

Clinical Policy: Ledipasvir/Sofosbuvir (Harvoni)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.279

Effective Date: 09.16

Last Review Date: 08.22

Line of Business: Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) 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 Harvoni is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. Chronic Hepatitis C Infection (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of chronic 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. Confirmed HCV genotype is 1, 4, 5, or 6;
**Chart note documentation and copies of lab results are required*
3. Documentation of treatment status of the member (treatment-naïve or treatment-experienced);
4. Documentation of cirrhosis status of the member (no cirrhosis, compensated cirrhosis, or decompensated cirrhosis);
5. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease specialist, or provider who has expertise in treating HCV based on a certified training program (*see Appendix F*);
6. Age ≥ 3 years;

7. One of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Member must use **Mavyret**[®] or **sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa)**[®] (*authorized generic preferred*), 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 preferred*), 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 preferred*), **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*
8. Life expectancy \geq 12 months with HCV treatment;
9. Member agrees to participate in a medication adherence program including both of the following components (a and b):
 - a. Medication adherence monitored by pharmacy claims data or member report;
 - b. Member's risk for non-adherence identified by adherence program or member/prescribing physician follow-up at least every 4 weeks;
10. Prescribed regimen is consistent with an FDA or AASLD-IDSa recommended regimen (*see Section V Dosage and Administration for reference*);
11. Dose does not exceed ledipasvir/sofosbuvir 90 mg/400 mg (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.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Chronic 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):
 - i. Documentation supports that member is currently receiving Harvoni for chronic 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 ledipasvir/sofosbuvir 90 mg/400 mg (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

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

HBV: hepatitis B virus

HCC: hepatocellular carcinoma

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

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/ velpatasvir (Epclusa [®]) | <p>Genotype 1 through 6: Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis, treatment-naïve or treatment-experienced* patient</p> <p>One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks</p> | <p>Adult/Peds \geq 30 kg: sofosbuvir 400 mg /velpatasvir 100 mg (one tablet) per day;</p> |
| sofosbuvir/ velpatasvir (Epclusa [®]) | <p>Genotype 1 through 6: With decompensated cirrhosis treatment-naïve or treatment-experienced* patient</p> <p>One tablet PO QD with weight-based RBV for 12 weeks</p> <p>(GT 1, 4, 5, or 6 with decompensated cirrhosis and RBV-ineligible may use: one tablet PO QD for 24 weeks)[†]</p> | <p>Peds 17 to < 30 kg: sofosbuvir 200 mg /velpatasvir 50 mg per day;</p> <p>Peds < 17 kg: sofosbuvir 150 mg /velpatasvir 37.5 mg per day</p> |
| sofosbuvir/ velpatasvir (Epclusa [®]) | <p>Genotype 1 through 6: Treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced patients, post-liver transplant with compensated cirrhosis or without cirrhosis</p> <p>One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks</p> | |
| sofosbuvir/ velpatasvir (Epclusa [®]) | <p>Genotype 1 through 6: With decompensated cirrhosis in whom prior sofosbuvir- or NS5A-based treatment experienced failed</p> <p>One tablet PO QD with weight-based RBV for 24 weeks[†]</p> | <p>One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg /velpatasvir 100 mg) per day</p> |
| sofosbuvir/ velpatasvir (Epclusa [®]) | <p>Genotype 1 through 6: Treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced patients, post-liver transplant with decompensated cirrhosis</p> <p>One tablet PO QD with RBV (starting at 600 mg and increased as tolerated) for 12 weeks (treatment naïve) or 24 weeks (treatment experienced)[†]</p> | <p>One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg /velpatasvir 100 mg) per day</p> |
| Mavyret [®] (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir) | <p>Genotypes 1 through 6: Treatment-naïve</p> <p>Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 8 weeks</p> | <p>Adults/Peds age \geq 12 years or with body weight \geq 45 kg: glecaprevir 300 mg/pibrentasvir 120 mg (3 tablets) per day;</p> |

| Drug Name | Dosing Regimen | Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose |
|--|--|---|
| Mavyret [®] (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir) | <p>Genotypes 1, 4, 5, or 6: Treatment-experienced with IFN/pegIFN, RBV and/or sofosbuvir</p> <p>Without cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 8 weeks</p> <p>With compensated cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 12 weeks</p> | <p>Peds age 3 years to < 12 years of age with body weight < 20 kg: glecaprevir 150 mg/pibrentasvir 60 mg per day;</p> <p>Peds age 3 years to < 12 years of age with body weight 20 kg to < 30 kg: glecaprevir 200 mg/pibrentasvir 80 mg per day;</p> <p>Peds age 3 years to < 12 years of age with body weight 30 kg to < 45 kg: glecaprevir 250 mg/pibrentasvir 100 mg per day</p> |
| Mavyret [®] (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir) | <p>Genotype 1: Treatment-experienced with NS5A inhibitor without prior NS3/4A protease inhibitor</p> <p>Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 16 weeks</p> | <p>Peds age 3 years to < 12 years of age with body weight 20 kg to < 30 kg: glecaprevir 200 mg/pibrentasvir 80 mg per day;</p> <p>Peds age 3 years to < 12 years of age with body weight 30 kg to < 45 kg: glecaprevir 250 mg/pibrentasvir 100 mg per day</p> |
| Mavyret [®] (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir) | <p>Genotype 1: Treatment-experienced with NS3/4A protease inhibitor without prior NS5A inhibitor</p> <p>Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 12 weeks</p> | <p>Peds age 3 years to < 12 years of age with body weight 30 kg to < 45 kg: glecaprevir 250 mg/pibrentasvir 100 mg per day</p> |
| Mavyret [®] (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir) | <p>Genotypes 1 through 6: Treatment-naïve or treatment-experienced, post-liver or kidney transplantation without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis</p> <p>Three tablets PO QD for 12 weeks</p> <p>(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)</p> | |

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.

*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

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 coinfecting with HCV and HBV

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

| Brand Name | Drug Class | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| | 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.
 - Drug-drug interactions with the following agents:
 - Atazanavir
 - Efavirenz
- Acceptable medical justification for inability to use Epclusa (preferred product):
 - In patients indicated for co-administration of Epclusa with RBV: contraindications to RBV.
- Unacceptable medical justification for inability to use Epclusa (preferred product):
 - 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 Less than 34 umol/L | 2-3 mg/dL 34-50 umol/L | Over 3 mg/dL Over 50 umol/L |
| Albumin | Over 3.5 g/dL Over 35 g/L | 2.8-3.5 g/dL 28-35 g/L | Less than 2.8 g/dL Less than 28 g/L |
| INR | Less than 1.7 | 1.7 - 2.2 | Over 2.2 |
| Ascites | None | Mild / medically controlled | Moderate-severe / poorly controlled |
| Encephalopathy | None | Mild / medically controlled Grade I-II | Moderate-severe / poorly controlled. 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: Healthcare Provider HCV Training

Acceptable HCV training programs and/or online courses include, but are not limited to the following:

- Hepatitis C online course (<https://www.hepatitisc.uw.edu/>): University of Washington is funded by the Division of Viral Hepatitis to develop a comprehensive, online self-study course for medical providers on diagnosis, monitoring, and management of hepatitis C virus infection. Free CME and CNE credit available.
- Fundamentals of Liver Disease (<https://liverlearning.aasld.org/fundamentals-of-liver-disease>): The AASLD, in collaboration with ECHO, the American College of Physicians (ACP), CDC, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, has developed Fundamentals of Liver Disease, a free, online CME course to improve providers' knowledge and clinical skills in hepatology.
- Clinical Care Options: <http://www.clinicaloptions.com/hepatitis.aspx>
- CDC training resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/resources/professionals/trainingresources.htm>

V. Dosage and Administration

| Indication | Dosing Regimen | Maximum Dose | Reference |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Genotype 1 chronic HCV infection: | One tablet PO QD for: Treatment-naïve without cirrhosis, HIV-uninfected, AND HCV | <i>Weight</i> ≥ 35 kg: One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg / ledipasvir 90 mg) per day | 1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated September 2021) |

| Indication | Dosing Regimen | Maximum Dose | Reference |
|---|--|---|--|
| | <p>viral load < 6 million IU/mL: for 8 weeks[†]</p> <p>Treatment-naïve without cirrhosis (not meeting the 8 week treatment indication requirements above) or with compensated cirrhosis: for 12 weeks</p> <p>Treatment-experienced* without cirrhosis: for 12 weeks</p> <p>Treatment-experienced* with compensated cirrhosis: Harvoni plus weight-based RBV for 12 weeks (or Harvoni for 24 weeks if RBV-intolerant)</p> | <p><i>Weight ≥ 17 to < 35 kg:</i> One tablet (sofosbuvir 200 mg / ledipasvir 45 mg) per day</p> <p><i>Weight < 17 kg:</i> One packet of pellets (sofosbuvir 150 mg / ledipasvir 33.75 mg) per day</p> | |
| <p>Genotype 1, 4[‡], 5[‡], or 6[‡] with decompensated cirrhosis</p> | <p>One tablet PO QD plus low initial dose of RBV (600 mg, increased as tolerated) for 12 weeks</p> | | <p>1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated September 2021)</p> |
| <p>Genotype 1, 4, 5, or 6 with decompensated cirrhosis: Adult patients in whom a previous sofosbuvir-containing regimen has failed[†]</p> | <p>One tablet PO QD with low initial dose of RBV (600 mg, increased as tolerated) for 24 weeks[‡]</p> | | <p>AASLD-IDSA (updated September 2021)</p> |
| <p>Genotype 1, 4, 5[‡], or 6[‡] post-liver transplantation: Treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced* patients without cirrhosis, with</p> | <p>Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis: One tablet PO QD plus RBV for 12 weeks</p> <p>AASLD recommends patients without cirrhosis or with compensated</p> | | <p>1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated September 2021)</p> |

| Indication | Dosing Regimen | Maximum Dose | Reference |
|--|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| compensated cirrhosis, or with decompensated cirrhosis | cirrhosis receive one tablet PO QD for 12 weeks (without RBV) [‡] With decompensated cirrhosis: One tablet PO QD with RBV for 12 weeks (treatment-naïve) or 24 weeks (treatment-experienced*) [‡] | | |
| Genotype 4, 5, or 6: Treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced* patients without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis | One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks | | FDA-approved labeling |

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

** 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

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 5, 2022.
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 September 29, 2021. Available at: <https://www.hcvguidelines.org/>. Accessed May 5, 2022.
3. CDC. Hepatitis C Q&As for health professionals. Last updated August 7, 2020. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/hcvfaq.htm>. Accessed May 5, 2022.

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals | Date | P&T Approval Date |
|---|----------|-------------------|
| 3Q 2018 annual review: removed requirement for HBV verification; added baseline viral load requirement for treatment-naïve adult with GT 1 for determination of treatment duration; added requirement for | 05.22.18 | 08.18 |

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals | Date | P&T Approval Date |
|--|----------|-------------------|
| documentation of previous treatment and cirrhosis status; expanded duration of tx required for COC from 30 days to 60 days; required verification of genotype for COC; removed conditional requirement for RBV CI; references reviewed and updated. | | |
| Removed advanced liver disease requirement to align with 2018 AASLD/IDSA hepatitis C treatment guidelines. | 04.18.19 | 05.19 |
| 3Q 2019 annual review: revised redirection to new approved Mavyret age (12 years old) and weight limitations (45 kg) in initial criteria; removed documented sobriety from alcohol and illicit IV drugs for ≥ 6 months prior to starting therapy; references reviewed and updated. | 06.26.19 | 08.19 |
| RT4: updated Harvoni FDA-approved age (3 years), dosage forms, and pediatric dosing information; updated Mavyret dosing recommendations to 8 weeks total duration of therapy for treatment-naïve HCV with compensated cirrhosis across all genotypes (1-6). | 10.03.19 | |
| Added new prescriber requirement to include a “provider who has expertise in treating HCV based on a certified training program”; for Harvoni requests for greater than 8 weeks or treatment added preferencing for AG Eplclusa or Mavyret; removed redirection to Mavyret based on contraindications criteria; Appendix F (Healthcare Provider HCV Training) added. | 12.17.19 | 02.20 |
| Per March SDC and prior clinical guidance, preferencing revised to require AG Eplclusa for age 6 to 11 years, or weight 17 kg to 44 kg; revised to require Mavyret or AG Eplclusa for age 12 years or older, or weight at least 45 kg . | 03.03.20 | |
| 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 Eplclusa & 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 | |
| 3Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; added unacceptable rationale for not using preferred Eplclusa 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 | |

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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