

PREFERRED STEP THERAPY POLICY

POLICY: Angiotensin Receptor Blocker Preferred Step Therapy

Single-Entity Products

- Atacand® (candesartan tablets – ANI/AstraZeneca, generic)
- Avapro® (irbesartan tablets – sanofi-aventis, generic)
- Benicar® (olmesartan tablets – Cosette, generic)
- Cozaar® (losartan tablets – Organon, generic)
- Diovan® (valsartan tablets – Novartis, generic)
- Edarbi® (azilsartan tablets – Takeda/Arbor)
- Eprosartan tablets – generic
- Micardis® (telmisartan tablets – Boehinger-Ingelheim, generic)

Combination Products

- Atacand HCT® (candesartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablets – AstraZeneca, generic)
- Avalide® (irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablets – sanofi-aventis, generic)
- Azor® (olmesartan/amlodipine tablets – Cosette, generic)
- Benicar HCT® (olmesartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablets – Cosette, generic)
- Diovan HCT® (valsartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablets – Novartis, generic)
- Edarbyclor® (azilsartan/chlorthalidone tablets – Takeda/Arbor)
- Exforge® (valsartan/amlodipine tablets – Novartis, generic)
- Exforge HCT® (valsartan/amlodipine/hydrochlorothiazide tablets – Novartis, generic)
- Hyzaar® (losartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablets – Merck, generic)
- Micardis® HCT (telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablets – Boehringer Ingelheim, generic)
- Prexxartan® (valsartan oral solution – BioRamo/Medicure)
- Tribenzor® (olmesartan/amlodipine/hydrochlorothiazide tablets – Cosette, generic)
- Twynsta® (telmisartan/amlodipine tablets – Boehringer Ingelheim, generic)

REVIEW DATE: 10/26/2022

OVERVIEW

Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) [also known as angiotensin II receptor antagonists] are all indicated for the treatment of adults with **hypertension**; selected agents are also indicated for use in pediatric patients.¹⁻⁸ Some ARBs have other indications as well. Several clinical outcome trials with ARBs have shown positive results. All ARBs, except Edarbi, are also available as combination products with hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ).⁹⁻¹⁴ Edarbi is available as a combination product containing chlorthalidone (Edarbyclor).¹⁵ There are several products that combine an ARB with amlodipine (plus or minus HCTZ); these products are indicated for the treatment of hypertension.¹⁶⁻²⁰

Prexxartan, an oral solution containing valsartan, is indicated for the following uses:²¹

- Treatment of **hypertension** in adults and children ≥ 6 years of age, to lower blood pressure.
- Management of **heart failure** (New York Heart Association [NYHA] Class II to IV) to reduce the risk of hospitalization for heart failure in patients who are unable to swallow valsartan tablets.
- **Reduce the risk of cardiovascular death** in clinically stable patients with left ventricular failure or left ventricular dysfunction following myocardial infarction in patients who are unable to swallow valsartan tablets.

10/26/2022

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POLICY STATEMENT

This program has been developed to encourage the use of a Step 1 Product prior to the use of a Step 2 Product. If the Preferred Step Therapy rule is not met for a Step 2 Product at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the Preferred Step Therapy criteria below. All approvals are provided for 1 year in duration.

Automation: A patient with a of one Step 1 Product within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy.

Step 1: candesartan, candesartan/HCTZ, eprosartan, irbesartan, irbesartan/HCTZ, losartan, losartan/HCTZ, olmesartan, olmesartan/amlodipine, olmesartan/HCTZ, olmesartan/HCTZ/amlodipine, telmisartan, telmisartan/amlodipine, telmisartan/HCTZ, valsartan, valsartan/amlodipine, valsartan/HCTZ, valsartan/amlodipine/HCTZ

Step 2: Atacand, Atacand HCT, Avalide, Avapro, Azor, Benicar, Benicar HCT, Cozaar, Diovan, Diovan HCT, Edarbi, Edarbyclor, Exforge, Exforge HCT, Hyzaar, Micardis, Micardis HCT, Prexxartan, Tribenzor, Twynsta

CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one Step 1 Product, approve a Step 2 Product.
2. Approve a Step 2 Product if the patient meets the following criteria (A, B, and C):
 - A) The generic equivalent is not available in Step 1; AND
 - B) Patient was hospitalized and discharged within the previous 30 days for a cardiovascular event;
AND
Note: Examples of a cardiovascular event include a myocardial infarction, a hypertensive emergency, and decompensated heart failure.
 - C) Patient has been started and stabilized on the Step 2 Product.
3. If the patient cannot swallow or has difficulty swallowing tablets or capsules, approve Prexxartan.
4. No other exceptions are recommended.

REFERENCES

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4. Atacand[®] tablets [prescribing information]. Baudette, MN and Sodertalje, Sweden: ANI and AstraZeneca; June 2020.
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6. Teveten[®] tablets [prescribing information]. North Chicago, IL: AbbVie; June 2018.
7. Benicar[®] tablets [prescribing information]. South Plainfield, NJ: Cosette; February 2022.
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18. Azor® tablets [prescribing information]. South Plainfield, NJ; Cosette; February 2022.
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20. Tribenzor™ tablets [prescribing information]. South Plainfield, NJ: Cosette; February 2022.
21. Prexxartan® oral solution [prescribing information]. Somerset, NJ: BioRamo; January 2018.

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