

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

POLICY: Corticosteroids (Intraarticular) – Zilretta Prior Authorization Policy

- Zilretta® (triamcinolone acetonide extended-release intraarticular injection – Pacira)

REVIEW DATE: 05/08/2024

OVERVIEW

Zilretta, an **extended-release** synthetic corticosteroid, is indicated as an intraarticular injection for the management of **osteoarthritis pain of the knee**.¹

Several other injectable corticosteroids (e.g., betamethasone sodium phosphate and betamethasone acetate, dexamethasone sodium phosphate, methylprednisolone acetate, and immediate-release triamcinolone acetonide) are indicated for intraarticular use for the management of osteoarthritic conditions.²⁻⁵

Dosing Information

Zilretta is administered as a single intraarticular injection that delivers 32 mg/5 mL.¹ Limitation of Use: The efficacy and safety of Zilretta for **repeat** administration have not been demonstrated.

Guidelines

Guidelines for the medical management of osteoarthritis of the hand, hip, and knee are available from the American College of Rheumatology (2019).⁶ Multiple non-pharmacological modalities are recommended for knee osteoarthritis, including exercise, self-management programs, weight loss, Tai Chi, and use of assistive devices (i.e., bracing or a cane). Pharmacologic therapy for knee osteoarthritis consists of acetaminophen, oral and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, tramadol, intraarticular corticosteroid injections, duloxetine, and topical capsaicin. In the guidelines, no distinction is made between the available intraarticular corticosteroid products or between short-acting and long-acting products.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons practice guideline for the management of osteoarthritis of the knee (2021) states intraarticular corticosteroids could provide **short-term** relief for patients with symptomatic osteoarthritis of the knee.⁷ Additionally, extended-release intraarticular corticosteroids can be used over immediate-release to improve patient outcomes.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Zilretta. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below.

Documentation: Documentation is required for use of Zilretta as noted in the criteria as **[documentation required]**. Documentation may include, but is not limited to, chart notes, prescription claims records, prescription receipts, and/or other information.

Automation: None.

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RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

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

FDA-Approved Indication

1. **Osteoarthritis Pain of the Knee.** Approve for one injection per treated knee if the patient meets ALL of the following (A, B, and C):
 - A) Diagnosis of the knee to be treated is confirmed by radiologic evidence of knee osteoarthritis; AND
Note: Examples of radiologic evidence include diagnosis based on x-ray, magnetic resonance imaging, computed tomography scan, and ultrasound.
 - B) Patient has tried at least ONE intraarticular corticosteroid injection in the knee to be treated **[documentation required]**.
Note: Examples of intraarticular corticosteroid injections include immediate-release triamcinolone acetonide, betamethasone sodium phosphate/betamethasone acetate, dexamethasone sodium phosphate, and methylprednisolone acetate.
 - C) Patient is not receiving re-treatment of knee(s) previously treated with Zilretta.

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Zilretta 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. Zilretta® intraarticular injection [prescribing information]. San Diego, CA: Pacira Pharmaceuticals; March 2022.
2. Betamethasone sodium phosphate/betamethasone acetate injection [prescribing information]. Shirley, NY: American Regent; August 2019.
3. Dexamethasone sodium phosphate injection [prescribing information]. Lehi, UT: Civica; November 2019.
4. Methylprednisolone acetate injection [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Amneal; November 2020.
5. Immediate-release triamcinolone acetonide injection [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Amneal; December 2020.
6. Kolasinski SH, Neogi T, Hochberg MC, et al. 2019 American College of Rheumatology/Arthritis Foundation Guideline for the management of osteoarthritis of the hand, hip, and knee. *Arthritis Care Res.* 2019;72(2):149-162.
7. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Management of Osteoarthritis of the Knee (Non-Arthroplasty) Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline. Published August 30, 2021. Available at: <https://www.aaos.org/oak3cpg>. Accessed on May 3, 2024.