

Preface to Medical Drug Management Guidelines

New Medical Drug / Indication

This policy addresses the management of newly approved medical drug products or new indications by the United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA) that are used to treat chronic and complex diseases other than cancer and related disorders. It includes coverage requests for recently launched medical drugs or recently updated indications where a guideline is in development but has not yet completed the required organizational and regulatory review processes.

For all such requests, clinical review will be conducted on a case-by-case basis to determine whether a medical drug is considered medically necessary based upon the following criteria:

1. The drug is being requested for an FDA-approved indication, where the safety and effectiveness for the indication have been demonstrated by a well-designed clinical trial (i.e., Phase III or Phase IIb [single center]).
2. The member does not have any contraindication(s) to the requested medical drug that are noted in the prescribing information.
3. All supporting laboratory or test results required in the prescribing information are provided, if applicable.
4. A medical drug requested to be used in combination with other medications must not have contraindication(s) listed in the prescribing information regarding the combined use of those medications, if applicable.
5. The member has tried and failed other clinically appropriate therapy as noted in the prescribing information, if applicable.

Dosing recommendations for new medical drug products or updated indications not covered by a specific eviCore clinical guideline will be determined by the FDA-approved dose for each indication as noted in the prescribing information.

Duplicate Therapy

Requests for simultaneous duplicate therapy (i.e., two or more of the same medication or medications within the same therapeutic class) is not considered medically necessary unless there is clinical evidence supporting efficacy and safety of the requested combination therapy.

This policy is not intended to limit eviCore's ability to manage any medical drug product. Please refer to the specific health plan's individual benefit coverage provisions for additional management descriptions.