Pharmacy Medical Policy
Dopamine Agonists, non-ergot derived

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Policy Number: 119
BCBSA Reference Number: None

Related Policies
None

Policy
Commercial Members

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.

Please refer to the chart below for the formulary status of the medications affected by this policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Formulary Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Formulary Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STEP 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pramipexole</td>
<td>Covered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ropinirole</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STEP 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirapex® (pramipexole)</td>
<td>Prior use of Step 1 Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirapex® ER® (pramipexole)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requip® (ropinirole)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requip® XL® (ropinirole)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Non formulary medications are covered when a formulary exception request is submitted to BCBSMA Pharmacy Operations and criteria below are met. We cover the Dopamine agonist medications listed in the chart above for new starts* in the following stepped approach.1

*New start is defined as no previous paid claim for the requested medication within the past 130 days

**Step 1:** Step 1 medications will be covered without prior authorization.

**Step 2:** Step 2 medications may be covered when one of the following criteria are met:

- There must be evidence of a BCBSMA paid claim by the patient of a step 1 medication within the previous 130 days.

**OR**

- There must be evidence of a BCBSMA paid claim by the patient of a step 2 medication within the previous 130 days.

**Exception requests based exclusively on the use of samples will not meet coverage criteria for non-formulary medications. Additional clinical information demonstrating medical necessity of the non-formulary medication must be submitted by the requesting prescriber for review.**

We do not cover drugs listed in the above chart unless the above step therapy criteria are met.

**Description**

Requip® (ropinirole immediate-release), Requip®XL™ (ropinirole extended-release), and Mirapex® (pramipexole) are FDA-approved for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of idiopathic Parkinson’s disease. Requip® (ropinirole immediate-release) and Mirapex® (pramipexole) are also FDA-approved for the treatment of moderate-to-severe primary Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS); however, Requip®XL™ (ropinirole extended-release) is not FDA-approved for this use.

**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.

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 and remove Blue Value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/2010</td>
<td>Update to include coverage criteria for new product Mirapex® ER™.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/2010</td>
<td>Updated to include new generic pramipexole as Step 1 medication.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References


Endnotes

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

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