

Clinical Policy: Naldemedine (Symproic)

Reference Number: DE.PMN.112

Effective Date: 01.23

Last Review Date: 01.23

Line of Business: Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Naldemedine (Symproic[®]) is an opioid antagonist. Naldemedine functions as a peripherally-acting mu-opioid receptor antagonist in tissues such as the gastrointestinal tract, thereby decreasing the constipating effects of opioids.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Symproic is indicated for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation (OIC) in adult patients with chronic non-cancer pain, including patients with chronic pain related to prior cancer or its treatment who do not require frequent (e.g., weekly) opioid dosage escalation.

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

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Opioid-Induced Constipation (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of OIC;
2. Age \geq 18 years;
3. Member has been taking opioid(s) for \geq 4 weeks due to chronic pain not caused by active cancer;
4. Failure of an adequate trial of at least two preferred* FDA-approved drugs for the indication and/or drugs that are considered the standard of care within the same drug class on the PDL, when such agents exist, at maximum indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effect are experienced, or all are contraindicated;
* *Generic is preferred, if available, and brand is not the preferred agent;*
5. Dose does not exceed 0.2 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.

II. Continued Therapy

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A. Opioid-Induced Constipation (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member continues to receive opioid therapy;
3. Member is responding positively to therapy;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 0.2 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: 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 12 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.

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 or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

OIC: opioid-induced constipation

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
bisacodyl (Dulcolax [®])	Oral: 5 to 15 mg QD Rectal: Enema, suppository: 10 mg (1 enema or suppository) QD	15 mg/day PO; 10 mg/day rectally
senna (Senokot [®])	1 to 2 tablets (8.6 to 17.2 mg sennosides) PO BID	68.8 mg sennosides/day (8 tablets/day)
lactulose	10 to 20 g (15 to 30 mL or 1 to 2 packets) PO QD; may increase to 40 g (60 mL or 2 to 4 packets) PO QD if necessary	40 g/day (60 mL or 2 to 4 packets/day)
polyethylene glycol 3350 (MiraLax [®])	17 g (approximately 1 heaping tablespoon) of powder in 120 to 240 mL of fluid given PO QD	34 g/day
docusate sodium (Colace [®])	50-300 mg/day PO given in single or divided doses	360 mg/day

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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): patients with known or suspected gastrointestinal obstruction or at increased risk of recurrent obstruction, patients with a history of a hypersensitivity reaction to naldemedine
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
OIC	0.2 mg PO QD with or without food	0.2 mg /day

VI. Product Availability

Tablet: 0.2 mg

VII. References

1. Symproic Prescribing Information. Florham Park, NJ: Shionogi Inc.; May 2020. Available at: <https://www.symproic.com/hcp/>. Accessed July 26, 2022.
2. Kumar L, Barker C, Emmanuel A. Opioid-Induced Constipation: Pathophysiology, Clinical Consequences, and Management. *Gastroenterology Research and Practice*. 2014; 1417-37. doi:10.1155/2014/141737.
3. Argoff CE, Brennan MJ, Camilleri M, et al. Consensus Recommendations on Initiating Prescription Therapies for Opioid-Induced Constipation. *Pain Med*. 2015;16(12):2324-37.
4. Pergolizzi JV, Raffa RB, Pappagallo M, et al. Peripherally acting μ -opioid receptor antagonists as treatment options for constipation in noncancer pain patients on chronic opioid therapy. *Patient preference and adherence*. 2017;11:107-119. doi:10.2147/PPA.S78042.
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7. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2020. Available at: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/>.
8. Camilleri M, Lembo A, Katzka DA. Opioids in Gastroenterology: Treating Adverse Effects and Creating Therapeutic Benefits. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2017;15(9):1338-1349.
9. Crockett SD, Greer KB, Heidelbaugh JJ, et al. American Gastroenterological Association Institute Guidelines on the Medical Management of Opioid-Induced Constipation. *Gastroenterol*. 2019;156:218-226.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	11.22	01.23

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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.

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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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