

Glossary

Antibody – A protein made in the blood in response to a foreign substance entering the body, causing an immune response

Autoimmune disease – A disease where a person’s immune system mistakenly attacks their own body, including healthy tissues

Comorbid condition – A condition that is related to another disease present

Immune-mediated inflammatory disease (IMID) – An inflammatory disease where the causes and mechanisms of action are not fully understood, but a malfunction of the immune system is involved

Prior authorization – A process used by some health insurance companies that requires the review and approval of a specific procedure, service, or drug before it is prescribed

Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) – A chronic inflammatory condition associated with psoriasis that results in inflammation in your joints, causing stiffness and pain

Psoriatic disease – The immune response and systemic inflammation that causes both psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis

Psoriasis – An immune-mediated systemic disease that causes inflammation and overproduction of skin cells, resulting in skin rashes, discoloration, raised plaques, and/or scales

Remission – A level of symptoms that no longer interferes with a patient’s behavior or regular activities; typically, improvements must last at least 6 months to establish designation of remission

Rheumatologist – A doctor of internal medicine or pediatrician who specializes in diseases of the joints, muscles, and bones

Step therapy – A practice used by health insurance companies to begin treatment for a medical condition with the most cost-effective drug therapy and then progress “step-wise” to other more costly or risky therapies, only if necessary. This approach is use intended to control the costs and risks posed by prescription drugs.