CENTENE Corporation

(Clinical Policy: Ponesimod (Ponvory)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.537
Effective Date: 06.01.21
Last Review Date: 05.21
Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Ponesimod (Ponvory™) is a sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor modulator.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Ponvory is indicated for the treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS), to include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing-remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease, in adults.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that Ponvory is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Multiple Sclerosis (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a, b, or c):
   a. Clinically isolated syndrome, and member is contraindicated to both, or has experienced clinically significant adverse effects to one, of the following at up to maximally indicated doses: an interferon-beta agent (Avonex®, Betaseron®, Rebif®, or Plegridy®), glatiramer (Copaxone®, Glatopa®);
   b. Relapsing-remitting MS, and failure of all of the following at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (i, ii, iii, and iv):
      i. Dimethyl fumarate (generic Tecfidera®);
      ii. Aubagio®;
      iii. Gilenya®;
      iv. An interferon-beta agent (Avonex, Betaseron, Rebif, or Plegridy) or glatiramer (Copaxone, Glatopa);

   **Prior authorization is required for all disease modifying therapies for MS*

   c. Secondary progressive MS;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Ponvory is not prescribed concurrently with other disease modifying therapies for MS (*see Appendix D*);

5. Documentation of baseline number of relapses per year and expanded disability status scale (EDSS) score;
6. Request meets the following:
   a. Treatment initiation: Dose follows the 14-day titration schedule as outlined in Section V and does not exceed 1 tablet per day;
   b. Treatment maintenance: Dose does not exceed 20 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Multiple Sclerosis (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
   a. If member has received < 1 year of total treatment: Member is responding positively to therapy;
   b. If member has received ≥ 1 year of total treatment: Member meets one of the following (i, ii, iii, or iv):
      i. Member has not had an increase in the number of relapses per year compared to baseline;
      ii. Member has not had ≥ 2 new MRI-detected lesions;
      iii. Member has not had an increase in EDSS score from baseline;
      iv. Medical justification supports that member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Ponvory is not prescribed concurrently with other disease modifying therapies for MS (*see Appendix D*);
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 20 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: <u>first re-authorization</u>: 6 months**; <u>second and subsequent re-authorizations</u>:** 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
   Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or
2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents;

B. Primary progressive MS.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

EDSS: expanded disability status scale
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
MS: multiple sclerosis

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Aubagio® (teriflunomide)	7 mg or 14 mg PO QD	14 mg/day
Avonex®, Rebif® (interferon beta-1a)	*Avonex*: 30 mcg IM Q week *Rebif*: 22 mcg or 44 mcg SC TIW	*Avonex*: 30 mcg/week *Rebif*: 44 mcg TIW
Betaseron® (interferon beta-1b)	250 mcg SC QOD	250 mg QOD
Plegridy® (peginterferon beta-1a)	125 mcg SC Q2 weeks	125 mcg/2 weeks
glatiramer acetate (Copaxone®, Glatopa®)	20 mg SC QD or 40 mg SC TIW	20 mg/day or 40 mg TIW
Gilenya® (fingolimod)	0.5 mg PO QD	0.5 mg/day
dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera®)	120 mg PO BID for 7 days, followed by 240 mg PO BID	480 mg/day

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): in the last 6 months, patients who have experienced myocardial infarction, unstable angina, stroke, transient ischemic attack, decompensated heart failure requiring hospitalization, or Class III or IV heart failure; patients who have presence of Mobitz type II second-degree, third-degree atrioventricular block, or sick sinus syndrome, or sino-atrial block, unless patient has a functioning pacemaker
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

Appendix D: General Information

- Disease-modifying therapies for MS are: glatiramer acetate (Copaxone®, Glatopa®), interferon beta-1a (Avonex®, Rebif®), interferon beta-1b (Betaseron®, Extavia®), peginterferon beta-1a (Plegridy®), dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera®), diroximel fumarate

(Vumerity®), monomethyl fumarate (Bafiertam™), fingolimod (Gilenya®), teriflunomide (Aubagio®), alemtuzumab (Lemtrada®), mitoxantrone (Novantrone®), natalizumab (Tysabri®), ocrelizumab (Ocrevus®), siponimod (Mayzent®), cladribine (Mavenclad®), ozanimod (Zeposia®), ofatumumab (Kesimpta®), and ponesimod (Ponvory™).

- Of the disease-modifying therapies for MS that are FDA-labeled for clinically isolated syndrome, only the interferon products, glatiramer, and Aubagio have demonstrated any efficacy in decreasing the risk of conversion to MS compared to placebo. This is supported by the American Academy of Neurology 2018 MS guidelines.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose

MS	Treatment initiation:
	• Days 1 and 2: 2 mg PO QD
	• Days 3 and 4: 3 mg PO QD
	• Days 5 and 6: 4 mg PO QD
	• Day 7: 5 mg PO QD
	• Day 8: 6 mg PO QD
	• Day 9: 7 mg PO QD
	• Day 10: 8 mg PO QD
	• Day 11: 9 mg PO QD
	• Day 12, 13, and 14: 10 mg PO QD
	
	Treatment maintenance:
	• Day 15 and thereafter: 20 mg PO QD
	
	Missed doses:
	• If fewer than 4 consecutive doses are missed:
	  ○ During titration: Resume treatment with the first missed titration dose and resume the titration schedule at that dose and titration day.
	  ○ During maintenance: Resume treatment with the maintenance dosage.
	• If 4 or more consecutive doses are missed during titration or maintenance:
	  ○ Treatment should be reinitiated with Day 1 of the titration regimen (new starter pack).
		20 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

- Tablets, starter pack: 2 mg, 3 mg, 4 mg, 5 mg, 6 mg, 7 mg, 8 mg, 9 mg, 10 mg
- Tablets, maintenance dose bottle: 20 mg

VII. References

1. Ponvory Prescribing Information. Titusville, NJ: Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; March 2021. Available at: https://www.ponvory.com. Accessed March 24, 2021.

2. Rae-Grant A, Day GS, Marrie RA, et al. Practice guideline recommendations summary: disease-modifying therapies for adults with multiple sclerosis: report of the Guideline Development, Dissemination, and Implementation Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. Neurology. 2018; 90(17): 777-788. Full guideline available at: https://www.aan.com/Guidelines/home/GetGuidelineContent/904.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	03.24.21	05.21

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. "Health Plan" means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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Note:
For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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