SAMPLE APPEAL LETTER – PRIOR AUTHORIZATION: CERTOLIZUMAB FOR PREGNANCY

Insurance Company

# **RE:**

**DOB:**

**ID #**

**Pat Acct #**

DATE

Dear Sir, or Madam:

I am writing on behalf of my patient, Ms. Doe, to request certolizumab pegol as treatment of her Crohn’s disease.

Ms. Doe has a history of [IBD Phenotype and prior surgeries/complications (e.g., fistulas, abscess, strictures)] and has previously failed treatment with [Previous medication failures and/or intolerances]. The patient is intending pregnancy over the next year.

Certolizumab pegol, like other anti-TNF agents, is superior to placebo in inducing remission and preventing relapse in patients with Crohn disease, and treatment is associated with a clinically significant improvement in the quality of life. Additionally, certolizumab pegol has a unique safety profile for pregnant women. It can be used prior to conception and continued throughout pregnancy until delivery as there is minimal placental transfer of certolizumab pegol to the infant during pregnancy. Certolizumab **pegol** is also low risk to continue during breastfeeding as it is not excreted into breastmilk. Because of its minimal placental transfer, unlike other anti-TNFs, there is no recommendation that infants born to mothers taking Certolizumab Pegol avoid live virus vaccinations.

Based on this data, my personal and professional experience and my patient’s medical history, I strongly believe that initiation of certolizumab pegol is the best option for her at this time.

Sincerely,

Dr.

Contact info

**References:**

1. Sandborn WJ, Feagan BG, Stoinov S et al. Certolizumab pegol for the treatment of Crohn's disease. N Engl J Med 2007;357:228-238.
2. Schreiber S, Khaliq-Kareemi M, Lawrance IC et al. Maintenance therapy with certolizumab pegol for Crohn's disease. N Engl J Med 2007;357:239-250.
3. Mahadevan, Uma et al., Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Pregnancy Clinical Care Pathway: A Report From the American Gastroenterological Association IBD Parenthood Project Working Group. Gastroenterology, Volume 156, Issue 5, 1508 - 1524