

Clinical Policy: Ledipasvir/Sofosbuvir (Harvoni)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.279

Effective Date: 09.16 Last Review Date: 08.24 Line of Business: Medicaid

Revision Log

See <u>Important Reminder</u> at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Ledipasvir/sofosbuvir (Harvoni[®]) is a fixed-dose combination of ledipasvir, a hepatitis C virus (HCV) NS5A inhibitor, and sofosbuvir, an HCV nucleotide analog NS5B polymerase inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Harvoni is indicated for the treatment of adults and pediatric patients 3 years of age and older with chronic HCV:

- Genotype 1, 4, 5, or 6 infection without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis.
- Genotype 1 infection with decompensated cirrhosis, in combination with ribavirin (RBV).
- Genotype 1 or 4 infection who are liver transplant recipients without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis, in combination with RBV.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that ledipasvir/sofosbuvir and Harvoni are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria*

*For members in **Nevada**, medical management techniques, including quantity management, beyond step therapy is not allowed.

A. Hepatitis C Infection (must meet all):

- 1. Diagnosis of HCV infection as evidenced by detectable serum HCV RNA levels by quantitative assay in the last 6 months;
 - *For treatment-naïve adult members without cirrhosis with genotype 1 and baseline viral load <6 million IU/mL, Harvoni will be approved for a maximum duration of 8 weeks (see Section V)
- 2. Age \geq 3 years;
- 3. Confirmed HCV genotype is 1, 4, 5, or 6; *Chart note documentation and copies of lab results are required
- 4. Documentation of treatment status of the member (treatment-naïve or treatment-experienced);
- 5. Documentation of cirrhosis status of the member (no cirrhosis, compensated cirrhosis, or decompensated cirrhosis);
- 6. One of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Member must use **Mavyret**® or **sofosbuvir/velpatasvir** (**Epclusa**® **authorized generic**), unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated (*see Appendix E*);*



- b. If member has clinically significant adverse effects or contraindications to both Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa authorized generic), member must use **authorized generic version of Harvoni**® (see Appendix E);
- c. Member has clinically significant adverse effects or contraindications to Mavyret, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa authorized generic), **and** authorized generic version of Harvoni (*clinical documentation required*);
 - *Coadministration with omeprazole up to 20 mg is not considered acceptable medical justification for inability to use Epclusa
- 7. Life expectancy ≥ 12 months with HCV treatment;
- 8. Prescribed regimen is consistent with an FDA or AASLD-IDSA recommended regimen (*see Section V Dosage and Administration for reference*);
- 9. Dose does not exceed both of the following (a and b):
 - a. Ledipasvir 90 mg/sofosbuvir 400 mg per day;
 - b. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: up to a total of 24 weeks*

(*Approved duration should be consistent with a regimen in Section V Dosage and Administration)

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet all):

- 1. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Member must use use **Mavyret** or **sofosbuvir/velpatasvir** (**Epclusa authorized generic**), if applicable for the requested indication, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated (*see Appendix E*);*
 - b. If member has clinically significant adverse effects or contraindications to both Mavyret and sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa authorized generic), member must use **authorized generic version of Harvoni** (see Appendix E);
 - c. Member has clinically significant adverse effects or contraindications to Mavyret, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa authorized generic), **and** authorized generic version of Harvoni (*clinical documentation required*);
 - *Coadministration with omeprazole up to 20 mg is not considered acceptable medical justification for inability to use Epclusa
- 2. One of the following (a or b):
 - a. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (i or ii):
 - i. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - ii. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
 - b. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 2a above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.



II. Continued Therapy*

*For members in **Nevada**, medical management techniques, including quantity management, beyond step therapy is not allowed.

A. Hepatitis C Infection (must meet all):

- 1. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B);
 - c. Both of the following (i and ii):
 - Documentation supports that member is currently receiving Harvoni for HCV infection and has recently completed at least 60 days of treatment with Harvoni;
 - ii. Confirmed HCV genotype is 1, 4, 5, or 6;
- 2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
- 3. Dose does not exceed both of the following (a and b):
 - a. Ledipasvir 90 mg/sofosbuvir 400 mg per day;
 - b. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration: up to a total of 24 weeks*

(*Approved duration should be consistent with a regimen in Section V Dosage and Administration)

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

- 1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business:
 CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
- 2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key AASLD: American Association for the

Study of Liver Diseases

DAA: direct-acting antiviral

FDA: Food and Drug Administration



HBV: hepatitis B virus HCV: hepatitis C virus

HIV: human immunodeficiency virus

IDSA: Infectious Diseases Society of

America

NS3/4A, NS5A/B: nonstructural protein

PegIFN: pegylated interferon

RBV: ribavirin

RNA: ribonucleic acid

SVR12: sustained virologic response at 12

weeks

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/
		Maximum Dose
sofosbuvir/	Genotype 1 through 6:	Adult/Peds \geq 30 kg:
velpatasvir	Without cirrhosis or with compensated	sofosbuvir 400 mg
(Epclusa®)	cirrhosis, treatment-naïve or treatment-	/velpatasvir 100 mg (one
	experienced* patient	tablet) per day;
	One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks	Peds 17 to < 30 kg:
sofosbuvir/	Genotype 1 through 6:	sofosbuvir 200 mg
velpatasvir	With decompensated cirrhosis treatment-	/velpatasvir 50 mg per
(Epclusa®)	naïve or treatment-experienced* patient	day;
	One tablet PO QD with weight-based RBV	Peds < 17 kg: sofosbuvir
	for 12 weeks	150 mg /velpatasvir 37.5 mg per day
	(GT 1 through 6 with decompensated	
	cirrhosis and RBV-ineligible may use: one	
	tablet PO QD for 24 weeks) †	
sofosbuvir/	Genotype 1 through 6:	
velpatasvir	Treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced	
(Epclusa [®])	patients, post-liver transplant with	
	compensated cirrhosis or without cirrhosis	
	One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks	
sofosbuvir/	Genotype 1 through 6:	One tablet (sofosbuvir
velpatasvir	With decompensated cirrhosis in whom	400 mg /velpatasvir 100
(Epclusa®)	prior sofosbuvir- or NS5A-based treatment	mg) per day
	experienced failed	
	One tablet PO QD with weight-based RBV	
	for 24 weeks [†]	
sofosbuvir/	Genotype 1 through 6:	One tablet (sofosbuvir
velpatasvir	Treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced	400 mg /velpatasvir 100
(Epclusa®)	patients, post-liver transplant with	mg) per day
(Epclusa ^w)	patients, post-liver transplant with decompensated cirrhosis	mg) per day



Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/
Diug Manie	Dosing regimen	Maximum Dose
		THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY
	One tablet PO QD with RBV (starting at	
	600 mg and increased as tolerated) for 12	
	weeks (treatment-naïve) or 24 weeks	
	(treatment-experienced) [†]	
Mavyret®	Genotypes 1 through 6:	Adults/Peds age ≥ 12
(glecaprevir	Treatment-naïve	years or with body
/pibrentasvir)		weight \geq 45 kg:
	Without cirrhosis or with compensated	glecaprevir 300
	cirrhosis:	mg/pibrentasvir 120 mg
	Three tablets PO QD for 8 weeks	(3 tablets) per day;
Mavyret®	Genotypes 1, 4, 5, or 6:	
(glecaprevir	Treatment-experienced with IFN/pegIFN,	Peds age 3 years to < 12
/pibrentasvir)	RBV and/or sofosbuvir	years of age with body
		weight < 20 kg:
	Without cirrhosis:	glecaprevir 150
	Three tablets PO QD for 8 weeks	mg/pibrentasvir 60 mg
	W'.4	per day;
	With compensated cirrhosis:	Dada and 2 manus to < 12
M 4®	Three tablets PO QD for 12 weeks	Peds age 3 years to < 12
Mavyret [®]	Genotype 1:	years of age with body
(glecaprevir	Treatment-experienced with NS5A	weight 20 kg to < 30 kg: glecaprevir 200
/pibrentasvir)	inhibitor without prior NS3/4A protease inhibitor	mg/pibrentasvir 80 mg
	Illinoitoi	per day;
	Without cirrhosis or with compensated	per day,
	cirrhosis:	Peds age 3 years to < 12
	Three tablets PO QD for 16 weeks	years of age with body
Mavyret®	Genotype 1:	weight 30 kg to < 45 kg:
(glecaprevir	Treatment-experienced with NS3/4A	glecaprevir 250
/pibrentasvir)	protease inhibitor without prior NS5A	mg/pibrentasvir 100 mg
,	inhibitor	per day
	Without cirrhosis or with compensated	
	cirrhosis:	
	Three tablets PO QD for 12 weeks	
Mavyret®	Genotypes 1 through 6:	
(glecaprevir	Treatment-naïve or treatment-experienced,	
/pibrentasvir)	post-liver or kidney transplantation without	
	cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis	
	Three tablets PO QD for 12 weeks	



Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	(A 16-week treatment duration is recommended in genotype 1-infected patients who are NS5A inhibitor* experienced without prior treatment with an NS3/4A protease inhibitor)	

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): if used in combination with RBV, all contraindications to RBV also apply to Harvoni combination therapy
- Boxed warning(s): risk of hepatitis B virus (HBV) reactivation in patients coinfected with HCV and HBV

Appendix D: Direct-Acting Antivirals for Treatment of HCV Infection

Brand			Drug Class		
Name	NS5A Inhibitor	Nucleotide Analog NS5B Polymerase Inhibitor	Non- Nucleoside NS5B Palm Polymerase Inhibitor	NS3/4A Protease Inhibitor (PI)	CYP3A Inhibitor
Epclusa*	Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir			
Harvoni*	Ledipasvir	Sofosbuvir			
Mavyret*	Pibrentasvir			Glecaprevir	
Sovaldi		Sofosbuvir			
Viekira Pak*	Ombitasvir		Dasabuvir	Paritaprevir	Ritonavir
Vosevi*	Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir		Voxilaprevir	
Zepatier*	Elbasvir			Grazoprevir	

^{*}Combination drugs

Appendix E: General Information

- Acceptable medical justification for inability to use Mavyret (preferred product):
 - Moderate or severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh B or C) or those with any
 history of prior hepatic decompensation: use of Mavyret is not recommended as
 postmarketing cases of hepatic decompensation/failure have been reported in these
 patients.
 - O Drug-drug interactions with the following agents:
 - Atazanavir
 - Efavirenz

^{*}Treatment-experienced refers to previous treatment with NS3/4A protease inhibitor (telaprevir, boceprevir, or simeprevir) and/or peginterferon/RBV unless otherwise stated.

[†] Off-label, AASLD-IDSA guideline-supported dosing regimen



- Acceptable medical justification for inability to use Epclusa (preferred product):
 - In patients indicated for co-administration of Epclusa with RBV: contraindications to RBV.
- <u>Unacceptable medical justification for inability to use Epclusa (preferred product):</u>
 - o Coadministration with omeprazole up to 20 mg is not considered acceptable medical justification for inability to use Epclusa.
 - Per the Epclusa Prescribing Information: "If it is considered medically necessary to coadminister, Epclusa should be administered with food and taken 4 hours before omeprazole 20 mg."
- HBV reactivation is a Black Box Warning for all direct-acting antiviral drugs for the
 treatment of HCV. HBV reactivation has been reported when treating HCV for patients
 co-infected with HBV, leading to fulminant hepatitis, hepatic failure, and death, in some
 cases. Patients should be monitored for HBV reactivation and hepatitis flare during
 HCV treatment and post-treatment follow-up, with treatment of HBV infection as
 clinically indicated.
- Treatment with Harvoni for 8 weeks can be considered in treatment-naïve patients without cirrhosis who have pre-treatment HCV RNA less than 6 million IU/mL. In the ION-3 trial, patients with a baseline HCV viral load of < 6 million IU/mL and were treated with Harvoni for 8 weeks achieved SVR-12 at a rate of 97% versus 96% of those treated with Harvoni for 12 weeks.

• Child-Pugh Score

	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points
Bilirubin	Less than 2 mg/dL	2-3 mg/dL	Over 3 mg/dL
	Less than 34 umol/L	34-50 umol/L	Over 50 umol/L
Albumin	Over 3.5 g/dL	2.8-3.5 g/dL	Less than 2.8 g/dL
	Over 35 g/L	28-35 g/L	Less than 28 g/L
INR	Less than 1.7	1.7 - 2.2	Over 2.2
Ascites	None	Mild / medically	Moderate-severe /
		controlled	poorly controlled
Encephalopathy	None	Mild / medically	Moderate-severe /
		controlled	poorly controlled.
		Grade I-II	Grade III-IV

Child-Pugh class is determined by the total number of points: A = 5-6 points; B = 7-9 points; C = 10-15 points

Appendix F: Incomplete Adherence and AASLD-IDSA Recommended Management of Treatment Interruptions

- There are minimal data regarding the outcome of patients who have incomplete adherence to direct-acting antiviral (DAA) therapy or the threshold level of adherence below which the incidence of sustained virologic response at 12 weeks (SVR12) is significantly reduced. In general, a treatment interruption of < 7 days is unlikely to impact SVR12.
- There are few data on which to base recommendations regarding how to manage patients who have discontinued DAAs for several days to weeks. The below recommendations are applicable to treatment-naive patients with HCV, without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis, *receiving either Mavyret or Epclusa*. Patients with prior DAA treatment, or



receiving other DAA treatment regimens, or other populations (e.g., patients who are posttransplant or have decompensated cirrhosis) should be managed in consultation with an expert.

- o Interruptions during the first 28 days of DAA therapy:
 - If missed ≤ 7 days, restart DAA therapy immediately and complete therapy for originally planned duration (8 or 12 weeks).
 - If missed ≥ 8 days, restart DAA therapy immediately and obtain HCV RNA test as soon as possible. If HCV RNA is negative, complete originally planned DAA treatment course (8 or 12 weeks). Recommendation to extend DAA treatment for an additional 4 weeks for patients with genotype 3 and/or cirrhosis. If HCV RNA is positive or not obtained, extend DAA treatment for an additional 4 weeks.
- o Interruptions after receiving ≥ 28 days of DAA therapy:
 - If missed ≤ 7 days, restart DAA therapy immediately and complete therapy for originally planned duration (8 or 12 weeks).
 - If missed 8-20 consecutive days, restart DAA therapy immediately and obtain HCV RNA test as soon as possible. If HCV RNA is negative, complete originally planned DAA treatment course (8 or 12 weeks). Recommendation to extend DAA treatment for an additional 4 weeks for patients with genotype 3 and/or cirrhosis. If HCV RNA is positive or not obtained, stop treatment and retreat according to the recommendations in the AASLD-IDSA Retreatment Section.
 - If missed ≥ 21 consecutive days, stop DAA treatment and assess for SVR12. If SVR12 not achieved, retreat according to the recommendations in the AASLD-IDSA Retreatment Section.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication: HCV	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose	Reference
Genotype 1	One tablet PO QD for:	Weight \geq 35 kg: One	1) FDA-
		tablet (sofosbuvir	approved
	Treatment-naïve without	400 mg / ledipasvir	labeling
	cirrhosis, HIV-	90 mg) per day	2) AASLD-
	uninfected, AND HCV		IDSA (updated
	viral load < 6 million	Weight \geq 17 to \leq 35	December 2023)
	IU/mL: for 8 weeks [‡]	kg:	
		One tablet	
	Treatment-naïve without	(sofosbuvir 200 mg/	
	cirrhosis (not meeting the	ledipasvir 45 mg)	
	8 week treatment	per day	
	indication requirements		
	above) or with	Weight $< 17 \text{ kg}$:	
	compensated cirrhosis:	One packet of	
	for 12 weeks	pellets (sofosbuvir	
		150 mg / ledipasvir	
	Treatment-experienced*	33.75 mg) per day	
	without cirrhosis: for 12		
	weeks		



Indication: HCV	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose	Reference
Genotype 1, 4 [†] , 5 [†] , or 6 [†] with decompensated cirrhosis Genotype 1, 4, 5, or 6 with	Treatment-experienced* with compensated cirrhosis: Harvoni plus weight-based RBV for 12 weeks (or Harvoni for 24 weeks if RBV- intolerant) One tablet PO QD plus low initial dose of RBV (600 mg, increased as tolerated) for 12 weeks (or Harvoni for 24 weeks if RBV-intolerant) One tablet PO QD with low initial dose of RBV		1) FDA- approved labeling 2) AASLD- IDSA (updated December 2023) AASLD-IDSA (updated
decompensated cirrhosis: Adult patients in whom a previous sofosbuvir- or NS5A inhibitor-based regimen has failed [†] Genotype 1, 4, 5 [†] ,	(600 mg, increased as tolerated) for 24 weeks [†]		December 2023) 1) FDA-
or 6 [†] post-liver transplantation: Treatment-naive and treatment-experienced* patients without cirrhosis, with compensated cirrhosis, or with decompensated cirrhosis	compensated cirrhosis: One tablet PO QD plus RBV for 12 weeks AASLD recommends patients without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis receive one tablet PO QD for 12 weeks (without RBV) [†]		approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated December 2023)
	With decompensated cirrhosis: One tablet PO QD with low initial dose of RBV (600 mg, increased as tolerated) for 12 weeks (treatmentnaïve) or 24 weeks (treatment-experienced*)		



Indication: HCV	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose	Reference
Genotype 4, 5, or 6:	One tablet PO QD for 12		FDA-approved
Treatment-naïve	weeks		labeling
and treatment-			_
experienced*			
patients without			
cirrhosis or with			
compensated			
cirrhosis			

AASLD/IDSA treatment guidelines for hepatitis C infection are updated at irregular intervals; refer to the most updated AASLD/IDSA guideline for most accurate treatment regimen.

VI. Product Availability

- Tablets: 90 mg of ledipasvir and 400 mg of sofosbuvir; 45 mg of ledipasvir and 200 mg of sofosbuvir
- Oral pellets: 45 mg of ledipasvir and 200 mg of sofosbuvir; 33.75 mg of ledipasvir and 150 mg of sofosbuvir

VII. References

- 1. Harvoni Prescribing Information. Foster City, CA: Gilead Sciences, Inc.; March 2020. Available at: http://www.harvoni.com. Accessed May 6, 2024.
- 2. American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases/ Infectious Disease Society of America (AASLD-IDSA). HCV guidance: recommendations for testing, managing, and treating hepatitis C. Last updated December 19, 2023. Available at: https://www.hcvguidelines.org/. Accessed May 20, 2024.
- 3. CDC. Clinical Overview of Hepatitis C. Last updated November 7, 2023. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/hcp/clinical-overview. Accessed May 20, 2024.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
3Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; Appendix B, Appendix D, and Dosage and Administration tables updated; references reviewed and updated.	04.30.20	08.20
3Q 2021 annual review: updated criteria for age requirement of Epclusa & Mavyret use due to their pediatric age expansions; revised medical justification language for not using authorized generic version of Harvoni to "must use" language; included reference to Appendix E with addition of contraindications that would warrant bypassing preferred agents; updated Appendix B therapeutic alternatives and section V dosing tables; references reviewed and updated.	07.23.21	08.21
Reorganized criteria to clarify intent in steerage.	01.11.22	

^{*} Treatment-experienced refers to adult and pediatric subjects who have failed a peginterferon alfa +/- RBV-based regimen with or without an HCV protease inhibitor unless otherwise stated

[†] Off-label, AASLD-IDSA guideline-supported dosing regimen



Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
3Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; added unacceptable rationale for not using preferred Epclusa within criteria (also found within Appendix E); references reviewed and updated.	07.20.22	08.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	09.20.22	
3Q 2023 annual review: removed prescriber specialty criterion per Medicaid plan requests; eliminated adherence program participation criterion due to competitor analysis; added preferred redirections to other diagnoses/indications initial criteria section; references reviewed and updated.	05.31.23	08.23
Added disclaimer that medical management techniques, including quantity management, beyond step therapy are not allowed for members in NV per SB 439.	05.31.24	
3Q 2024 annual review: revised policy/criteria section to also include generic ledipasvir/sofosbuvir; removed qualifier of "chronic" from HCV criteria as AASLD-IDSA recommends treatment of both acute and chronic HCV; removed the word "preferred" from Epclusa authorized generic redirection; added Appendix F for guidance on incomplete adherence and AASLD-IDSA recommended management of treatment interruptions; references reviewed and updated.	05.30.24	08.24

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. "Health Plan" means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.



This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members, and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note:

For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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