# Clinical Policy: Fremanezumab-vfrm (Ajovy)

Reference Number: HIM.PA.SP66
Effective Date: 10.01.20
Last Review Date: 09.20
Line of Business: HIM

Revision Log

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

## Description

Fremanezumab-vfrm (Ajovy™) is a calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) receptor antagonist.

## FDA Approved Indication(s)

Ajovy is indicated for the preventive treatment of migraine in adults.

## Policy/Criteria

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

**I. Initial Approval Criteria**

**A. Migraine Prophylaxis** (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of episodic or chronic migraine;
2. Provider's attestation that member experiences ≥ 4 migraine days per month for at least 3 months;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Failure of at least 2 of the following oral migraine preventative therapies, each for 8 weeks and from different therapeutic classes, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced: antiepileptic drugs (e.g., divalproex sodium, sodium valproate, topiramate), beta-blockers (e.g., metoprolol, propranolol, timolol), antidepressants (e.g., amitriptyline, venlafaxine);
5. Failure of Aimovig® and Emgality®, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Ajovy is not prescribed concurrently with Botox® or other injectable CGRP inhibitors (e.g., Aimovig™, Emgality®, Vyepti™);
7. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
   a. 225 mg (1 injection) once monthly;
   b. 675 mg (3 injections) every 3 months.

**Approval duration: 3 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): HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace.

**II. Continued Therapy**

**A. Migraine Prophylaxis** (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member has experienced and maintained positive response to therapy as evidenced by provider's attestation of a reduction in migraine days per month from baseline;
3. Ajovy is not prescribed concurrently with Botox or other injectable CGRP inhibitors (e.g., Aimovig, Emgality);
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
   a. 225 mg (1 injection) once monthly;
   b. 675 mg (3 injections) every 3 months.

**Approval duration: 6 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): HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace.

## 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 – HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace or evidence of coverage documents;

**B.** Cluster headaches.

## IV. Appendices/General Information

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

CGRP: calcitonin gene-related peptide
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
ICHD: International Classification of Headache Disorder

*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 |
|---|---|---|
| Anticonvulsants such as: divalproex (Depakote®), topiramate (Topamax®), valproate sodium | **Migraine Prophylaxis** *Refer to prescribing information or Micromedex* | *Refer to prescribing information or Micromedex* |
| Beta-blockers such as: propranolol (Inderal®), metoprolol (Lopressor®)*, | **Migraine Prophylaxis** *Refer to prescribing information or Micromedex* | *Refer to prescribing information or Micromedex* |

| Drug Name | Dosing Regimen | Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose |
|---|---|---|
| timolol, atenolol (Tenormin®)*, nadolol (Corgard®)* | | |
| Antidepressants/tricyclic antidepressants* such as: amitriptyline (Elavil®), venlafaxine (Effexor®) | **Migraine Prophylaxis**<br>*Refer to prescribing information or Micromedex* | *Refer to prescribing information or Micromedex* |
| Aimovig® (erenumab-aaoe) | **Migraine Prophylaxis**<br>70 mg SC once monthly<br><br>Some patients may benefit from a dosage of 140 mg injected subcutaneously once monthly | 140 mg/month |
| Emgality® (galcanezumab-gnlm) | **Migraine Prophylaxis**<br>Loading dose: 240 mg SC once<br>Maintenance dose: 120 mg SC once monthly | 120 mg/month |

*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.*
**Off-label use*

*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*
- Contraindication(s): hypersensitivity
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

*Appendix D: General Information*
- In clinical trials, a migraine day was defined as any calendar day in which the patient reported either a headache that lasted at least 2 consecutive hours and met International Classification of Headache Disorder (ICHD)-3 diagnostic criteria for migraine (with or without aura) or probable migraine (subtype in which only 1 migraine criterion is absent), or a day when a headache of any duration was treated with migraine-specific medications (triptans or ergots).
- The ENFORCE Phase III clinical trial program evaluating the efficacy of Ajovy in episodic and chronic cluster headache was discontinued after a pre-specified futility analysis revealed that the study's primary endpoints were unlikely to be met.

## V. Dosage and Administration

| Indication | Dosing Regimen | Maximum Dose |
|---|---|---|
| Migraine prophylaxis | 225 mg SC once monthly or 675 mg SC every three months | 675 mg every 3 months |

## VI. Product Availability

Single-dose prefilled syringe, autoinjector: 225 mg/1.5 mL

## VII. References

1. Ajovy Prescribing Information. North Wales, PA: Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.; January 2020. Available at: www.ajovy.com. Accessed February 13, 2020.
2. Silberstein SD, Holland S, Freitag F, et al. American Academy of Neurology: Evidence-based guideline update: Pharmacologic treatment for episodic migraine prevention in adults. Neurology 2012; 78: 1337-45.
3. Digre KB. The American Headache Society Position Statement On Integrating New Migraine Treatments Into Clinical Practice. Headache 2019; 59: 1-18.

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals | Date | P&T Approval Date |
|---|---|---|
| Policy created (adapted from CP.PCH.17 which will be retired and split for Commercial line of business) per September SDC and prior clinical guidance to redirect to Aimovig and Emgality; removed prescriber requirements; clarified provider attestation is required to confirm migraine day requirements. | 09.08.20 | 09.20 (ad hoc) |

**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

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