

PHARMACY POLICY STATEMENT

North Carolina Marketplace

DRUG NAME	Tezspire (tezepelumab-eeko)
BENEFIT TYPE	Medical or Pharmacy
STATUS	Prior Authorization Required

Tezspire (tezepelumab-eeko) is a thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP) blocker, human monoclonal antibody approved in 2021 for the add-on maintenance treatment of severe asthma. Tezspire is the first monoclonal antibody to act on TSLP. Blocking TSLP with tezepelumab-ekko reduces biomarkers and cytokines associated with inflammation including blood eosinophils, airway submucosal eosinophils, IgE, FeNO, IL -5, and IL-13; however, the mechanism of tezepelumab-ekko action in asthma has not been definitively established.

Tezspire (tezepelumab-eeko) will be considered for coverage when the following criteria are met:

Asthma

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is at least 12 years of age; AND
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist, immunologist, or pulmonologist; AND
3. Member has diagnosis of severe asthma; AND
4. Member has at least two documented severe asthma exacerbations requiring corticosteroids or at least one requiring hospitalization, within the last year; AND
5. Member's asthma is inadequately controlled after 3 months of conventional treatment on medium to high doses of inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) and long-acting beta 2-agonists (LABA); AND
6. Medication is being used as add-on maintenance treatment to conventional therapies for asthma (i.e. ICS, LABA, etc.); AND
7. Medication is not used in conjunction with any other biologic therapy for asthma; AND
8. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** 210 mg (1 vial, syringe or pen) every 28 days. Quantity Limit: 1 vial, syringe or pen per 28 days.

If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for 6 months.

For **reauthorization**:

1. Chart notes have been provided that show the member has demonstrated improvement (i.e. increased FEV1, decreased rate of exacerbations or decreased utilization of oral corticosteroids, etc.).

If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for an additional 12 months.

CareSource considers Tezspire (tezepelumab-eeko) not medically necessary for the treatment of conditions that are not listed in this document. For any other indication, please refer to the Off-Label policy.

