BlueCross BlueShield of Arizona
An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

PHARMACY COVERAGE GUIDELINES
SECTION: DRUGS

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General Medication Coverage Guideline For Medications Which Require Prior Authorization But Do Not Have A Specific Pharmacy Coverage Guideline

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Pharmacy Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

This Pharmacy Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide BCBSAZ complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

The section identified as "Description" defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as "Criteria" defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Pharmacy Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Pharmacy Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

This Pharmacy Coverage Guideline does not apply to FEP or other states' Blues Plans.

Information about medications that require precertification is available at www.azblue.com/pharmacy.

Some large (100+) benefit plan groups may customize certain benefits, including adding or deleting precertification requirements.

All applicable benefit plan provisions apply, e.g., waiting periods, limitations, exclusions, waivers and benefit maximums.

Precertification for medication(s) or product(s) indicated in this guideline requires completion of the request form in its entirety with the chart notes as documentation. All requested data must be provided. Once completed the form must be signed by the prescribing provider and faxed back to BCBSAZ Pharmacy Management at (602) 864-3126 or emailed to Pharmacyprecert@azblue.com. **Incomplete forms or forms without the chart notes will be returned.**

General Medication Coverage Guideline For Medications Which Require Prior Authorization But Do Not Have A Specific Pharmacy Coverage Guideline (cont.)

Criteria:

- **Criteria for initial therapy: Medication** is considered ***medically necessary*** and will be approved when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

  1. Individual does not have a conflicting benefit exclusion
  2. Age of individual is consistent with the FDA approved product labeling
  3. Indication for use is consistent with the FDA approved product labeling
  4. Requested dosage for use is consistent with the FDA approved product labeling
  5. Duration of use is consistent with the FDA approved product labeling
  6. **ALL** of the required baseline tests have been completed before initiation of treatment with continued monitoring as clinically appropriate
  7. Individual has failure, contraindication, or intolerance to at least 3 covered medications approved by the FDA for the indication or diagnosis if available
  8. Product use has established safety and efficacy
  9. There are **NO** contraindications and other significant exclusions to its use

- **Continuation of coverage (renewal request): Medication** is considered ***medically necessary*** and will be approved when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

  1. The individual has benefited from therapy but remains at high risk
  2. The condition has not progressed or worsened while on therapy
  3. Individual has been adherent with the medication
  4. Individual has not developed any contraindications or other significant exclusions to its continued use
  5. There are no significant interacting drugs

- Medications for all other indications not previously listed is considered ***experimental or investigational*** based upon:

  1. Lack of final approval from the Food and Drug Administration, and
  2. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and

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3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
5. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.

Description:

BCBSAZ benefits require that medications are FDA approved. General medication requests for agents that require prior authorization but do not have a specific pharmacy coverage guideline must include the medication name, dose, frequency, length of therapy anticipated, other agents tried previously with information on failure or ineffective treatments or adverse drug events or contraindications or non-adherence, disease or condition being treated including the severity, and all applicable laboratory and other test results. Additional information submitted by the prescriber will also be reviewed (e.g. clinical articles from the literature, clinical guidelines, etc.).

Definitions:

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

Medication Product Labeling: Manufacturer FDA approved product information

Resources:

FDA-approved product labeling guideline

Off Label Use of Cancer Medications: A.R.S. §§ 20-826(R) & (S). Subscription contracts; definitions.

Off Label Use of Cancer Medications: A.R.S. §§ 20-1057(V) & (W). Evidence of coverage by health care service organizations; renewability; definitions.

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Fax completed prior authorization request form to 602-864-3126 or email to pharmacyprecert@azblue.com.
Call 866-325-1794 to check the status of a request.
All requested data must be provided. **Incomplete forms or forms without the chart notes will be returned.**
Pharmacy Coverage Guidelines are available at www.azblue.com/pharmacy.

Pharmacy Prior Authorization Request Form

Do not copy for future use. Forms are updated frequently.
REQUIRED: Office notes, labs, and medical testing relevant to the request that show medical justification are required.

Member Information

Member Name (first & last):	Date of Birth:	Gender:	BCBSAZ ID#:
Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:

Prescribing Provider Information

Provider Name (first & last):	Specialty:	NPI#:	DEA#:
Office Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
Office Contact:	Office Phone:	Office Fax:	

Dispensing Pharmacy Information

Pharmacy Name:	Pharmacy Phone:	Pharmacy Fax:

Requested Medication Information

Medication Name:	Strength:	Dosage Form:
Directions for Use:	Quantity: / Refills:	Duration of Therapy/Use:

☐ Check if requesting **brand** only ☐ Check if requesting **generic**

☐ Check if requesting continuation of therapy (prior authorization approved by BCBSAZ expired)

Turn-Around Time For Review

☐ Standard ☐ Urgent. Sign here: _____ ☐ Exigent (requires prescriber to include a written statement)

Clinical Information

1. **What is the diagnosis? Please specify below.**

   ICD-10 Code: _____ **Diagnosis Description:** _____

2. ☐ Yes ☐ No **Was this medication started on a recent hospital discharge or emergency room visit?**

3. ☐ Yes ☐ No **There is absence of ALL contraindications.**

4. **What medication(s) has the individual tried and failed for this diagnosis? Please specify below.**
Important note: Samples provided by the provider are not accepted as continuation of therapy or as an adequate trial and failure.

Medication Name, Strength, Frequency	Dates started and stopped or Approximate Duration	Describe response, reason for failure, or allergy

5. **Are there any supporting labs or test results? Please specify below.**

Date	Test	Value

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Pharmacy Prior Authorization Request Form

6. Is there any additional information the prescribing provider feels is important to this review? Please specify below.
For example, explain the negative impact on medical condition, safety issue, reason formulary agent is not suitable to a specific medical condition, expected adverse clinical outcome from use of formulary agent, or reason different dosage form or dose is needed.

Signature affirms that information given on this form is true and accurate and reflects office notes

Prescribing Provider's Signature: Date:

Please note: Some medications may require completion of a drug-specific request form.

Incomplete forms or forms without the chart notes will be returned.

Office notes, labs, and medical testing relevant to the request that show medical justification are required.