

## STEP THERAPY POLICY

- POLICY:** Methotrexate Injection Step Therapy Policy
- Methotrexate sodium (solution for injection, various manufacturers)
  - Otrexup® (methotrexate subcutaneous injection autoinjector– Antares)
  - Rasuvo® (methotrexate subcutaneous injection autoinjector – Medac)
  - Reditrex® (methotrexate subcutaneous injection prefilled syringe – Cumberland)

**REVIEW DATE:** 12/21/2022

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### OVERVIEW

Methotrexate has been widely studied and is commonly used for treatment of **inflammatory conditions**, including rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, and plaque psoriasis.<sup>1</sup>

All of the injectable methotrexate products require proper patient training in sterile injection technique and require a patient to have the manual dexterity to self-inject.<sup>5</sup> For inflammatory conditions, the dose of methotrexate is initiated low and adjusted gradually to achieve optimal response and/or tolerability, generally to a maximum of 25 to 30 mg/week.<sup>1,6,7</sup> Flexibility to decrease or increase methotrexate dosing, including in 2.5-mg increments, may be needed in clinical practice. Generic injectable methotrexate is available as a 25 mg/mL injection solution (single-dose and multi-dose vials) and provides flexibility in dose adjustments.<sup>5</sup> Otrexup, Rasuvo, and Reditrex are available as preservative-free, single-dose injections for subcutaneous use.<sup>6,7</sup> A formulation other than Otrexup, Rasuvo, or Reditrex should be used for patients who require a route of administration other than subcutaneous, for doses that are not available in the respective product, and for dose adjustments in < 2.5 mg increments.

### POLICY STATEMENT

This program has been developed to encourage the use of a Step 1 Product prior to the use of a Step 2 Product. If the Step Therapy rule is not met for a Step 2 Product at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the Step Therapy criteria below. All approvals are provided for 1 year in duration. Note: Unless administered by a healthcare provider, all of the injectable methotrexate products, including Rasuvo, Otrexup, and Reditrex, require proper patient training in sterile injection technique and require a patient or caregiver to have the manual dexterity to inject.

**Automation:** A patient with a of one Step 1 Product within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy.

**Step 1:** Generic methotrexate injection (single- or multi-dose vials)

**Step 2:** Otrexup, Rasuvo, Reditrex

### CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one Step 1 Product, approve a Step 2 Product.

2. If, according to the prescriber, the patient and/or caregiver is/are unable to administer generic methotrexate injection (single-dose or multi-dose vial NOT including Otrexup, Rasuvo, or Reditrex), approve a Step 2 Product.
3. No other exceptions are recommended.

## REFERENCES

1. Methotrexate injection [prescribing information]. Rockford, IL: Mylan; September 2014.
2. Braun J, Kästner P, Flaxenberg P, et al. Comparison of the clinical efficacy and safety of subcutaneous versus oral methotrexate in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis: results of a six-month, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, controlled, phase IV trial. *Arthritis Rheum*. 2008;58(1):73-81.
3. Wegrzyn J, Adeleine P, Miossec P. Better efficacy of methotrexate given by intramuscular injection than orally in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2004;63(10):1232-1234.
4. Abolmaali SS, Tamaddon AM, Dinarvand R. A review of therapeutic challenges and achievements of methotrexate delivery systems for treatment of cancer and rheumatoid arthritis. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol*. 2013;71(5):1115-1130.
5. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2022. Available at: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/Default.aspx>. Accessed on December 13, 2022. Search term: methotrexate.
6. Otrexup [prescribing information]. Ewing, NJ: Antares Pharma; December 2019.
7. Rasuvo [prescribing information]. Chicago, IL: Medac Pharma; March 2020.
8. Reditrex [prescribing information]. Nashville, TN: Cumberland Pharmaceuticals; November 2019.