



Medical Necessity Guidelines: Medical Benefit Drugs Medical Benefit Step Therapy

Effective: January 1, 2025

Guidalina Typa	☐ Prior Authorization
	□ Non-Formulary
Guideline Type	⊠ Step-Therapy
	☐ Administrative
Applies to:	
Commercial Products	
☐ Harvard Pilgrim Health	Care Commercial products; Fax 617-673-0988
☐ Tufts Health Plan Com	mercial products; Fax 617-673-0988
CareLink SM – Refer to	CareLink Procedures, Services and Items Requiring Prior Authorization
Public Plans Products	
	Massachusetts Qualified Health Plan (QHP) (a commercial product); Fax 617-673-0988
	- MassHealth MCO Plan and Accountable Care Partnership Plans; Fax 617-673-0939
	er – A Rhode Island Medicaid Plan; Fax 617-673-0939
<u> </u>	* – A Medicare-Medicaid Plan (a dual-eligible product); Fax 617-673-0956
	ufts Health One Care members unless a less restrictive LCD or NCD exists.
Senior Products	
	Care Stride Medicare Advantage; Fax 617-673-0956
	or Care Options (SCO), (a dual-eligible product); Fax 617-673-0956
	ed HMO, (a Medicare Advantage product); Fax 617-673-0956
	ed PPO, (a Medicare Advantage product); Fax 617-673-0956
	be the provider responsible for obtaining prior authorization, as a condition of payment you will need to
ensure that prior authoriza	

Overview

Drug Class	Non-preferred Product(s)	Preferred Product(s)
Antiemetics	Akynzeo Aponvie Cinvanti Emend Focinvez Sustol	fosaprepitant granisetron ondansetron palonosetron
Iron Preparation, Parenteral	Feraheme Injectafer Monoferric	Ferrlecit Infed Venofer
Leucovorin / LEVOleucovorin Injection	Fusilev Khapzory LEVOleucovorin	leucovorin injection
Pemetrexed	Alimta Pemfexy Pemrydi	Pemetrexed (all manufacturers)
Triamcinolone Acetonide Injection	Zilretta	Triamcinolone acteonide injection

Clinical Guideline Coverage Criteria

Antiemetics

The plan may authorize coverage of a non-preferred Antiemetic product when all of the following criteria are met:

1. Documentation of a history of use of at least one preferred Antiemetic product resulting in a substandard response to therapy

Iron Preparation, Parental

The plan may authorize coverage of a non-preferred Iron Preparation, Parental product when all of the following criteria are met:

1. Documentation of a history of a trial of at least three (3) weeks of at least one preferred Iron Preparation, Parental product resulting in a substandard response to therapy

Leucovorin / LEVOleucovorin Injection

The plan may authorize coverage of a non-preferred Leucovorin / LEVOleucovorin Injection product when all of the following criteria are met:

 Documentation of a history of use of at least one preferred Leucovorin / LEVOleucovorin Injection product resulting in a substandard response to therapy

Pemetrexed

The plan may authorize coverage of a non-preferred Pemetrexed product when all of the following criteria are met:

1. Documentation of a history of use of at least one preferred Pemetrexed product resulting in a substandard response to therapy

Triamcinolone Acetonide Injection

The plan may authorize coverage of a non-preferred Triamcinolone Acetonide Injection product when all of the following criteria are met:

1. Documentation of a history of use of at least one preferred Triamcinolone Acetonide Injection product resulting in a substandard response to therapy

Limitations

None

Codes

The following code(s) require prior authorization:

Table 1: HCPCS Codes

HCPCS Codes	Description
J1454	Injection, fosnetupitant 235 mg and palonosetron 0.25 mg
C9145	Injection, aprepitant, (aponvie), 1 mg
J0185	Injection, aprepitant, 1 mg
J1434	Injection, fosaprepitant (focinvez), 1 mg
J1627	Injection, granisetron, extended-release, 0.1 mg
Q0138	Injection, ferumoxytol, for treatment of iron deficiency anemia, 1 mg (non-ESRD use)
J1439	Injection, ferric carboxymaltose, 1 mg
J1437	Injection, ferric derisomaltose, 10 mg
J0641	Injection, levoleucovorin, not otherwise specified, 0.5 mg
J0642	Injection, levoleucovorin (khapzory), 0.5 mg
J9304	Injection, pemetrexed (pemfexy), 10 mg
J9324	Injection, pemetrexed (pemrydi rtu), 10 mg
J3304	Injection, triamcinolone acetonide, preservative-free, extended-release, microsphere formulation, 1 mg

References

1. INFeD (iron dextran injection) [prescribing information]. North Chicago, IL: AbbVie Inc.; August 2024.

Approval And Revision History

September 10, 2024: Reviewed by Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T) (eff 1/1/25)

Background, Product and Disclaimer Information

Point32Health prior authorization criteria to be applied to Medicare Advantage plan members is based on guidance from Medicare laws, National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) or Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs). When no guidance is provided, Point32Health uses clinical practice guidance published by relevant medical societies, relevant medical literature, Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved package labeling, and drug compendia to develop prior authorization criteria to apply to Medicare Advantage plan members. Medications that require prior authorization generally meet one or more of the following criteria: Drug product has the potential to be used for cosmetic purposes; drug product is not considered as first-line treatment by medically accepted practice guidelines, evidence to support the safety and efficacy of a drug product is poor, or drug product has the potential to be used for indications outside of the indications approved by the FDA. Prior authorization and use of the coverage criteria within this Medical Necessity Guideline will ensure drug therapy is medically necessary, clinically appropriate, and aligns with evidence-based guidelines. We revise and update Medical Necessity Guidelines annually, or more frequently if new evidence becomes available that suggests revisions.

Treating providers are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of Members. The use of this guideline is not a guarantee of payment or a final prediction of how specific claim(s) will be adjudicated. Claims payment is subject to eligibility and benefits on the date of service, coordination of benefits, referral/authorization, utilization management guidelines when applicable, and adherence to plan policies, plan procedures, and claims editing logic.