Step Therapy
Antiepileptics – Levetiracetam, Brivaracetam

NPF Coverage Policy

Drugs Affected
- Briviact® (brivaracetam tablets and oral solution)
- Keppra® (levetiracetam tablets and oral solution)
- Keppra XR® (levetiracetam extended-release tablets)
- Roweepra™ (levetiracetam tablets)
- Roweepra XR™ (levetiracetam extended-release tablets)
- Spritam® (levetiracetam tablets for oral suspension)

This program has been developed to encourage the use of a Step 1 drug prior to the use of a Step 2 drug. If the Step Therapy rule is not met for a Step 2 drug at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the Step Therapy criteria below. All approvals are provided for 1 year in duration.

Step 1:  generic levetiracetam extended-release tablets, generic levetiracetam oral solution, generic levetiracetam tablets, Roweepra, Roweepra XR

Step 2:  Briviact, Keppra, Keppra XR, Spritam

Cigna covers Step 2 agents as medically necessary when the following criteria are met:
1. If the individual has tried a Step 1 product, authorization for a Step 2 product may be given.

2. Individual who is currently taking or who has taken Briviact at any time in the past and discontinued its use may receive authorization for Briviact.

Conditions Not Covered

Any other exception is considered not medically necessary.

Background

Overview
Levetiracetam is an antiepileptic drug (AED). Immediate-release tablet and oral solution formulations of levetiracetam (Keppra, generics) are indicated for the treatment of partial-onset seizures in individuals ≥ 1 month of age; adjunctive therapy in the treatment of myoclonic seizures in individuals ≥ 12 years of age with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy; and adjunctive therapy in the treatment of primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures in individuals ≥ 6 years of age with idiopathic generalized epilepsy. Immediate-release formulations of levetiracetam are dosed twice daily. Levetiracetam extended-release tablets (Keppra XR, generics) are indicated for the treatment of partial-onset seizures in individuals ≥ 12 years of age. Levetiracetam extended-release tablets are dosed once daily. Spritam is an orally disintegrating tablet that dissolves on the tongue with a sip of water and is swallowed only after the tablet disintegrates; do not swallow tablets whole. Alternatively, Spritam may be added to a small volume of liquid in a cup (one tablespoon or enough to cover the medicine) and allowed to disperse prior to consuming. Spritam is indicated as adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial-onset seizures in individuals ≥ 4 years of age and weighing > 20 kg with epilepsy; adjunctive therapy in the treatment of myoclonic seizures in individuals ≥ 12 years of age with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy; and as adjunctive therapy in the treatment of primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures in individuals ≥ 6 years of age with idiopathic generalized epilepsy. Spritam is dosed twice daily. Roweepra™ (levetiracetam tablets) and Roweepra XR™ (levetiracetam extended-release tablets) are branded generics to Keppra tablets and Keppra XR, respectively and they have the same indications and dosing as Keppra tablets and Keppra XR, respectively.

Briviact is an AED that is indicated for the treatment of partial-onset seizures in individuals ≥ 4 years of age and is dosed twice daily. Briviact has a similar mechanism of action as levetiracetam. Both AEDs display a high and selective affinity for synaptic vesicle protein 2A (SV2A) in the brain, which may contribute to their anticonvulsant effect by modulating neurotransmitter release into the synapse. Briviact has approximately a 30-fold higher affinity for SV2A than levetiracetam. Unlike levetiracetam, Briviact is a controlled substance.

References


Last Revision Details

| Annual revision | No change to criteria. | 06/24/2020 |