Pharmacy Medical Policy
Fentanyl, oral-transmucosal

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Policy Number: 113
BCBSA Reference Number: None

Related Policies
• Quality Care Dosing guidelines may apply to these medications and can be found in Medical Policy #621.

Policy
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity
Note: All requests for outpatient retail pharmacy for indications listed and not listed on the medical policy guidelines may be submitted to BCBSMA Clinical Pharmacy Operations by completing the Prior Authorization Form on the last page of this document. Physicians may also call BCBSMA Pharmacy Operations department at (800)366-7778 to request a prior authorization/formulary exception verbally. Physicians may also submit requests for retail pharmacy exceptions via the web using Express PA which can be found on the BCBSMA provider portal or directly on the web at https://provider.express-path.com. Patients must have pharmacy benefits under their subscriber certificates.

We cover fentanyl lozenge when ALL of the following criteria are met:
• There is a diagnosis of breakthrough pain due to cancer
• The patient is already receiving and is tolerant to other opioids
  o Opioid tolerance is defined as patients who are taking one of the following medications at or above the dose listed for at least one week or longer:
    ▪ Oral morphine 60mg/day
    ▪ Transdermal fentanyl 25mcg/hour
    ▪ Oxycodone 30mg/day
    ▪ Oral hydromorphone 8mg/day
    ▪ Equianalgesic dose of any other opioid.

We cover Abstral®, Actiq®, Fentora®, Lazanda®, Onsolis™ and Subsys® when ALL of the following criteria are met:
• There is a diagnosis of breakthrough pain due to cancer, AND
• The patient is already receiving and is tolerant to other opioids.
Opioid tolerance is defined as patients who are taking one of the following medications at or above the dose listed for at least one week or longer:
- Oral morphine 60mg/day
- Transdermal fentanyl 25mcg/hour
- Oxycodone 30mg/day
- Oral hydromorphone 8mg/day, or
- Equianalgesic dose of any other opioid.

AND
- There has been previous treatment failure with or a contraindication to fentanyl lozenge.

We do not cover the above drugs for acute pain or other conditions not listed above.

Description
Abstral® (fentanyl sublingual tablet), Actiq® (fentanyl lozenge) Fentora® (fentanyl buccal tablet), Lazanda® (fentanyl intranasal solution), Onsolis™ (fentanyl buccal film) and Subsys® (fentanyl sublingual spray) are potent, short-acting schedule II narcotic products that contain fentanyl as their active ingredient. They are indicated for the management of breakthrough cancer pain in patients who are already receiving and who are tolerant to opioid therapy for the underlying persistent cancer pain. Abstral®, Actiq®, Fentora®, and Onsolis™ (fentanyl buccal film) are rapid-acting narcotics that generally take less than 10 minutes to enter the bloodstream. Because of their potency, potential for abuse and safety concerns, these drugs carry a black box warning emphasizing the following:
- These products should only be used in breakthrough cancer pain.
- These products should only be used in patients who are already receiving and who are tolerant to opioid therapy for underlying cancer pain (opioid tolerance is defined as those patients taking at least 60mg morphine/day, 25 mcg transdermal fentanyl/hour or an equianalgesic dose of another opioid for a week or longer).
- These products are contraindicated in management of acute or postoperative pain
- These products should only be used in the care of cancer patients and only by oncologists and pain specialists who are knowledgeable of and skilled in the use of Schedule II opioids to treat cancer pain.

Individual Consideration
All our medical policies are written for the majority of people with a given condition. Each policy is based on medical science. For many of our medical policies, each individual’s unique clinical circumstances may be considered in light of current scientific literature. Physicians may send relevant clinical information for individual patients for consideration to:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Pharmacy Operations Department
25 Technology Place
Hingham, MA 02043
Tel: 1-800-366-7778
Fax: 1-800-583-6289

Managed Care Authorization Instructions
- Physicians may call BCBSMA Pharmacy Operations department to request a review for prior authorization for patients who do not meet the step-therapy criteria at the point of sale. Pharmacy Operations: (800) 366-7778
- Physicians may also fax or mail the attached form to the address above. The Formulary Exception/Prior Authorization form is included as part of this document for physicians to submit for patients who do not meet the step therapy criteria at the point of sale.
- Physicians may also submit requests for retail pharmacy exceptions via the web using Express PAth which can be found on the BCBSMA provider portal or directly on the web at https://provider.express-path.com.
**PPO and Indemnity Authorization Instructions**

- Physicians may call BCBSMA Pharmacy Operations department to request a review for prior authorization for patients who do not meet the step-therapy criteria at the point of sale.
  
  Pharmacy Operations: (800) 366-7778

- Physicians may also fax or mail the attached form to the address above. The Formulary Exception/Prior Authorization form is included as part of this document for physicians to submit for patients who do not meet the step therapy criteria at the point of sale.

- Physicians may also submit requests for retail pharmacy exceptions via the web using Express PAth which can be found on the BCBSMA provider portal or directly on the web at [https://provider.express-path.com](https://provider.express-path.com).

**Policy History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/2017</td>
<td>Updated address for Pharmacy Operations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2014</td>
<td>Updated ExpressPAth language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2013</td>
<td>Updated to require use of generic fentanyl lozenges prior to use of brand name formulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/2012</td>
<td>Updated to include new FDA approved medications Lazanda® and Subsys®.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/2011</td>
<td>Updated to include new FDA approved product Abstral®.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/2010</td>
<td>Updated to include coverage criteria for Onsolis™ and to include Express PA information.</td>
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</tbody>
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**References**


**Endnotes**

1. Based on the recommendations of the BCBSMA Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meeting on 2/10/2009 and 5/12/2009.

**To request prior authorization using the Massachusetts Standard Form for Medication Prior Authorization Requests (eForm), click the link below:**