

Specialty Pharmacy Program

Benlysta[®] (belimumab)

DESCRIPTION

Benlysta is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with active, autoantibody-positive, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) who are receiving standard therapy. Benlysta binds to the soluble B-lymphocyte stimulator protein (BLyS) and prevents BLyS from binding to its receptor on B cells. Benlysta inhibits the survival of B cells, which are believed to play a role in the pathogenesis of SLE.

APPROVAL DURATION

Initial therapy: 6 months

Maintenance therapy: 1 year

APPROVAL CRITERIA

Benlysta will be approved if the patient meets the following criteria:

- I. Patient has a diagnosis of active SLE **AND**
- II. Patient is positive for autoantibodies prior to initiating therapy **AND**
- III. Patient does not have severe active lupus nephritis or severe active CNS lupus **AND**
- IV. Patient is receiving standard therapy for SLE (eg, corticosteroids) **AND**
- V. Patient will not receive Benlysta in combination with other biologic agents or intravenous cyclophosphamide **AND**
- VI. Patient is benefiting from Benlysta therapy for renewals.