

Clinical Policy: Teriflunomide (Aubagio)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.262

Effective Date: 08.01.16

Last Review Date: 05.21

Line of Business: Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Teriflunomide (Aubagio[®]) is a pyrimidine synthesis inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Aubagio is indicated for the treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS), to include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing-remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease, in adults.

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 Aubagio is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Multiple Sclerosis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Clinically isolated syndrome;
 - b. Relapsing-remitting MS, and failure of generic dimethyl fumarate at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
 - c. Secondary progressive MS;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Aubagio is not prescribed concurrently with other disease modifying therapies for MS (*see Appendix D*);
5. Documentation of baseline number of relapses per year and expanded disability status scale (EDSS) score;
6. At the time of request, member is not receiving leflunomide;
7. Dose does not exceed 14 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Multiple Sclerosis (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. If member has received < 1 year of total treatment: Member is responding positively to therapy;
 - b. If member has received \geq 1 year of total treatment: Member meets one of the following (i, ii, iii, or iv):
 - i. Member has not had an increase in the number of relapses per year compared to baseline;
 - ii. Member has not had \geq 2 new MRI-detected lesions;
 - iii. Member has not had an increase in EDSS score from baseline;
 - iv. Medical justification supports that member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Aubagio is not prescribed concurrently with other disease modifying therapies for MS (*see Appendix D*);
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 14 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: first re-authorization: 6 months; second and subsequent re-authorizations: 12 months

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

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or
2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): 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 policy – CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents;
- B. Primary progressive MS.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

EDSS: expanded disability status scale

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

MS: multiple sclerosis

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
dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera®)	<u>Initial:</u> 120 mg PO BID for 7 days <u>Maintenance:</u> 240 mg PO BID	480 mg/day

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): severe hepatic impairment; pregnancy or females of reproductive potential not using effective contraception; hypersensitivity to teriflunomide, leflunomide or any inactive ingredients in Aubagio; current leflunomide treatment
- Boxed warning(s): hepatotoxicity, embryofetal toxicity

Appendix D: General Information

- Disease-modifying therapies for MS are: glatiramer acetate (Copaxone®, Glatopa®), interferon beta-1a (Avonex®, Rebif®), interferon beta-1b (Betaseron®, Extavia®), peginterferon beta-1a (Plegridy®), dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera®), diroximel fumarate (Vumerity®), monomethyl fumarate (Bafiertam™), fingolimod (Gilenya®), teriflunomide (Aubagio®), alemtuzumab (Lemtrada®), mitoxantrone (Novantrone®), natalizumab (Tysabri®), ocrelizumab (Ocrevus®), cladribine (Mavenclad®), siponimod (Mayzent®), ozanimod (Zeposia®), and ofatumumab (Kesimpta®).
- Teriflunomide is the principal active metabolite of leflunomide and is responsible for leflunomide's activity in vivo. At recommended doses, teriflunomide and leflunomide result in a similar range of plasma concentrations of teriflunomide.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Relapsing MS	7 or 14 mg PO QD with or without food	14 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

Tablets: 7 mg, 14 mg

VII. References

1. Aubagio Prescribing Information. Cambridge, MA: Genzyme Corporation; November 2020. Available at <http://www.aubagio.com>. Accessed February 8, 2021.
2. Rae-Grant A, Day GS, Marrie RA, et al. Practice guideline recommendations summary: disease-modifying therapies for adults with multiple sclerosis: report of the Guideline Development, Dissemination, and Implementation Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology*. 2018; 90(17): 777-788. Full guideline available at: <https://www.aan.com/Guidelines/home/GetGuidelineContent/904>.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Added age requirement. Removed MRI requirement. Removed hypersensitivity reaction and active infection contraindications. Removed reasons to discontinue.	07.17	08.17
2Q 2018 annual review: no significant changes; removed severe hepatic impairment as a contraindication per safety guidance endorsed by Centene Medical Affairs; references reviewed and updated.	01.05.18	05.18
2Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; specified that generic forms of glatiramer are preferred; references reviewed and updated.	02.04.19	05.19
New language added to existing indication as shown in the following parenthetical: Aubagio is indicated for the treatment of relapsing forms of MS (to include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing-remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease, in adults) - criteria reconciled.	12.05.19	
Per SDC CY2020 strategy: removed all re-directions.	12.09.19	
2Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; added Commercial and HIM lines of business (CP.PCH.02 retired); modified Commercial approval durations from Length of Benefit to 6/12 months; references reviewed and updated.	01.27.20	05.20
Added requirements for documentation of baseline relapses/EDSS and objective measures of positive response upon re-authorization; modified continued approval duration to 6 months for the first re-authorization and 12 months for second/subsequent re-authorizations; references reviewed and updated.	05.27.20	08.20
Per November SDC and prior clinical guidance, removed Commercial and HIM LOB from policy (CP.PCH.40 created); added requirement for trial of generic dimethyl fumarate for Medicaid LOB.	11.11.20	
Per November SDC and prior clinical guidance, modified to reflect that trial of generic dimethyl fumarate applies only to RRMS.	02.09.21	
2Q 2021 annual: no significant changes; updated Appendix C with revised boxed warning per FDA label; references reviewed and updated.	02.10.21	05.21

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

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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.

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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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