

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

POLICY: Antibiotics – Xifaxan Prior Authorization Policy

- Xifaxan® (rifaximin tablets – Salix)

REVIEW DATE: 12/14/2022

OVERVIEW

Xifaxan, a rifamycin antibiotic, is indicated for the following uses:¹

- **Hepatic encephalopathy**, to reduce the risk of overt disease in adults.
- **Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) with diarrhea**, in adults.
- **Travelers' diarrhea**, caused by noninvasive *Escherichia coli* in patients ≥ 12 years of age.

In the trials of Xifaxan for hepatic encephalopathy, 91% of the patients were using lactulose concomitantly.¹ Due to small sample size, differences in the treatment effect of those patients not using lactulose concomitantly could not be assessed. Data are lacking to support the use of Xifaxan without concomitant use of lactulose.

Limitations of Use: Xifaxan should not be used in patients with diarrhea complicated by fever or blood in the stool or diarrhea due to pathogens other than *E. coli*.¹

Guidelines

- **Hepatic Encephalopathy:** The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the European Association for the Study of the Liver (AASLD/EASL) developed practice guidelines for the management of hepatic encephalopathy (2014).⁶ The AASLD/EASL guidelines state that Xifaxan add-on to lactulose is effective for the prevention of overt hepatic encephalopathy and for the prevention of recurrent episodes of hepatic encephalopathy after the second episode.
- **IBS with Diarrhea:** The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) guidelines for the management of IBS (2021) suggest Xifaxan to reduce the global symptoms of IBS and to reduce bloating in non-constipated IBS patients.⁷ In addition, the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) guidelines on the management of IBS (2014) suggest Xifaxan over no drug treatment for patients with IBS with diarrhea.⁸
- **Small Intestine Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO):** Clinical guidelines from the ACG (2020) and the AGA (2020) list Xifaxan as an option for the treatment of SIBO.^{9,10} ACG also states that the diagnosis of SIBO can be made with breath testing (glucose hydrogen or lactulose hydrogen), or by small bowel aspiration and culture. Of note, in clinical trials, patients were treated with Xifaxan for a 7-day course for SIBO.²⁻⁵
- **Travelers' Diarrhea:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Yellow Book – Health Information for International Travel (2020) states that Xifaxan may be used for the treatment of moderate, noninvasive travelers' diarrhea and may be used for the treatment of severe, non-dysenteric travelers' diarrhea.¹¹ In addition, guidelines developed by an expert panel (2017) state that Xifaxan is appropriate for moderate or severe, non-dysenteric travelers' diarrhea, and when indicated for the prophylaxis of travelers' diarrhea.¹²

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POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Xifaxan. 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.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Xifaxan is recommended in those who meet one of the following criteria:

FDA-Approved Indications

- 1. Hepatic Encephalopathy.** Approve Xifaxan 550 mg tablets for 6 months if the patient meets the following criteria (A, B, and C):
 - A) Patient is \geq 18 years of age; AND
 - B) According to the prescriber, the patient has previously had overt hepatic encephalopathy; AND
 - C) Patient meets ONE of the following criteria (i or ii):
 - i. Xifaxan will be used concomitantly with lactulose; OR
 - ii. According to the prescriber, the patient has a contraindication or significant intolerance to treatment with lactulose.
- 2. Irritable Bowel Syndrome with Diarrhea.** Approve Xifaxan 550 mg tablets for 14 days if the patient is \geq 18 years of age.
- 3. Travelers' Diarrhea.** Approve Xifaxan 200 mg tablets for 3 days if the patient meets the following criteria (A, B, and C):
 - A) Patient is \geq 12 years of age; AND
 - B) According to the prescriber, the patient is afebrile; AND
 - C) According to the prescriber, the patient does not have blood in the stool.

Other Uses with Supportive Evidence

- 4. Small Intestine Bacterial Overgrowth.** Approve Xifaxan (either strength) for 14 days if small intestine bacterial overgrowth is diagnosed by ONE of the following criteria (A, B, or C):
 - A) Glucose hydrogen breath test; OR
 - B) Lactulose hydrogen breath test; OR
 - C) Small bowel aspiration and culture.

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Xifaxan is not recommended in the following situations:

- 1. *Helicobacter pylori* Infection.** There are limited data assessing the efficacy of Xifaxan in the treatment of *H. pylori* infection in adults.⁷⁻⁹ The available studies are small, of poor quality, and none of the studies were conducted in the United States. In addition, ACG treatment guidelines do not address the use of Xifaxan for the treatment of *H. pylori*.
- 2.** Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

REFERENCES

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