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MRN: _____

DOB: _____

Phone: 1-800-809-1265 Fax: 1-866-872-8920

Guidelines for Prescribing Rituxan® (rituximab)

(Required documentation with all initial referrals)

Patient Name: _____

Referral Date: _____

___ Include signed and completed **Plan of Treatment**. (MD must complete sections 1-8)
(Infusion order forms & Standard Adverse Reactions orders are available at www.palmettoinfusion.com under Agency/MD tab)

___ Include patient demographic information and insurance information. (Copy of insurance cards if available)

___ **Supporting clinical MD notes to include any past tried and/or failed therapies, intolerance, outcomes or contraindications to conventional therapy. Include any lab results and/or tests to support diagnosis.**
• Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Rituxan® (rituximab) in combination with methotrexate is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with moderately- to severely- active rheumatoid arthritis who have had an inadequate response to one or more TNF antagonist therapies. If patient is unable to take methotrexate, then MD must include supporting documentation as to reason/rational.

___ If patient is switching biological therapies, then MD must specify wash-out period prior to starting Rituxan® as specified of _____ weeks. Last known biological therapy: _____ and last date received: _____. (Include copy of last Rituxan® infusion record if available and currently on therapy)

___ Other as requested: _____

Pre-Screening: (Hepatitis screening results must be available prior to start of therapy and within last 12 months)

___ **Required Hepatitis screening to include: Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg) and Total Hepatitis B Core Antibody (anti- HBc)**

***Rituxan® is contraindicated in patient with active HBV. Patients who are negative for surface antigen HBsAg (-) and positive for HB core antibody HBcAB (+) or positive for surface antigen HBsAg (+), should consult liver disease experts before starting and during treatment.**

**** Warnings/Precautions:** • **Hepatitis B Virus Reactivation**- Screen all patients for HBV infection by measuring HBsAg and anti-HBc (antibodies) before initiating treatment with Rituxan®. For patients who show evidence of prior hepatitis B infection (HBsAg positive or HBsAg negative but anti-HBc positive), consult with physicians with expertise in managing hepatitis B regarding monitoring and consideration for HBV antiviral therapy before and/or during Rituxan® treatment. HBV reactivation has been reported up to 24 months following completion of Rituxan® • Glucocorticoids administered methylprednisolone IV premed or its equivalent 30 minutes prior to each infusion are recommended to reduce the incidence and severity of infusion reactions. • Subsequent courses should be administered every 24 weeks or based on clinical evaluation, but not sooner than every 16 weeks. Evaluation of immunizations should be completed prior to and live vaccines should not be given before or concurrently. **Serious Infections:** including fatal, bacterial, fungal, and new or reactivated viral infections can occur during and following the completion of Rituxan®. See full prescribing information.

Palmetto Infusion Services will complete insurance verification and submit all required clinical documentation to the patient's insurance company for eligibility. Our office will notify you if any further information is required. We will review financial responsibility with the patient and refer them to any available Co-pay assistance as required. Thank you for the referral.

Please fax all information to 1-866-872-8920 or call 1-800-809-1265 for assistance.