

## DRUG QUANTITY MANAGEMENT POLICY – PER RX

**POLICY:** Anti-Influenza – Relenza Drug Quantity Management Policy – Per Rx

- Relenza® (zanamivir inhalation powder– GlaxoSmithKline)

**REVIEW DATE:** 03/23/2022

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### OVERVIEW

Relenza, a neuraminidase inhibitor, is indicated for the following uses:<sup>1</sup>

- **Treatment of influenza A and B infection**, for patients with uncomplicated acute illness who are  $\geq 7$  years of age and who have been symptomatic for  $\leq 2$  days.
- **Prophylaxis of influenza A and B infection**, in patients  $\geq 5$  years of age.

Limitations of Use: Relenza is not recommended for use in persons with underlying airway disease (e.g., asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) due to risk of serious bronchospasm. It has also not been proven to be effective for treatment of influenza for patients with underlying airway disease or for treatment of influenza in the nursing home setting.

### Dosing

#### Treatment<sup>1</sup>

- 10 mg (2 inhalations) once daily (QD) for 10 days.

#### Prophylaxis<sup>1</sup>

- Household setting: 10 mg QD for 10 days.
- Community outbreak: 10 mg QD for 28 days.

### Availability

Each oral inhalation blister of Relenza delivers 5 mg of zanamivir.<sup>1</sup> Each circular double-foil pack (a Rotadisk) contains 4 blisters of drug. Five Rotadisks are packaged in a white tube, which is packaged in a box with one Diskhaler inhalation device.

### POLICY STATEMENT

This Drug Quantity Management program has been developed to promote the safe, effective, and economic use of Relenza. If the Drug Quantity Management rule is not met for the requested medication at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the Criteria below. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. In cases where the approval is authorized in months, 1 month is equal to 30 days.

**Automation:** None.

### Drug Quantity Limits

Product	Strength	Maximum Quantity per Rx
Relenza® (zanamivir inhalation powder)	5 mg per inhalation (20 blisters per box)	20 inhalations <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Twenty inhalations are adequate to supply one treatment course or 10 days of prophylaxis.

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## **CRITERIA**

1. If the patient requires more than 10 days of prophylaxis for influenza, approve a one-time override for up to a total of 1 month of therapy (up to 60 inhalations [3 boxes]) between November 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> if, according to the prescriber, there has been a CDC-confirmed outbreak in the patient's community.
2. If the patient resides in a long-term care facility and requires more than 10 days of prophylaxis for influenza, approve a one-time override for up to a total of 1 month of therapy (up to 60 inhalations [3 boxes]) between November 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **EXCLUSIONS**

Approval of additional quantities of Relenza is NOT recommended in the following situations:

1. No overrides are recommended for the treatment of influenza.  
Note: Initial quantity limits allow for a quantity sufficient for one standard treatment course.

## **REFERENCES**

1. Relenza<sup>®</sup> for oral inhalation [prescribing information]. Research Triangle Park, NC: GlaxoSmithKline; October 2021.

CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.