

DRUG QUANTITY MANAGEMENT POLICY – PER RX

- POLICY:** Diabetes – Metformin Extended-Release Drug Quantity Management Policy – Per Rx
- Fortamet® (metformin extended-release tablets – Shionogi, generic [brand obsolete])
 - metformin HCl extended-release tablets (generic only)
 - Glumetza® (metformin extended-release tablets – Salix, generic)

REVIEW DATE: 06/29/2022

OVERVIEW

The extended-release metformin products are indicated as adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with **type 2 diabetes mellitus**.¹⁻³

Dosing

Recommended dosing is similar for all of the extended-release metformin products.¹⁻³ The recommended starting dose is 500 mg once daily (QD) with the evening meal. The dose may be increased in increments of 500 mg weekly depending on glycemic control and tolerability, up to a maximum recommended dose of 2,000 mg QD. If this dose does not provide adequate glycemic control, consider a dose of 1,000 mg twice daily (BID). According to Glucophage XR (product obsolete) labeling, if higher doses are required, the patient should switch to metformin immediate-release at total daily doses of up to 2,550 mg.²

Availability

Fortamet is obsolete, but generics are available as 500 mg and 1,000 mg tablets.¹ Another product, Glucophage XR, is also obsolete, but generics are available as 500 mg and 750 mg tablets.² Glumetza (generic) is available as 500 mg and 1,000 mg tablets.³

POLICY STATEMENT

This Drug Quantity Management program has been developed to promote the safe, effective, and economic use of extended-release metformin. 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 1 year in duration.

Automation: None.

Drug Quantity Limits

Product	Strength/Dosage Form	Maximum Quantity per Rx
Fortamet® (metformin extended-release tablets, generic [brand obsolete])	500 mg tablets	30 tablets
	1,000 mg tablets	60 tablets
Glucophage XR (metformin HCl extended-release tablets – Bristol-Myers Squibb, generic [brand obsolete])	500 mg tablets	120 tablets
	750 mg tablets	60 tablets
Glumetza® (metformin extended-release tablets, generic)	500 mg tablets	120 tablets
	1,000 mg tablets	60 tablets

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CRITERIA

Metformin 500 mg extended-release tablets (Fortamet, generic [brand no longer available])

1. If the patient is taking 1,500 mg per day, approve 90 tablets per dispensing.

Note: At a dose of 1,500 mg per day, 90 of the 500 mg tablets is a quantity sufficient to allow for a 30-day supply per dispensing. If the patient is taking a dose of 1,000 mg or 2,000 mg daily, they should be referred to the 1,000 mg tablet. If a higher dose of metformin is required, metformin immediate-release tablets should be used.

Metformin 1,000 mg extended-release tablets (Fortamet, generic [brand no longer available])

No overrides recommended.

Metformin 500 mg and 750 mg extended-release tablets (generic to formerly available Glucophage XR)

No overrides recommended.

Metformin 500 mg and 1,000 mg extended-release tablets (Glumetza, generic)

No overrides recommended.

REFERENCES

1. Fortamet[®] extended-release tablets [prescribing information]. Florham Park, NJ: Shionogi; March 2021.
2. Glucophage[®] tablets/Glucophage[®] XR extended-release tablets [prescribing information]. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb; May 2018.
3. Glumetza[®] extended-release tablets [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Salix; August 2019.