

## PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

**POLICY:** Antiseizure Medications – Nayzilam Prior Authorization Policy

- Nayzilam® (midazolam nasal spray – UCB)

**REVIEW DATE:** 09/20/2023

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### OVERVIEW

Nayzilam, a benzodiazepine, is indicated for the acute treatment of **intermittent, stereotypic episodes of frequent seizure activity** (i.e., seizure clusters, acute repetitive seizures) that are distinct from a patient's usual seizure pattern in patients with epilepsy  $\geq$  12 years of age.<sup>1</sup>

### Disease Overview

Patients with epilepsy can experience acute repetitive seizures or seizure clusters.<sup>2</sup> No consensus definition of a seizure cluster has been agreed upon.<sup>3</sup> A broad definition of seizure clusters has been proposed to be “acute episodes of deterioration in seizure control”. More specifically, they could be defined as a series of grouped seizures that have short interictal periods. However, the number of seizures and the interictal period are the subject of controversy. Seizure clusters can result in increased emergency room visits or hospitalization, and they can disrupt the daily life, studies, and work of patients and caregivers. They are particularly concerning because of their association with status epilepticus, a potentially life-threatening condition. Benzodiazepine rescue medication is the primary acute therapy for management of seizure clusters, helping to abort clusters and reduce emergency department visits.

### POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Nayzilam. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Nayzilam as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and efficacy, approval requires Nayzilam to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

**Automation:** None.

### RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

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

#### FDA-Approved Indication

- 1. Intermittent Episodes of Frequent Seizure Activity (i.e., seizure clusters, acute repetitive seizures).** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (A and B):
  - A) Patient is currently receiving maintenance antiseizure medication(s); AND
  - B) The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist.

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**CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL**

Coverage of Nayzilam is not recommended in the following situations:

1. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

**REFERENCES**

1. Nayzilam<sup>®</sup> nasal spray [prescribing information]. Smyrna, GA: UCB; January 2023.
2. Jafarpour S, Hirsch LJ, Gaínza-Lein M, et al. Seizure cluster: Definition, prevalence, consequences, and management. *Seizure*. 2019;68:9-15.
3. Chung S, Szaflarski JP, Choi EJ, et al. A systematic review of seizure clusters: Prevalence, risk factors, burden of disease and treatment patterns. *Epilepsy Res*. 2021;177:106748.