To whom it may concern:

I am contacting you as a dermatologist caring for @NAME@ with regard to the patient's diagnosis of mucous membrane pemphigoid [L12.1].

I recently prescribed this patient Olumiant (baricitinib), which was denied and the patient was unable to fill their prescription. I have reviewed the patient's diagnosis, care plan and clinical guidelines for treatment and request a formal appeal of your denial for Olumiant.

As you know, mucous membrane pemphigoid is a devastating condition with high morbidity. It can cause painful mouth ulcers, ocular scarring and blindness, esophageal strictures, and diffuse cutaneous eruptions. It is very rare, patients are very heterogenous, and it is challenging to perform high quality studies. As such, most of our treatment options are based on anecdotal case reports and case series or extrapolation from treatment of other similar conditions.

When treating a patient with mucous membrane pemphigoid it is necessary to have access to the full spectrum of accepted treatments as patients may not be able to use one particular treatment due to lack of response, the potential for side effects or even an allergic reaction. It can become a serious safety issue for the patient if I am not able to prescribe a wide variety of treatments for this condition.

This patient has been diagnosed with mucous membrane pemphigoid (involving the *** ocular, oral, cutaneous, vulvar, and possibly esophageal regions) and cicatricial pemphigoid (with ocular involvement). *** @HE@ has previously tried and failed ***. @HE@ is legally blind ***

I strongly believe @M@ @LNAME@ needs access to Olumiant. It has recently been shown to have promising success in the treatment of a closely related condition, bullous pemphigoid. There is also one case report of it being successful used in a variant of mucous membrane pemphigoid as cited below. Additionally, my patient has already tried and failed or did not tolerate *** rituximab, cyclophosphamide, IVIG, prednisone, dapsone.

Additionally, I request that you review the following evidence showing how this medication can be effectively utilized to treat mucous membrane pemphigoid:

1. Burningham KM, Cao J, Dominguez AR. Successful treatment of recalcitrant mucous membrane pemphigoid with multisystem involvement with baricitinib and methotrexate. JAAD Case Rep. 2022 Jul 16;27:67-69. doi: 10.1016/j.jdcr.2022.07.013. PMID: 35990232; PMCID: PMC9388867.
2. Sarny S, Hucke M, El-Shabrawi Y. Treatment of Mucous Membrane Pemphigoid With Janus Kinase Inhibitor Baricitinib. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2018;136(12):1420–1422. doi:10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2018.3789
3. Teng Y, Ren M, Yang X, Lu W, Tao X. Real-Time Experience of Abrocitinib for the Treatment of Mucous Membrane Pemphigoid: A Case Report. Patient Prefer Adherence. 2024 Feb 23;18:503-506. doi: 10.2147/PPA.S451007. PMID: 38414982; PMCID: PMC10898597.

On behalf of @M@ @LNAME@, I would appreciate your prompt reconsideration of this denial. Please feel free to contact me below for any additional information you may require. I look forward to receiving your response and approval of coverage for this medication.