SAMPLE APPEAL LETTER – PRIOR AUTHORIZATION: VEDOLIZUMAB FIRST LINE THERAPY FOR UC

Insurance Company

# RE: PATIENT

**DOB:**

**ID #**

**Pat Acct #**

DATE

Dear Sir, or Madam:

I am writing on behalf of my patient, Mr./Ms. Doe, to request prior authorization for vedolizumab for treatment of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis.

Mr./Ms. Doe has a history of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis and is naïve to biologic therapy.

The most recent American College of Gastroenterology guidelines for ulcerative colitis, recommend the use of anti-TNFs OR Vedolizumab for induction and maintenance of remission in patients with moderate to severely active ulcerative colitis1. The selection of the optimal biologic for a patient should take into account patient variables, preferences, safety and efficacy and is a decision best made jointly by the patient and their provider and not by an arbitrary algorithm based solely on cost. In addition, a recent double-blinded randomized controlled trial of anti-TNF therapy (adalimumab) versus vedolizumab in moderate to severely active ulcerative colitis demonstrated vedolizumab to be superior in terms of clinical remission and endoscopic mucosal healing at Week 52 with superior safety to anti-TNF therapy2,3,4. Furthermore, the initial studies that led to FDA approval of Vedolizumab showed superior efficacy in bio-naïve UC patients compared to those who had previously been treated with an anti-TNF therapy.

Therefore, in this treatment naïve patient with moderate ulcerative colitis, recent data suggests superiority of pertinent clinical outcomes and better safety with vedolizumab. For these reasons, I am recommending the appropriate coverage of vedolizumab for my patient.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr.

Contact info

## References:

## Rubin, D et al., ACG Clinical Guideline: Ulcerative Colitis in Adults. American Journal of Gastroenterology: [March 2019 - Volume 114 - Issue 3 - p 384–413](https://journals.lww.com/ajg/toc/2019/03000)

1. Schreiber S, et al. VARSITY: A double-blind, double-dummy, randomised, controlled trial of vedolizumab versus adalimumab in patients with active ulcerative colitis. Presented at the 14th Congress of the Crohn’s and Colitis Organisation (ECCO), Copenhagen, Denmark. Oral presentation #OP34 (Saturday March 9, 2019, 09:40-09:50).
2. Loftus EV Jr, et al. Long-term efficacy of vedolizumab for ulcerative colitis. J Crohns Colitis. 2017 Apr 1;11(4):400-411. doi: 10.1093/ecco-jcc/jjw177.
3. Loftus, Edward V. et al. 835 – Long-term safety of vedolizumab in ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease: Final results from the Gemini Lts Study. Gastroenterology, Volume 156, Issue 6, S-182. doi: 10.1093/ecco-jcc/jjw177.