

**AAICSWLA Biologic Prescribing and Insurance Approval Policy**

To manage symptoms of chronic hives, chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps, and certain types of asthma, your doctor may recommend treatment with a specific type of injectable medication called "biologics." Brand name examples of these medications include Xolair, Dupixent, Fasentra, Nucala, Cinqair, etc. Consideration for prescribing biologics depends on a patient's disease severity, underlying inflammatory mechanism of disease, and response, or lack thereof, to previous treatments. Nevertheless, **biologics can be life-changing therapy for the right patient.**

These medications are usually approved through a patient's insurance if clinically indicated. Unfortunately, the insurance approval process can be very tedious, requiring a significant amount of time from our staff and providers. **If you anticipate a change in insurance in the next 90 days, we will wait until the new insurance plan is active before initiating the approval process.** We will submit a patient's records and necessary paperwork to begin the approval. Our team checks the submission status weekly and notifies patients of significant updates. Specific clinic staff handles the approval process. **Please do not ask our shot room staff or front desk staff to check the status of biologics.** The insurance approval process can take up to **two months**. Verifying out-of-pocket costs is the **responsibility of the patient**. Our practice does not "buy and bill" medications and has no financial incentive to prescribe any specific drug.

When biologic coverage is approved, patients receive a call from the specialty pharmacy to schedule medication delivery. **The medication will ship to our office or the patient only after consent.** Once a patient approves the first shipment and the prescription is received, our office will call the patient to make an appointment for the first dose. **Some biologics require waiting in the office for a few hours after the first few doses.** After receiving the first few doses, **patients continue self-administering their biologic therapy at home**, as most insurers require. Unless otherwise instructed, you should **continue taking your other maintenance medications.**

Again, biologic approvals require significant clinical resources. **We cannot restart/resubmit approvals for a lapse in coverage due to missed doses or appointments.** Insurers require regular follow-up for continued coverage. **Missing a biologic appointment may result in wasted doses, costing hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Patients who miss multiple scheduled biologic treatments or multiple scheduled follow-up appointments will not be able to continue biologic therapy prescribed by our providers.**

We thank our patients for their help and understanding in this process. Please ask our staff if you have any questions about our biologic prescribing and insurance approval policy.

**Acknowledgement**

I have read and understand the above biologic therapies prescribing and insurance approval policy and agree to the policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of patient/parent/guardian      Relation to patient      Date

Patient name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_