; December 2025.
2. 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.
3. Reich K, Warren RB, Iversen L, et al. Long-term efficacy and safety of tildrakizumab for moderate-to-severe psoriasis: pooled analyses of two randomised phase III clinical trials (reSURFACE 1 and reSURFACE 2) through 148 weeks. *Bri J Dermatol*. 2019 Jun 19.
4. 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.
5. 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
06/01/2026	<p><b>Coverage Rationale</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Replaced references to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ "Targeted immunomodulator" with "systemic targeted immunomodulator"</li><li>○ "Biologic or targeted synthetic DMARD" with "systemic targeted immunomodulator"</li></ul></li><li>● Updated list of examples of systemic targeted immunomodulators the patient must not be receiving in combination with Ilumya for treatment of the same indication:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Added:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Bimzelx (bimekizumab-bkzx)</li><li>▪ Sotyktu (deucravacitinib)</li></ul></li><li>○ Removed:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Olumiant (baricitinib)</li><li>▪ Orencia (abatacept)</li><li>▪ Rinvoq (upadacitinib)</li><li>▪ Simponi (golimumab)</li><li>▪ Xeljanz (tofacitinib)</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>● Updated list of examples of systemic targeted immunomodulators U.S. FDA-approved for the treatment of plaque psoriasis with which the patient has been previously treated for initial therapy; added:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Bimzelx (bimekizumab-bkzx)</li><li>○ Cosentyx (secukinumab)</li><li>○ Siliq (brodalumab)</li><li>○ Sotyktu (deucravacitinib)</li><li>○ Taltz (ixekizumab)</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Supporting Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Updated <i>CMS</i> and <i>References</i> sections to reflect the most current information</li></ul>

Date	Summary of Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archived previous policy version 2025D0074N</li> </ul>

## Instructions for Use

This Medical Benefit Drug Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced as the terms of the member specific benefit plan may differ from the standard plan. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document governs. Before using this policy, check the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable federal or state mandates. 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.

This Medical Benefit Drug Policy may also be applied to Medicare Advantage plans in certain instances. In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage guidance, CMS allows a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to create its own coverage determinations, using objective evidence-based rationale relying on authoritative evidence ([Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5](#)).

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual<sup>®</sup> criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. 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.