



# Authorization and appeals kit

## Moderate to severe plaque psoriasis

### Resources for healthcare providers

#### INDICATIONS

COSENTYX® (secukinumab) is indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in adult patients who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy.

COSENTYX is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with active psoriatic arthritis.

COSENTYX is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with active ankylosing spondylitis.

COSENTYX is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) with objective signs of inflammation.

#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS

COSENTYX is contraindicated in patients with a previous serious hypersensitivity reaction to secukinumab or to any of the excipients.

[Click here](#) for additional Important Safety Information.


Please see full [Prescribing Information](#), including [Medication Guide](#).

Information and sample letters to help ensure that your communications with health plans are as complete as possible.

The information herein is provided for educational purposes only. Novartis cannot guarantee insurance coverage or reimbursement. Coverage and reimbursement may vary significantly by payer, plan, patient, and setting of care. It is the sole responsibility of the healthcare provider to select the proper codes and ensure the accuracy of all statements used in seeking coverage and reimbursement for an individual patient.



**Cosentyx**<sup>®</sup>  
(secukinumab)

This kit provides you with information and sample letters that can help ensure your communications with health plans regarding a prior authorization or appeal are as complete as possible. These samples are intended to provide you with examples of the type of information that will usually be required. Click the  icon at the bottom of each sample letter to open an editable Word version of the letter. You can refer to the checklist on the first page of each section as you develop and complete your own letters. The more completely and accurately that you meet a plan's requirements for prescribing COSENTYX, the more quickly you will be able to help your patients receive therapy.

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**If an initial appeal is rejected:** There can be multiple levels of appeal. Each of the appeal letters can be adapted for higher level appeals. After a second-level appeal, additional adjudication may include review by an independent noninsurance-affiliated external review board or hearing. Please refer to the plan's specific appeal guidelines, which are often available on their website.

**If there is a denial after multiple levels of appeal:** In line with your standard office practice, you may refer the patient to charitable foundation programs to explore eligibility for financial assistance.

ICD-10=  
International  
Classification of  
Diseases, Tenth  
Revision;  
NDC=National  
Drug Code.

- 
- |                                          |          |
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# Suggestions for writing a Prior Authorization Request Letter\*

Many plans require prior authorization (PA) for biologics and will have their own PA forms available on their websites. This section provides general guidance on submitting a PA form and provides sample letters.

Click the  icon at the bottom of each sample letter to open an editable Word version of the letter.

## Tips

All COSENTYX prior authorization forms should be completed and submitted to the plan by your office.

Your Field Reimbursement Manager (FRM) may be able to provide you with PA requirements for specific plans and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Benefits verifications performed by COSENTYX® Connect Support Program and specialty pharmacies can also identify prior authorization requirements, step therapies, and form requirements.

Fax the prior authorization request to the health plan.

Fax the service request form (SRF) to the COSENTYX Connect Support Program at [1-844-666-1366](tel:1-844-666-1366).

Many specialty pharmacies have the ability to submit a test claim to a payer to confirm coverage of COSENTYX.

If the physician anticipates that a step therapy specified by the plan will not be well tolerated by the patient, an appeal to bypass that requirement may be submitted to the payer. That appeal should generally include a Letter of Medical Necessity.

[Click here for a sample Letter of Medical Necessity.](#)

Many payers will allow up to 3 levels of appeal of prior authorization denials. The third level of appeal may include review by an independent noninsurance-affiliated external review board or hearing.

[Click here for a sample Prior Authorization Appeals Letter.](#)

**Note:** Some plans may require the use of their own letter templates for prior authorization requests.

## Checklist

- Include the patient's name, policy number, and date of birth**
- Confirm and document that all PA requirements of the plan have been met**
- Confirm and document that the patient has satisfied any step-therapy requirements**
- When appropriate, attach a photo of the affected area**
- Review suggested letter formats that follow for additional guidance**
- Refer to the health plan's website to locate their PA form. Your FRM may also be able to assist you in identifying the payer's PA form or PA requirements**

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See sample letters on following pages.

[Click here for Important Safety Information.](#)

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# Sample Prior Authorization Request Letter when patient is **not** already taking COSENTYX® (secukinumab)

[Today's Date]  
[Medical Director]  
[Insurance Company]  
[Address]

Re: [Patient Name]  
[Policy Number]  
[DOB]

To whom it may concern:

This letter is being submitted for the prior authorization of COSENTYX for [patient name, ID, and group number], for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis [ICD-10 code].

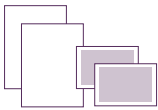
If appealing a step edit requirement, consider inserting an explanation like that shown in the pink shaded box to detail why step therapies are not appropriate for this patient.

The plan currently requires a trial of the following therapies before COSENTYX is prescribed: [insert required step therapies]. Included please find a statement explaining why these step therapies are not feasible. We request that the step therapy requirement be eliminated.

### Patient's history, diagnosis, current condition, and symptoms

[Include relevant medical information to support your diagnosis and reason for treatment with COSENTYX. Examples of information you may want to include are:

- Tuberculosis test and results
- Percentage of Body Surface Area (BSA) currently affected
- Confirmation that the patient has moderate to severe plaque psoriasis
- If there are persistent troublesome areas of the body to treat, indicate area: \_\_\_\_\_
- Up-to-date clinical documentation
- **Photos** of affected areas
- Impact on quality of life]



Previous therapies:	Reason for discontinuation:	Duration of therapy:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

(Provide rationale for prescribing COSENTYX.)

### Supporting references:

(Clinical support for your recommendation, for example, clinical trial data from the COSENTYX package insert.)

The ordering physician is [physician name, NPI #]. The prior authorization decision may be faxed to [fax #] or mailed to [physician business office address]. Please also send a copy of the coverage determination decision to [patient name].

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Physician name and signature]  
[Name of practice, Phone #]

Encl: Medical records  
COSENTYX clinical trial data

 Double-click to open a Word version of this letter.



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# Sample Prior Authorization Request Letter when patient is already taking COSENTYX® (secukinumab)

[Today's Date]  
[Medical Director]  
[Insurance Company]  
[Address]

Re: [Patient Name]  
[Policy Number]  
[DOB]

To whom it may concern:

This letter is being submitted for the prior authorization of COSENTYX for [patient name, ID, and group number], for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis [ICD-10 code]. The authorization requested is for the current date of [insert date] through the date of [insert future date].

If appealing a step edit requirement, consider inserting an explanation like that shown in the pink shaded box to detail why step therapies are not appropriate for this patient.

The plan currently requires a trial of the following therapies before COSENTYX is prescribed: [insert required step therapies]. Included please find a statement explaining why these step therapies are not feasible. We request that the step therapy requirement be eliminated.

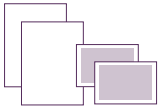
(Include information outlining the severity of plaque psoriasis symptoms **at the time of COSENTYX prescription**. Historical medical records may need to be pulled to capture the information relevant to COSENTYX treatment at an earlier date.)

### Patient's history, diagnosis, current condition, and symptoms

[Include relevant medical information to support your diagnosis and reason for treatment with COSENTYX.

Examples of information you may want to include are:

- Tuberculosis test and results
- Percentage of Body Surface Area (BSA) currently affected
- Confirmation that the patient has moderate to severe plaque psoriasis
- If there are persistent troublesome areas of the body to treat, indicate area: \_\_\_\_\_
- Up-to-date clinical documentation
- **Photos** of affected areas
- Impact on quality of life
- Rationale for continuation of COSENTYX, documenting clinical benefits]



**Previous therapies:**

**Reason for discontinuation:**

**Duration of therapy:**

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

### Supporting references:

(Clinical support for your recommendation, for example, clinical trial data from the COSENTYX package insert.)

The ordering physician is [physician name, NPI #]. The prior authorization decision may be faxed to [fax #] or mailed to [physician business office address]. Please also send a copy of the coverage determination decision to [patient name].

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Physician name and signature]  
[Name of practice, Phone #]

Encl: Medical records  
COSENTYX clinical trial data

NPI=national provider identifier.

 Double-click to open a Word version of this letter.



[Click here for Important Safety Information.](#)  
Please see full [Prescribing Information](#), including [Medication Guide](#).

# Suggestions for writing a Prior Authorization Appeals Letter\*

This type of letter can be used when a prior authorization request has been denied. There can be multiple levels of appeal. Please refer to the plan's specific appeals guidelines.

This letter comes from the **physician**. It should be submitted along with a copy of the patient's relevant medical records and a Letter of Medical Necessity.

[Click here](#) for a sample Letter of Medical Necessity.

Click the  icon at the bottom of each sample letter to open an editable Word version of the letter.

## Checklist

- Include the patient's name, policy number, date of birth, PA denial reference number, and date of denial**

- Acknowledge that you are familiar with the company's policy and state the reason for the denial**

- Patient's medical records**

Patient history, diagnosis, current condition, and symptoms

Include copies of relevant medical records (payers may want to see if any infections, allergies, or comorbidities are present)

[When appropriate, attach a photo of the affected area](#)

- Document severity of condition**

Familiarize yourself with the severity scoring methods preferred by the health plan

- List previous therapies**

Explain why each therapy was discontinued, and specify the duration of therapy for each agent

- Explain why formulary preferred agents are not appropriate**  
(if they have not already been listed as previous therapies)

- Provide clinical support for your recommendation**  
This can be clinical trial data from the COSENTYX package insert.

- If required, attach a **Letter of Medical Necessity**  
[Click here](#) for a sample Letter of Medical Necessity.

**Note:** At each stage of appeal, health plans may require that their own forms (or the universal forms that are required by some states) be submitted along with your letter.

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See sample letters on following pages.

[Click here](#) for Important Safety Information.

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# Sample Prior Authorization Appeals Letter when patient is **not** already taking COSENTYX® (secukinumab)

[Today's Date]  
[Medical Director]  
[Insurance Company]  
[Address]

Re: [Patient Name]  
[Policy Number]  
[DOB]  
[PA Denial Reference # and Date ]

To whom it may concern:

I have read and acknowledge your policy for the responsible management of drugs in this category.

If this is a 2nd- or 3rd-level appeal, consider including an explanation like the one in the shaded pink box.

This is a [Insert level of request] prior authorization appeal. A copy of the most recent denial letter is included along with medical notes in response to the denial.

I am writing to request that you reconsider your denial of coverage of COSENTYX for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis [ICD-10 code]. The reason given for the denial was [state reason from insurer's letter]. After reviewing the denial letter, I maintain that COSENTYX [dose, frequency] is the appropriate therapy. Listed below is a summary of the relevant clinical history.

### Patient's history, diagnosis, current condition, and symptoms

[Include relevant medical information to support your diagnosis and reason for treatment with COSENTYX.

Examples of information you may want to include are:

- Tuberculosis test and results
- Percentage of Body Surface Area (BSA) currently affected
- Confirmation that the patient has moderate to severe plaque psoriasis
- If there are persistent troublesome areas of the body to treat, indicate area: \_\_\_\_\_
- Up-to-date clinical documentation
- **Photos** of affected areas
- Impact on quality of life]

<b>Previous therapies:</b>	<b>Reason for discontinuation:</b>	<b>Duration of therapy:</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

[Summary of recommendation with clinical support for the appeal]

Please contact me [insert office phone number] for any additional information you may require regarding this appeal. I look forward to your timely approval.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Physician name and signature]  
[Name of practice, Phone #]

 Double-click to open a Word version of this letter.

Encl: Medical records  
Letter of denial  
COSENTYX clinical trial data



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# Sample Prior Authorization Appeals Letter when patient is already taking COSENTYX® (secukinumab)

[Today's Date]  
[Medical Director]  
[Insurance Company]  
[Address]

Re: [Patient Name]  
[Policy Number]  
[DOB]  
[PA Denial Reference # and Date ]

To whom it may concern:

I have read and acknowledge your policy for the responsible management of drugs in this category.

If this is a 2nd- or 3rd-level appeal, consider including an explanation like the one in the shaded pink box.

This is a [Insert level of request] prior authorization appeal. A copy of the most recent denial letter is included along with medical notes in response to the denial.

I am writing to request that you reconsider your denial of coverage of COSENTYX for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis [ICD-10 code]. The reason given for the denial was [state reason from insurer's letter]. After reviewing the denial letter, I maintain that COSENTYX [dose, frequency] is the appropriate therapy. Listed below is a summary of the relevant clinical history.

(Include information outlining the severity of the patient's symptoms **at the time of COSENTYX prescription**. Historical medical records may need to be pulled to capture the information relevant to COSENTYX treatment at an earlier date.)

### Patient's history, diagnosis, current condition, and symptoms

[Include relevant medical information to support your diagnosis and reason for treatment with COSENTYX.

Examples of information you may want to include are:

- Tuberculosis test and results
- Percentage of Body Surface Area (BSA) currently affected
- Confirmation that the patient has moderate to severe plaque psoriasis
- If there are persistent troublesome areas of the body to treat, indicate area: \_\_\_\_\_
- Up-to-date clinical documentation
- **Photos** of affected areas
- Impact on quality of life
- Rationale for continuation of COSENTYX, documenting clinical benefits]

<b>Previous therapies:</b>	<b>Reason for discontinuation:</b>	<b>Duration of therapy:</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

[Summary of recommendation with clinical support for the appeal]

Please contact me [insert office phone number] for any additional information you may require regarding this appeal. I look forward to your timely approval.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Physician name and signature]  
[Name of practice, Phone #]

Encl: Medical records  
Letter of denial  
COSENTYX clinical trial data

 Double-click to open a Word version of this letter.



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# Suggestions for writing a Letter of Medical Necessity\*

Some plans require that a Letter of Medical Necessity be submitted along with a Prior Authorization Appeal to support the choice of COSENTYX over agents that are on formulary.

[Click here](#) for a sample Prior Authorization Appeals Letter.

Click the  icon at the bottom of each sample letter to open an editable Word version of the letter.

You may find that this checklist and the sample letters that follow are a helpful guide to preparing that letter. A Letter of Medical Necessity should also accompany a Formulary Exception Request Letter as well as a Tiering Exception Request Letter.

[Click here](#) for a sample Formulary Exception Request Letter.

[Click here](#) for a sample Tiering Exception Request Letter.

## Checklist

- Include the patient's name, policy number, date of birth, and, if appropriate, PA denial reference number and date of denial**

- Support your recommendation with the following:**

Patient history, diagnosis, current condition, and symptoms

Include copies of relevant medical records (payers may want to see if any infections, allergies, or comorbidities are present)

 **When appropriate, attach a photo of the affected area**

- Document severity of condition**

Familiarize yourself with the severity scoring methods preferred by the health plan

- List previous therapies**

Explain why each therapy was discontinued, and specify the duration of therapy for each agent

- Explain why formulary preferred agents are not appropriate**  
(if they have not already been listed as previous therapy)

- Provide clinical support for your recommendation**

This can be clinical trial data from the COSENTYX package insert

- To close the letter, summarize your recommendation, and provide a phone number should any additional information be required**

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See sample letters on following pages.

[Click here](#) for Important Safety Information.

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# Sample Letter of Medical Necessity

when patient is **not** already taking COSENTYX® (secukinumab)

[Today's Date]  
[Medical Director]  
[Insurance Company]  
[Address]

Re: [Patient Name]  
[Policy Number]  
[DOB]  
[Optional: PA Denial Reference # and Date ]

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of my patient, [patient name], to support the coverage of COSENTYX for treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis [ICD-10 code]. I have read and acknowledge your policy for the responsible management of drugs in this category. In this letter, I provide my rationale for the use of COSENTYX [dose, frequency] and explain why, in my clinical judgment, it is required for the appropriate management of this patient. I have also included a brief description of the patient's medical history, a review of previous therapies, and the patient's severity score.

### Patient's history, diagnosis, current condition, and symptoms

[Include relevant medical information to support your diagnosis and reason for treatment with COSENTYX. Examples of information you may want to include are:

- Tuberculosis test and results
- Percentage of Body Surface Area (BSA) currently affected
- Confirmation that the patient has moderate to severe plaque psoriasis
- If there are persistent troublesome areas of the body to treat, indicate area:
- Up-to-date clinical documentation
- **Photos** of affected areas
- Impact on quality of life]

Previous therapies:	Reason for discontinuation:	Duration of therapy:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

[Summary of recommendation with clinical support for the appeal]

Please contact me [insert office phone number] for any additional information you may require in support of this appeal. I look forward to your timely approval.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Physician name and signature]  
[Name of practice]  
[Phone #]

Encl: Medical records



Double-click to open a Word version of this letter.



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Please see full [Prescribing Information](#), including [Medication Guide](#).

# Sample Letter of Medical Necessity when patient **is** already taking COSENTYX® (secukinumab)

[Today's Date]  
[Medical Director]  
[Insurance Company]  
[Address]

Re: [Patient Name]  
[Policy Number]  
[DOB]  
[Optional: PA Denial Reference # and Date ]

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of my patient, [patient name], to support the coverage of COSENTYX for treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis [ICD-10 code]. I have read and acknowledge your policy for the responsible management of drugs in this category. In this letter, I provide my rationale for the use of COSENTYX [dose, frequency] and explain why, in my clinical judgment, it is required for the appropriate management of this patient. I have also included a brief description of the patient's medical history, a review of previous therapies, and the patient's severity score.

(Include information outlining the severity of the disease and the patient's symptoms **at the time of COSENTYX prescription**. Historical medical records may need to be pulled to capture the information relevant to COSENTYX treatment at an earlier date.)

### Patient's history, diagnosis, current condition, and symptoms

[Include relevant medical information to support your diagnosis and reason for treatment with COSENTYX. Examples of information you may want to include are:

- Tuberculosis test and results
- Percentage of Body Surface Area (BSA) currently affected
- Confirmation that the patient has moderate to severe plaque psoriasis
- If there are persistent troublesome areas of the body to treat, indicate area:
- Up-to-date clinical documentation
- **Photos** of affected areas
- Impact on quality of life
- Rationale for continuation of COSENTYX, documenting clinical benefits]

Previous therapies:	Reason for discontinuation:	Duration of therapy:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

[Summary of recommendation with clinical support for the appeal]

Please contact me [insert office phone number] for any additional information you may require in support of this appeal. I look forward to your timely approval.

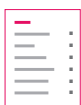
Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Physician name and signature]  
[Name of practice]  
[Phone #]

Encl: Medical records



Double-click to open a Word version of this letter.



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# Suggestions for writing a Formulary Exception Request Letter\*

This type of letter can be used when COSENTYX is not listed on a formulary or if it has an NDC block. While the plan may provide a form on its website that can be used to apply for an exception, you can refer to the sample provided in this kit to see the type of information that is typically required.

Click the  icon at the bottom of each sample letter to open an editable Word version of the letter.

This letter comes from the **patient** and is also signed by the **physician**. It should be submitted along with a copy of the patient's relevant medical records and a Letter of Medical Necessity.

[Click here](#) for a sample Letter of Medical Necessity

## Checklist

- Include your name, policy number, date of birth, and, if appropriate, the denial reference number from a previous appeal and the date of denial**
- Your diagnosis**
- List of your previous therapies**
- The main reasons that support your request for a formulary exception for COSENTYX**
- Relevant medical records**
- If this is a 2nd-level or 3rd-level formulary exception appeal**, include the letter of denial and your physician's medical notes in response to the denial
- If required, attach a **Letter of Medical Necessity** from your physician  
[Click here](#) for a sample Letter of Medical Necessity.

**Note:** At each stage of appeal, health plans may require that their own forms (or the universal forms that are required by some states) be submitted along with your letter.

NDC=National Drug Code.

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See sample letters on following pages.

[Click here](#) for Important Safety Information.

Please see full [Prescribing Information](#), including [Medication Guide](#).



# Sample Formulary Exception Request Letter

when you are **not** already taking COSENTYX® (secukinumab)

[Today's Date]  
[Medical Director]  
[Insurance Company]  
[Address]

Re: [Name]  
[Policy Number]  
[DOB]  
[Optional: Denial Reference # and Date ]

To whom it may concern:

I am a member of [enter name of health plan]. Currently COSENTYX is not listed on my formulary, and according to my doctor, my medical condition necessitates the use of this drug.

If this is a 2nd- or 3rd- level appeal, consider including an explanation like the one in the shaded purple box. Be sure to include a copy of the original letter of denial along with your doctor's specific medical notes in response to the denial.

This is my [Insert level of request] formulary exception appeal. A copy of the original denial letter is included along with medical notes in response to the denial.

I am requesting an exception to your formulary so that I am able to fill my prescription for COSENTYX. I request that it be available to me as a preferred drug and that any applicable NDC blocks be removed.

I have been diagnosed with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis and my doctor has prescribed COSENTYX [strength]. Dr. [insert physician name], [insert medical specialty], practices at [insert physician address]. My past treatments have included [list previous treatments and drugs]. I have enclosed my medical records and a letter of medical necessity from my physician supporting my request for the formulary exception approval of COSENTYX.

The main reasons that I am requesting this exception are:

[Insert main medical necessity points]

These reasons are supported by the information that I have included. My physician can be contacted at [insert phone number] to answer any additional questions or to participate in a peer-to-peer review discussing the necessity of providing a formulary exception for the use of COSENTYX in the treatment of my medical condition.

Sincerely,

NDC=National Drug Code.

Be sure to have your physician sign the letter. Enclose your medical records along with a letter of medical necessity from your physician.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Patient name and signature]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Physician name and signature]  
[Name of practice]  
[Phone #]

Encl: Medical records  
Letter of medical necessity



Double-click to open a Word version of this letter.



[Click here for Important Safety Information.](#)

Please see full [Prescribing Information](#), including [Medication Guide](#).

# Sample Formulary Exception Request Letter

when you **are** already taking COSENTYX® (secukinumab)

[Today's Date]  
[Medical Director]  
[Insurance Company]  
[Address]

Re: [Name]  
[Policy Number]  
[DOB]  
[Optional: Denial Reference # and Date ]

To whom it may concern:

I am a member of [enter name of health plan]. Currently COSENTYX is not listed on my formulary, and according to my doctor, my medical condition necessitates the use of this drug.

If this is a 2nd- or 3rd- level appeal, consider including an explanation like the one in the shaded purple box. Be sure to include a copy of the original letter of denial along with your doctor's specific medical notes in response to the denial.

This is my [Insert level of request] formulary exception appeal. A copy of the original denial letter is included along with medical notes in response to the denial.

I am requesting an exception to your formulary so that I am able to fill my prescription for COSENTYX. I request that it be available to me as a preferred drug and that any applicable NDC blocks be removed.

I have been diagnosed with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis and my doctor has prescribed COSENTYX [strength]. Dr. [insert physician name], [insert medical specialty], practices at [insert physician address]. My past treatments have included [list previous treatments and drugs]. I have enclosed my medical records and a letter of medical necessity from my physician supporting my request for the formulary exception approval of COSENTYX. (Note: medical records should include the records from the **date COSENTYX was first prescribed to the patient** and should also include disease severity indicators.)

The main reasons that I am requesting this exemption are:

[Insert main medical necessity points]

These reasons are supported by the information that I have included. My physician can be contacted at [insert phone number] to answer any additional questions or to participate in a peer-to-peer review discussing the necessity of providing a formulary exception for the use of COSENTYX in the treatment of my medical condition.

Sincerely,

NDC=National Drug Code.

Be sure to have your physician sign the letter.

Enclose your medical records along with a letter of medical necessity from your physician.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Patient name and signature]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Physician name and signature]  
[Name of practice]  
[Phone #]

Encl: Medical records  
Letter of medical necessity



Double-click to open a Word version of this letter.



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# Suggestions for writing a Tiering Exception Request Letter\*

This type of letter can be used when COSENTYX is on formulary but is on a tier with a high co-pay. Based on medical necessity, a patient can appeal to the plan to consider the drug as if it were a preferred branded agent for that patient in order to reduce the out-of-pocket expense and help alleviate the financial burden. This may be most useful for patients on plans that require coinsurance. This letter comes from the **patient** and is also signed by the **physician**.

Click the  icon at the bottom of each sample letter to open an editable Word version of the letter.

## Checklist

- Include your name, policy number, date of birth, and, if appropriate, the denial reference number from a previous appeal and the date of denial
- Your diagnosis
- Include a statement of financial hardship
- List your previous therapies
- Relevant medical records
- If this is a 2nd-level or 3rd-level tiering exception appeal, include the letter of denial and your physician's medical notes in response to the denial
- If required, attach a **Letter of Medical Necessity** from your physician  
[Click here](#) for a sample Letter of Medical Necessity.

**Note:** At each stage of appeal, health plans may require that their own forms (or the universal forms that are required by some states) be submitted along with your letter.

\*The information herein is provided for educational purposes only. Novartis cannot guarantee insurance coverage or reimbursement. Coverage and reimbursement may vary significantly by payer, plan, patient, and setting of care. It is the sole responsibility of the healthcare provider to select the proper codes and ensure the accuracy of all statements used in seeking coverage and reimbursement for an individual patient.

See sample letters on following pages.

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# Sample Tiering Exception Request Letter

when you are **not** already taking COSENTYX® (secukinumab)

[Today's Date]

[Medical Director]

[Insurance Company]

[Address]

Re: [Your Name]

[Policy Number]

[DOB]

[Optional: Denial Reference # and Date ]

To whom it may concern:

I am requesting a tier exception for the drug COSENTYX prescribed to me by [insert physician name and specialty] for the diagnosis of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis. [If prior insurance covered COSENTYX on a preferred tier, describe this previous coverage.]

If this is a 2nd- or 3rd- level appeal, consider including an explanation like the one in the shaded purple box.

Be sure to include a copy of the original letter of denial along with your doctor's specific medical notes in response to the denial.

This is my [Insert level of request] tier exception appeal. A copy of the original tier exception denial letter is included along with medical notes in response to the denial.

The initial requested length of tier exception approval is for [insert requested length of initial approval].

I have attached medical records and a letter of medical necessity from my physician outlining why COSENTYX is needed for my medical care. Past treatments and drugs that have been unsuccessful in achieving control of my symptoms include [insert list of past treatments and drugs]. My current symptoms are [insert complete list of symptoms].

My current treatment is [list current treatments].

I am requesting a tier exception because the current assigned tier for COSENTYX is a burden on my finances and hinders my ability to utilize a drug that will assist with the treatment of my diagnosis.

In summary, my physician believes that COSENTYX is the best choice for my health and treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis. My physician may be reached to answer any additional questions or to participate in a peer-to-peer review by calling [insert physician's phone number].

Sincerely,

Be sure to have your physician sign the letter.

Enclose your medical records along with a letter of medical necessity from your physician.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Patient name and signature]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Physician name and signature]

[Name of practice]

[Phone #]

Encl: Medical records

Letter of medical necessity



Double-click to open a Word version of this letter.



[Click here for Important Safety Information.](#)

Please see full [Prescribing Information](#), including [Medication Guide](#).



# Sample Tiering Exception Request Letter

when you **are** already taking COSENTYX® (secukinumab)

[Today's Date]  
[Medical Director]  
[Insurance Company]  
[Address]

Re: [Your Name]  
[Policy Number]  
[DOB]  
[Optional: Denial Reference # and Date ]

To whom it may concern:

I am requesting a tier exception for the drug COSENTYX prescribed to me by [insert physician name and specialty] for the diagnosis of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis. [If prior insurance covered COSENTYX on a preferred tier, describe this previous coverage.]

If this is a 2nd- or 3rd- level appeal, consider including an explanation like the one in the shaded purple box. Be sure to include a copy of the original letter of denial along with your doctor's specific medical notes in response to the denial.

This is my [Insert level of request] tier exception appeal. A copy of the original tier exception denial letter is included along with medical notes in response to the denial.

The initial requested length of tier exception approval is for [insert requested length of initial approval].

I have attached medical records and a letter of medical necessity from my physician outlining why COSENTYX is needed for my medical care. **[Insert copies of medical records dating to the initial prescription of COSENTYX.]** Past treatments and drugs that have been unsuccessful in achieving control of my symptoms include [insert list of past treatments and drugs.]

The difference in my health status after [insert length of time] of COSENTYX therapy compared with my status before starting COSENTYX confirms that COSENTYX is medically necessary for treating my condition. [Insert specifics on improvements in symptoms since taking COSENTYX].

I am requesting a tier exception because I am not able to afford the [select co-pay or coinsurance] for COSENTYX without financial relief.

In summary, my physician believes that COSENTYX is the best choice for my health and treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis. My physician may be reached to answer any additional questions or to participate in a peer-to-peer review by calling [insert physician's phone number].

Sincerely,

Be sure to have your physician sign the letter.

Enclose your medical records along with a letter of medical necessity from your physician.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Patient name and signature]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Physician name and signature]  
[Name of practice]  
[Phone #]

Encl: Medical records  
Letter of medical necessity



Double-click to open a Word version of this letter.



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# Examples of relevant *ICD-10* codes\* for COSENTYX® (secukinumab) patients

Possible PsO <i>ICD-10-CM</i> Code	Descriptor
L40.0	Plaque psoriasis

PsO=psoriasis; *ICD-10-CM*=*International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification*.

\*The information herein is provided for educational purposes only. Novartis cannot guarantee insurance coverage or reimbursement. Coverage and reimbursement may vary significantly by payer, plan, patient, and setting of care. It is the sole responsibility of the healthcare provider to select the proper codes and ensure the accuracy of all statements used in seeking coverage and reimbursement for an individual patient.



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**COSENTYX® Connect Support Program**

A personal support program that provides resources to the practice and patient to help patients get started on COSENTYX.

**Dosage Appeals Letter**

Some plans may not approve all dosing options that are included on the drug's label. A dosage appeal letter can be used to request approval for a dose that is different from what the plan has approved.

**Formulary**

List of prescription drugs that are covered by a health plan.

**Formulary Exception Request Letter**

This type of letter can be sent by the patient to request that a drug, not currently included on the plan's formulary, be approved for the patient.

**Letter of Medical Necessity**

This letter is written by a physician to present his or her clinical judgment supporting the diagnosis and the need for a specific therapy.

**Prior Authorization (PA) Request Letter**

Plans may require that a practice submit documentation of certain criteria before they agree to pay for a drug. A PA request letter shows that the patients meets the plan's criteria. It is sent by the physician.

**Prior Authorization Appeals Letter**

When a prior authorization request is not approved, this type of letter can be used to appeal the decision. It may include more detailed information than what was included in the original PA request. This letter is also sent by the physician.

**Tiering Exception Request Letter**

When a drug is included on a plan's formulary but has a high copay or coinsurance, this type of letter can be used to appeal that they grant an exception for this patient and place the drug on a lower tier so that the patient has a lower out-of-pocket expense. This letter should be sent by the patient.

**National Drug Code (NDC)**

Universal product identifier with a unique set of numbers used for human drugs in the US.

**Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM)**

Organizations that administer prescription drug plans on behalf of health insurers and employers.



[Click here for Important Safety Information.](#)

Please see full [Prescribing Information](#), including [Medication Guide](#).

## INDICATIONS

COSENTYX® (secukinumab) is indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in adult patients who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy.

COSENTYX is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with active psoriatic arthritis.

COSENTYX is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with active ankylosing spondylitis.

COSENTYX is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) with objective signs of inflammation.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

COSENTYX is contraindicated in patients with a previous serious hypersensitivity reaction to secukinumab or to any of the excipients.

### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

#### Infections

COSENTYX may increase the risk of infections. In clinical trials, a higher rate of infections was observed in subjects treated with COSENTYX compared to placebo-treated subjects. In placebo-controlled clinical trials in patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis, higher rates of common infections such as nasopharyngitis (11.4% versus 8.6%), upper respiratory tract infection (2.5% versus 0.7%), and mucocutaneous infections with candida (1.2% versus 0.3%) were observed with COSENTYX compared with placebo. A similar increase in risk of infection was seen in placebo-controlled trials in patients with psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis. The incidence of some types of infections appeared to be dose-dependent in clinical studies.

Exercise caution when considering the use of COSENTYX in patients with a chronic infection or a history of recurrent infection.

Instruct patients to seek medical advice if signs or symptoms suggestive of an infection occur. If a patient develops a serious infection, the patient should be closely monitored and COSENTYX should be discontinued until the infection resolves.

#### Pre-treatment Evaluation for Tuberculosis

Evaluate patients for tuberculosis (TB) infection prior to initiating treatment with COSENTYX. Do not administer COSENTYX to patients with active TB infection. Initiate treatment of latent TB prior to administering COSENTYX. Consider anti-TB therapy prior to initiation of COSENTYX in patients with a past history of latent or active TB in whom an adequate course of treatment cannot be confirmed. Patients receiving COSENTYX should be monitored closely for signs and symptoms of active TB during and after treatment.

Please see additional Important Safety Information on page 21.



[Click here for Important Safety Information.](#)

Please see full [Prescribing Information](#), including [Medication Guide](#).

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION** (cont)**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** (cont)**Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

Caution should be used when prescribing COSENTYX® (secukinumab) to patients with inflammatory bowel disease. Exacerbations, in some cases serious, occurred in patients treated with COSENTYX during clinical trials in plaque psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis. In addition, new onset inflammatory bowel disease cases occurred in clinical trials with COSENTYX. In an exploratory study in 59 patients with active Crohn's disease, there were trends toward greater disease activity and increased adverse events in the secukinumab group as compared to the placebo group. Patients who are treated with COSENTYX should be monitored for signs and symptoms of inflammatory bowel disease.

**Hypersensitivity Reactions**

Anaphylaxis and cases of urticaria occurred in patients treated with COSENTYX in clinical trials. If an anaphylactic or other serious allergic reaction occurs, administration of COSENTYX should be discontinued immediately and appropriate therapy initiated.

The removable cap of the COSENTYX Sensoready® pen and the COSENTYX prefilled syringe contains natural rubber latex which may cause an allergic reaction in latex-sensitive individuals. The safe use of the COSENTYX Sensoready pen or prefilled syringe in latex-sensitive individuals has not been studied.

**Vaccinations**

Prior to initiating therapy with COSENTYX, consider completion of all age appropriate immunizations according to current immunization guidelines. Patients treated with COSENTYX should not receive live vaccines.

Non-live vaccinations received during a course of COSENTYX may not elicit an immune response sufficient to prevent disease.

**MOST COMMON ADVERSE REACTIONS**

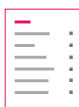
Most common adverse reactions (>1%) are nasopharyngitis, diarrhea, and upper respiratory tract infection.

Please see additional Important Safety Information on page 20.

**Reference:**

Cosentyx [prescribing information]. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp; June 2020.

[www.cosentyx.com](http://www.cosentyx.com)



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Please see full [Prescribing Information](#), including [Medication Guide](#).

**COSENTYX® Connect**

You or your patient can call

**1-844-267-3689**

8:00 AM to 9:00 PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, excluding public holidays.

Fax

**1-844-666-1366**

For additional information, go to

**[www.cosentyx.com](http://www.cosentyx.com)**



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