XXX, 20XX

Attention: Appeals Department

Re: ZZZ

DOB:

ID#:

Reference#:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to appeal insurance denial of coverage for Xeljanz for my patient ZZZ, a XX-year old boy/girl who suffers from severe alopecia areata, a disease marked by complete loss of eyebrows, eyelashes, facial and other body hair. ZZZ has suffered with this emotionally devastating disease for YYY years.

Prior to starting Xeljanz, ZZZ had tried all common treatments for alopecia areata including intralesional kenalog, topical steroids, …. all without success.

There is a substantial medical literature supporting the use of Janus kinase inhibitors such as Xeljanz in alopecia ateata (references below). Indeed, Xeljanz and the other two FDA-approved Janus kinase inhibitors, Jakafi and Olumiant, are the only known targeted treatments for alopecia areata.

Furthermore, the positive impact of successful treatment of severe alopecia areata on patients’ health has been demonstrated in patients taking Xeljanz (Liu LY et al. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2018;78(3):597-599.e2)

Please approve this medicine for ZZZ. Let me know if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

References for alopecia areata pathogenesis and treatment:

Liu LY, King BA. Ruxolitinib for the treatment of severe alopecia areata. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2018 Sep 6 Epub ahead of print

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Jabbari A, Sansaricq F, Cerise J, et al. An Open-Label Pilot Study to Evaluate the Efficacy of Tofacitinib in Moderate to Severe Patch Type Alopecia Areata, Totalis and Universalis. J Invest Dermatol. 2018. doi:10.1016/j.jid.2018.01.032.

Liu LY, King BA. Tofacitinib for the Treatment of Severe Alopecia Areata in Adults and Adolescents. J Invest Dermatol Symp Proc. 2018;19(1):S18-20

Ibrahim O, Bayart CB, Hogan S, Piliang M, Bergfeld WF. Treatment of Alopecia Areata With Tofacitinib. JAMA Dermatology. 2017;153(6):600. doi:10.1001/jamadermatol.2017.0001

Castelo-Soccio L. Experience with oral tofacitinib in 8 adolescent patients with alopecia universalis. Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology. 2017;76(4):754-755. doi:10.1016/j.jaad.2016.11.038.

Park H-S, Kim M-W, Lee JS, et al. Oral tofacitinib monotherapy in Korean patients with refractory moderate-to-severe alopecia areata: A case series. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2017;77(5):978-980.

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Liu LY, Craiglow B, Dai F, King BA. Tofacitinib for the Treatment of Severe Alopecia Areata and Variants: Results in 90 Patients. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2017 Jan;76(1):22-28

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Mackay-Wiggan J, Jabbari A, Nguyen N, Cerise JE, Clark C, Ulerio G, Furniss M, Vaughan R, Christiano AM, Clynes R. Oral ruxolitinib induces hair regrowth in patients with moderate-to-severe alopecia areata. JCI Insight. 2016 Sep 22;1(15):e89790

Craiglow BG, Tavares D, King BA. Topical Ruxolitinib for the Treatment of Alopecia Universalis. JAMA Dermatol 2016 Apr 1;152(4):490-1

Xing L, Dai Z, Jabbari A, et al. Alopecia areata is driven by cytotoxic T lymphocytes and is reversed by JAK inhibition. Nature medicine 2014;20:1043-9

Craiglow BG, King BA. Killing Two Birds with One Stone: Oral Tofacitinib Reverses Alopecia Universalis in a Patient with Plaque Psoriasis. J Invest Dermatol. 2014 Dec;134(12):2988-90

References regarding health outcomes associated with alopecia areata:

Liu LY, King BA, Craiglow BG.  Alopecia areata is associated with impaired health-related quality of life: a survey of affected adults and children, and their families.  *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2018 Feb 6 [epub ahead of print]

Liu LY, Craiglow BG, King BA. Successful treatment of moderate-to-severe alopecia areata improves health-related quality of life. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2018;78(3):597-599.e2

Liu LY, King BA, Craiglow BG. [Health-related quality of life (HRQoL) among patients with alopecia areata (AA): A systematic review.](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27436156)  J Am Acad Dermatol. 2016 Oct;75(4):806-812.e3

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Hunt N, McHale S. Reported experiences of persons with alopecia areata. *J Loss Trauma* 2005;10:33-50.

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