Clinical Policy: Ledipasvir/Sofosbuvir (Harvoni)

Reference Number: OH.PHAR.PPA.10
Effective Date: 01.19
Last Review Date: 12.18
Line of Business: Medicaid

Revision Log

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

Description

Ledipasvir/sofosbuvir (Harvoni®) is a fixed-dose combination of ledipasvir, a hepatitis C virus (HCV) NS5A inhibitor, and sofosbuvir, an HCV nucleotide analog NS5B polymerase inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Harvoni is indicated for the treatment of chronic HCV in:

- Adults with genotype 1, 4, 5, or 6 infection without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis
- Adults with genotype 1 infection with decompensated cirrhosis, in combination with ribavirin
- Adults with genotype 1 or 4 infection who are liver transplant recipients without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis, in combination with ribavirin
- Pediatric patients 12 years of age and older or weighing at least 35 kg with genotype 1, 4, 5, or 6 without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis

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 Harvoni is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Chronic Hepatitis C Infection (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of chronic HCV infection as evidenced by detectable serum HCV RNA levels by quantitative assay in the last 90 days;
   **For treatment-naïve adult members without cirrhosis with genotype 1 and baseline viral load <6 million IU/mL will be approved for a maximum duration of 8 weeks (see Section V)*
2. Confirmed HCV genotype is 1, 4, 5, or 6;
   **Chart note documentation and copies of lab results are required*
3. Documentation of treatment status of the member (treatment-naïve or treatment-experienced);
4. Documentation of cirrhosis status of the member (no cirrhosis, compensated cirrhosis, or decompensated cirrhosis);
5. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease specialist or other hepatitis specialist. Consult must be within the past year with documentation of recommended regimen;
6. Age ≥ 12 years or weight ≥ 35 kg;

7. If age ≥ 18 years, member has at least one of the following contraindications to Mavyret (a or b):
   a. Decompensated cirrhosis (Child-Pugh B or C) confirmed by lab findings and clinical notes;
   b. Receiving treatment with efavirenz or atazanavir;
   **See Appendix F for additional details on acceptable contraindications*
8. Member does not have limited life expectancy (less than 12 months) due to non-liver-related comorbid conditions;
9. Documentation in provider notes (**must be submitted**) showing that member has had no abuse of alcohol and drugs for the previous 6 months. **MUST submit** urine drug screen for members with history of abuse of drugs other than alcohol. Counseling **MUST** be provided and documented regarding non-abuse of alcohol and drugs as well as education on how to prevent HCV transmission;
10. Documentation of Metavir Fibrosis score, documentation of the method used and date fibrosis score was obtained;
11. Member is not receiving dialysis and has CrCl >30mL/min; verified by lab results including a creatinine level within the past 6 months;
12. Prescriber has discussed the importance of adherence to office visits, lab testing, imaging, procedures and to taking requested regimen as prescribed. Prescriber attests that member will be adherent to treatment plan;
13. Member's current medication list does NOT include carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, oxcarbazepine, rifabutin, rifampin, rifapentine, St. John's Wort, ritonavir, tipranavir, Stribild, Crestor, H2 receptor antagonists above the following daily doses: famotidine 80 mg, ranitidine/nizatidine 600 mg or cimetidine 1600 mg; or PPIs above the following daily doses: esomeprazole 20 mg, lansoprazole 30 mg, omeprazole 20 mg, pantoprazole 40 mg, rabeprazole 20 mg or dexlansoprazole 60mg;
14. If prescribed regimen includes ribavirin, the following criteria must be met (must meet all):
   a. Member or member's partner(s) is NOT pregnant and is NOT planning to become pregnant during treatment or within 6 months of stopping;
   b. Agreement that member and their partner(s) will use two forms of effective contraception during treatment and for at least 6 months after stopping;
   c. Verification that monthly pregnancy tests will be performed throughout treatment;
   d. Members with CrCl <50 ml/min (moderate or severe renal dysfunction, ESRD, HD) should have dosage reduced;
   e. At the time of request, member does NOT meet any of the following:
      1) History of severe or unstable cardiac disease
      2) Diagnosis of hemoglobinopathy (e.g., thalassemia major, sickle cell anemia)
      3) Hypersensitivity to ribavirin
      4) Baseline platelet count <70,000 cells/mm3
      5) ANC <1500 cells/mm3
      6) Hb <12 g/dl in women or <13 g/dl in men
15. Prescribed regimen is consistent with an FDA or AASLD-IDSA recommended regimen (*see Section V Dosage and Administration for reference)*;
16. Dose does not exceed ledipasvir/sofosbuvir 90 mg/400 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: up to a total of 24 weeks*
*(*Approved duration should be consistent with a regimen in Section V Dosage and Administration)*

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.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Chronic Hepatitis C Infection (must meet all)**:**

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
   a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
   b. Must meet both of the following (i and ii):
      i. Documentation supports that member is currently receiving Harvoni for chronic HCV infection and has recently completed at least 60 days of treatment with Harvoni;
      ii. Confirmed HCV genotype is 1, 4, 5, or 6;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Dose does not exceed ledipasvir/sofosbuvir 90 mg/400 mg per day (1 tablet/day).

Approval duration: up to a total of 24 weeks*
*(*Approved duration should be consistent with a regimen in Section V Dosage and Administration)*

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.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.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

AASLD: American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
APRI: AST to platelet ratio
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
FIB-4: Fibrosis-4 index
HBV: hepatitis B virus
HCC: hepatocellular carcinoma
HCV: hepatitis C virus
HIV: human immunodeficiency virus
IDSA: Infectious Diseases Society of America
IQR: interquartile range
MRE: magnetic resonance elastography
NS3/4A, NS5A/B: nonstructural protein
PegIFN: pegylated interferon
RBV: ribavirin
RNA: ribonucleic acid

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
Mavyret™ (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir)	Treatment-naïve chronic HCV infection: **Genotypes 1, 4, 5, or 6** Without cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 8 weeks With compensated cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 12 weeks	Mavyret: glecaprevir 300 mg/pibrentasvir 120 mg (3 tablets) per day
Mavyret™ (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir)	Treatment-experienced with IFN/pegIFN + RBV +/- sofosbuvir chronic HCV infection: **Genotypes 1, 4, 5, or 6** Without cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 8 weeks With compensated cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 12 weeks	Mavyret: glecaprevir 300 mg/pibrentasvir 120 mg (3 tablets) per day
Mavyret™ (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir)	Treatment-experienced with NS5A inhibitor without prior NS3/4A protease inhibitor chronic HCV infection: **Genotype 1** Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 16 weeks	Mavyret: glecaprevir 300 mg/pibrentasvir 120 mg (3 tablets) per day
Mavyret™ (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir)	Treatment-experienced with NS3/4A protease inhibitor without prior NS5A inhibitor chronic HCV infection: **Genotype 1** Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 12 weeks	Mavyret: glecaprevir 300 mg/pibrentasvir 120 mg (3 tablets) per 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

- If used in combination with RBV, all contraindications to RBV also apply to Harvoni combination therapy.

Appendix D: Approximate Scoring Equivalencies using METAVIR F3/F4 as Reference

Fibrosis/ Cirrhosis	Serologic Tests*				Radiologic Tests†		Liver Biopsy‡	
	Fibro Test	FIBRO Spect II	APRI	FIB-4	FibroScan (kPa)	MRE (kPa)	METAVIR	Ishak
Advanced fibrosis	≥0.59	≥42	>1.5	>3.25	≥9.5	≥4.11	F3	F4-5
Cirrhosis	≥0.75	≥42	>1.5	>3.25	≥12.0	≥4.71	F4	F5-6

*Serologic tests:
FibroTest (available through Quest as FibroTest or LabCorp as FibroSure)
FIBROSpect II (available through Prometheus Laboratory)
APRI (AST to platelet ratio index)
FIB-4 (Fibrosis-4 index: includes age, AST level, platelet count)
†Radiologic tests:
FibroScan (transient elastography)
MRE (magnetic resonance elastography)
‡Liver biopsy (histologic scoring systems):
METAVIR F3/F4 is equivalent to Knodell, Scheuer, and Batts-Ludwig F3/F4 and Ishak F4-5/F5-6
METAVIR fibrosis stages: F0 = no fibrosis; F1 = portal fibrosis without septa; F2 = few septa; F3 = numerous septa without cirrhosis; F4 = cirrhosis

Appendix E: Direct-Acting Antivirals for Treatment of HCV Infection

Brand Name	Drug Class				
	NS5A Inhibitor	Nucleotide Analog NS5B Polymerase Inhibitor	Non-Nucleoside NS5B Palm Polymerase Inhibitor	NS3/4A Protease Inhibitor (PI)	CYP3A Inhibitor
Daklinza	Daclatasvir				
Epclusa*	Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir			
Harvoni*	Ledipasvir	Sofosbuvir			
Mavyret*	Pibrentasvir			Glecaprevir	
Olysio				Simeprevir	
Sovaldi		Sofosbuvir			
Technivie*	Ombitasvir			Paritaprevir	Ritonavir
Viekira XR/PAK*	Ombitasvir		Dasabuvir	Paritaprevir	Ritonavir
Vosevi*	Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir		Voxilaprevir	
Zepatier*	Elbasvir			Grazoprevir	

*Combination drugs

Appendix F: General Information

- Hepatitis B Virus Reactivation (HBV) is a Black Box Warning for all direct-acting antiviral drugs for the treatment of HCV. HBV reactivation has been reported when treating HCV for patients co-infected with HBV, leading to fulminant hepatitis, hepatic failure, and death, in some cases. Patients should be monitored for HBV reactivation and hepatitis flare during HCV treatment and post-treatment follow-up, with treatment of HBV infection as clinically indicated.

- Treatment with Harvoni for 8 weeks can be considered in treatment-naïve patients without cirrhosis who have pre-treatment HCV RNA less than 6 million IU/mL. In the ION-3 trial, patients with a baseline HCV viral load of < 6 million IU/mL and were treated with Harvoni for 8 weeks achieved SVR-12 at a rate of 97% versus 96% of those treated with Harvoni for 12 weeks.
- Child-Pugh Score

	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points
Bilirubin	Less than 2 mg/dL Less than 34 umol/L	2-3 mg/dL 34-50 umol/L	Over 3 mg/dL Over 50 umol/L
Albumin	Over 3.5 g/dL Over 35 g/L	2.8-3.5 g/dL 28-35 g/L	Less than 2.8 g/dL Less than 28 g/L
INR	Less than 1.7	1.7 - 2.2	Over 2.2
Ascites	None	Mild / medically controlled	Moderate-severe / poorly controlled
Encephalopathy	None	Mild / medically controlled Grade I-II	Moderate-severe / poorly controlled. Grade III-IV

Child-Pugh class is determined by the total number of points: A = 5-6 points; B = 7-9 points; C = 10-15 points

- <u>Acceptable medical justification for inability to use Mavyret (preferred product):</u>
  - Severe hepatic disease (Child-Pugh C): use of Mavyret is not recommended due to higher exposures of glecaprevir and pibrentasvir.
  - Moderate hepatic disease (Child-Pugh B): although not an absolute contraindication, use of Mavyret is not recommended in patients with moderate hepatic disease (Child-Pugh B) due to lack of safety and efficacy data.
    - Following administration of Mavryet in HCV infected subjects with *compensated* cirrhosis (Child-Pugh A), exposure of glecaprevir was approximately 2-fold and pibrentasvir exposure was similar to non-cirrhotic *HCV infected* subjects.
    - At the clinical dose, compared to *non-HCV infected* subjects with *normal hepatic function*, glecaprevir AUC was 100% higher in Child-Pugh B subjects, and increased to 11-fold in Child-Pugh C subjects. Pibrentasvir AUC was 26% higher in Child-Pugh B subjects, and 114% higher in Child-Pugh C subjects.
  - Drug-drug interactions with one or more the following agents:
    - Atazanavir
    - Efavirenz
- <u>Unacceptable medical justification for inability to use Mavyret (preferred product):</u>
  - Black Box Warning (BBW): currently or previously infected with hepatitis B virus. This BBW is not unique to Mavyret, and it applies across the entire therapeutic class of direct-acting antivirals for treatment of HCV infection. Therefore it is not a valid clinical reason not to use Mavyret.
  - Concurrent anticoagulant therapy: Fluctuations in International Normalized Ratio (INR) have been observed in warfarin recipients who were also receiving treatment for HCV infections. This BBW is not unique to Mavyret, and it applies across the

entire therapeutic class of direct-acting antivirals for treatment of HCV infection. Although caution is advised when using Mavyret while receiving concurrent anticoagulant therapy, specifically warfarin, this is not an absolute contraindication as long as patient is adequately monitored and educated during therapy.

- Drug-drug interactions with one or more of the following agents:
  - Rifampin, carbamazepine, or St. John's wort:
  - These drug-drug interactions are not unique to Mavyret, and they apply across the entire therapeutic class of direct-acting antivirals for treatment of HCV infection.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication: Adult patients with chronic HCV infection			
Indication	**Dosing Regimen**	**Maximum Dose**	**Reference**
Genotype 1 chronic HCV infection:	One tablet PO QD for: Treatment-naïve adult patients without cirrhosis AND whose HCV viral load is less than 6 million IU/mL: for 8 weeks ǂ Treatment-naïve non-black, HIV-uninfected adult patients without cirrhosis AND whose HCV viral load is greater than or equal to 6 million IU/mL: for 12 weeks Treatment-naïve adult patients with compensated cirrhosis: for 12 weeks Treatment-experienced with pegIFN/ RBV adult patients without cirrhosis: for 12 weeks Treatment-experienced with pegIFN/ RBV adult patients with compensated cirrhosis: Harvoni plus weight-based RBVǂ for 12 weeks Treatment-experienced with NS3 PI*/pegIFN/RBV adult patient without cirrhosis for 12 weeks Treatment-experienced with NS3 PI*+/- pegIFN/RBV adult patients with compensated cirrhosis: Harvoni plus weight-based RBV for 12 weeks Treatment-experienced with Sofosbuvir (but not with simeprevir) without cirrhosis: Harvoni plus weight-based RBV for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg / ledipasvir 90 mg) per day	1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated September 2017)
Genotype 1, 4ǂ, 5ǂ, or 6ǂ with decompensated cirrhosis: Adult patients who may or may not be candidates for liver transplantation,	One tablet PO QD plus low initial dose of RBV (600 mg, increased as tolerated) for 12 weeks Or without RBV for 24 weeks if RBV ineligible	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg / ledipasvir 90 mg) per day	1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated September 2017)

Indication: Adult patients with chronic HCV infection			
Indication	**Dosing Regimen**	**Maximum Dose**	**Reference**
including those with hepatocellular carcinoma			
Genotype 1, 4, 5, or 6 with decompensated cirrhosis: Adult patients in whom a previous sofosbuvir-containing regimen has failed‡	One tablet PO QD with low initial dose of RBV (600 mg, increased as tolerated) for 24 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg / ledipasvir 90 mg) per day	AASLD-IDSA (updated September 2017)
Genotype 1 or 4 post-liver transplantation: Treatment-naive and treatment-experienced adult patients without cirrhosis, with compensated cirrhosis, or with decompensated cirrhosis	One tablet PO QD plus RBV for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg / ledipasvir 90 mg) per day	1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated September 2017)
Genotype 4, 5, or 6: Treatment-naive adult patients with or without compensated cirrhosis	One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg / ledipasvir 90 mg) per day	1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated September 2017)
Genotype 4: Treatment-experienced** adult patients without compensated cirrhosis	One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg / ledipasvir 90 mg) per day	1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated September 2017)
Genotype 4: Treatment-experienced** adult patients with compensated cirrhosis	One tablet PO QD plus weight-based RBV for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg / ledipasvir 90 mg) per day	1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated September 2017)
Genotype 5 or 6: Treatment-experienced** adult patients with or	One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg / ledipasvir 90 mg) per day	1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated

Indication: Adult patients with chronic HCV infection			
Indication	**Dosing Regimen**	**Maximum Dose**	**Reference**
without compensated cirrhosis			September 2017)

AASLD/IDSA treatment guidelines for chronic hepatitis C infection are updated at irregular intervals; refer to the most updated AASLD/IDSA guideline for most accurate treatment regimen.
** NS3 protease inhibitor = telaprevir, boceprevir, or simeprevir*
*** Treatment-experienced refers to previous treatment with peginterferon/RBV unless otherwise stated*
ǂ Off-label, AASLD-IDSA guideline-supported dosing regimen

Indication: Pediatric patients (age ≥ 12 years or weighing at least 35 kg) with chronic HCV infection			
Indication	**Dosing Regimen**	**Maximum Dose**	**Reference**
Genotype 1 chronic HCV infection	One tablet PO QD for: Treatment naïve pediatric patients (≥12 years of >35 kg) without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis regardless of baseline viral load: for 12 weeks Treatment-experienced with pegIFN/RBV pediatric (≥12 years of ≥35 kg) without cirrhosis: for 12 weeks Treatment-experienced pediatric patients (≥12 years of >35 kg) with compensated cirrhosis: for 24 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg / ledipasvir 90 mg) per day	FDA-approved labeling
Genotype 4, 5, or 6 chronic HCV infection	Treatment-naive or treatment-experienced pediatric (≥12 years of ≥35 kg) patients with or without compensated cirrhosis: One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg / ledipasvir 90 mg) per day	FDA-approved labeling

VI. Product Availability

Tablet: 400 mg sofosbuvir with 90 mg ledipasvir

VII. References

1. Harvoni Prescribing Information. Foster City, CA: Gilead Sciences, Inc.; November 2017. Available at http://www.harvoni.com. Accessed May 1, 2018.
2. American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases/ Infectious Disease Society of America (AASLD-IDSA). HCV guidance: recommendations for testing, managing, and treating hepatitis C. Last updated September 21, 2017. Available at: https://www.hcvguidelines.org/. Accessed May 1, 2018.

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV and viral hepatitis: fact sheet. June 2016. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/factsheets/hiv-viral-hepatitis.pdf. Accessed March 13, 2018.
4. Wirth S, Gonzalez-Peralta R, Rosenthal P, et al. Sofosbuvir-Containing Regimens are Safe and Effective in Adolescents with Chronic hepatitis C Infection. The 26th Annual Meeting of the Asian pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL) in February 15-19, 2017 in Shanghai, China.
5. Squires JE, Balisteri WF. Hepatitis C Virus Infection in Children and Adolescents. Hepatology Communications 2017; 1(2): 87-98.
6. Platt L, Easterbrook P, Gower E, et al. Prevalence and burden of HCV co-infection in people living with HIV: a global systematic review and meta-analysis. Lanet Infect Dis 2016;16:797-808. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/
7. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV and viral hepatitis: fact sheet. June 2016. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/factsheets/hiv-viral-hepatitis.pdf. Accessed March 13, 2018.
8. Bonder A, Afdhal N. Utilization of FibroScan in clinical practice. Curr Gastroenterol Rep. 2014; 16(372): 1-7. DOI 10.1007/s11894-014-0372-6.
9. Halfon P, Bourliere M, Deydier R, et al. Independent prospective multicenter validation of biochemical markers (Fibrotest–Actitest) for the prediction of liver fibrosis and activity in patients with chronic hepatitis C: The Fibropaca study. Am J Gastroenterol. 2006; 101: 547-555. DOI: 10.1111/j.1572-0241.2006.0411.x
10. Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) FibroSure. Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings and Lexi-Comp, Inc. Available at https://www.labcorp.com. 2016. Accessed May 1, 2018.
11. Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) FibroTest-ActiTest Panel. Nichols Institute/Quest Diagnostics. Available at http://education.questdiagnostics.com/physician_landing_page. 2017. Accessed May 1, 2018.
12. Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) FIBROSpect II. Prometheus Therapeutics and Diagnostics. Available at http://www.prometheuslabs.com/Resources/Fibrospect/Fibrospect_II_Product_Detail_Sheet_FIB16005_04-16.pdf. April 2016. Accessed May 1, 2018.
13. Hsieh YY, Tung SY, Lee K, et al. Routine blood tests to predict liver fibrosis in chronic hepatitis C. World J Gastroenterol. February 28, 2012; 18(8): 746-53. doi: 10.3748/wjg.v18.i8.746.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
New policy created.	12.18	N/A

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.

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.