



Drug Quantity Management – Per Rx Antiemetics – Substance P/Neurokinin-1 Receptor Antagonists (Oral)

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Product Identifier(s)

Effective 1/1/23 to 2/27/23: 108301, 108623, 109118

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National Formulary Medical Necessity

Drugs Affected

- Akynzeo® (netupitant/palonosetron capsules)
- Emend® (aprepitant capsules, powder for oral suspension – generic for capsules only)
- Varubi® (rolapitant tablets)

This Drug Quantity Management program has been developed to promote the safe, effective, and economic use of the oral substance P-NK₁ receptor antagonists. If the Drug Quantity Management rule is not met for the requested medication at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the Criteria below. All approvals are provided for 1 year in duration, unless otherwise noted below.

Drug Quantity Limits

Product	Strength and Dosage Form	Retail	Home Delivery
		Maximum Quantity per Rx	Maximum Quantity per Rx
Akynzeo® (netupitant/palonosetron capsules)	300 mg/0.5 mg capsules (one capsule in one blister)	1 capsule	3 capsules
Emend® (aprepitant capsules [generic] and powder oral suspension)	40 mg capsules	1 capsule	3 capsules
	80 mg capsules	2 capsules	6 capsules
	125 mg capsules (obsolete)	1 capsule	3 capsules
	TriPack (one 125 mg capsule and two 80 mg capsules)	3 capsules (1 pack)	9 capsules (3 packs)
	125 mg powder packets	3 packets	9 packets
Varubi® (rolapitant tablets)	90 mg tablets (two tablets per 180 mg wallet)	2 tablets (1 wallet)	6 tablets (3 wallets)

Criteria

Cigna covers quantities as medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

Akynzeo 300 mg/0.5 mg capsules

1. If the individual is receiving Akynzeo for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with multiple courses of cancer chemotherapy within 1 month, approve the requested quantity, not to exceed 6 capsules per dispensing at retail and 18 capsules per dispensing at home delivery.

Aprepitant 40 mg capsules (Emend, generic)

No overrides recommended.

Aprepitant 80 mg capsules (Emend, generic)

1. If the individual is receiving aprepitant for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with multiple courses or multiple days of cancer chemotherapy within 1 month, approve the requested quantity, not to exceed 12 capsules per dispensing at retail and 36 capsules per dispensing at home delivery.

Aprepitant 125 mg capsules (Emend, generic)

1. If the individual is receiving aprepitant for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with multiple courses or multiple days of cancer chemotherapy within 1 month, approve the requested quantity, not to exceed 6 capsules per dispensing at retail and 18 capsules per dispensing at home delivery.

Aprepitant Tri Pack (Emend TriPack, generic) [one 125 mg capsule and two 80 mg capsules]

1. If the individual is receiving aprepitant for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with multiple courses or multiple days of cancer chemotherapy within 1 month, approve the requested quantity, not to exceed 6 TriPacks (18 tablets) per dispensing at retail and 18 TriPacks (48 tablets) per dispensing at home delivery.

Emend 125 mg powder for oral suspension packets

1. If the individual is receiving aprepitant for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with multiple courses or multiple days of cancer chemotherapy within 1 month, approve the requested quantity, not to exceed 18 packets per dispensing at retail and 48 packets per dispensing at home delivery.

Varubi 90 mg tablets

1. If the individual is receiving Varubi for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with multiple courses of cancer chemotherapy within 1 month, approve the requested quantity, not to exceed 4 tablets (2 wallets) per dispensing at retail and 12 tablets (6 wallets) per dispensing at home delivery.

Conditions Not Covered

Any other exception is considered not medically necessary.

Background

Overview

Indications and Dosing

Akynzeo is indicated for the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of cancer chemotherapy, including, but not limited to, highly emetogenic chemotherapy (HEC).¹ Emend is indicated in combination with other antiemetics for the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of HEC, including high-dose cisplatin, and for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of moderately emetogenic chemotherapy (MEC).² Varubi is indicated in combination with other antiemetic agents in adults for the prevention of delayed nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of emetogenic cancer chemotherapy, including, but not limited to, HEC.³ Refer to Table 1 for the FDA-approved indications and dosing for the oral Substance P/Neurokinin-1 (NK₁) receptor antagonists.

Table 1. Indications and Dosing for the Oral Substance P/NK₁ Receptor Antagonists.¹⁻³

Brand (generic)	FDA-Approved Indications	Recommended Dosing
Akynzeo® (netupitant /palonosetron capsules)	In combination with dexamethasone in adults for prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of chemotherapy, including, but not limited to, HEC.	One capsule administered approximately 1 hour prior to the start of chemotherapy.
Emend® (aprepitant capsules [generic] and oral suspension)	In combination with other antiemetic agents, in patients ≥ 6 months of age* for prevention of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute and delayed nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of HEC, including high-dose cisplatin Nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of MEC. 	<p>Patients ≥ 12 years of age: 125 mg on Day 1, and 80 mg on Days 2 and 3. Administer 1 hour prior to chemotherapy. If no chemotherapy is given on Days 2 and 3, administer in the morning.</p> <p>Patients 6 months to 11 years of age, or pediatric and adult patients unable to swallow capsules: 3 mg/kg on Day 1 (maximum 125 mg), and 2 mg/kg (maximum 80 mg) on Days 2 and 3. Dosing in pediatric patients < 6 kg is not recommended.</p>
Varubi® (rolapitant tablets)	In combination with other antiemetic agents in adults for the prevention of delayed nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of emetogenic chemotherapy, including, but not limited to, HEC.	180 mg administered within 2 hours prior to initiation of chemotherapy on Day 1. Administer prior to the initiation of each chemotherapy cycle, but at no less than 2-week intervals.

NK₁ – Neurokinin-1; HEC – Highly emetogenic chemotherapy; * Oral suspension indicated in patients 6 months of age and older, oral capsules indicated in patients 12 years of age and older; MEC – Moderately emetogenic chemotherapy.

Availability

The availability of the oral substance-P/NK₁ receptor antagonists is in the Drug Quantity Limits table below.

Guidelines

Antiemesis guidelines from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) [version 2.2022 – March 23, 2022] make recommendations regarding the use of the substance P/NK₁ receptor antagonists.¹ In general, recommended dosing follows along with FDA-approved labeling and also provides for antiemetic use for multiple courses or multiple days of chemotherapy. Specifically, NCCN notes that Varubi has an extended half-life and should not be administered more frequently than every 2 weeks.

References

1. Akynzeo® capsules [prescribing information]. Iselin, NJ: Helsinn; June 2021.
2. Emend® capsules [prescribing information]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck; November 2019.
3. Varubi® tablets [prescribing information]. Deerfield, IL: TerSera; August 2020.
4. The NCCN Antiemesis Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 2.2022 – March 23, 2022). © 2022 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. Available at: www.nccn.org. Accessed on August 4, 2022.

Revision History

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Approval Date
Annual Revision	<p>Policy was updated to reflect the existing quantity limits when a product is obtained via home delivery.</p> <p>Akynzeo 300 mg/0.5 mg capsules: Override for a patient who is receiving multiple courses of cancer chemotherapy within 1 month was updated to approve the requested quantity, not to exceed 6 capsules per dispensing at retail and 18 capsules per dispensing at home delivery. Previously, this override allowed for up to 8 capsules per dispensing at retail and 24 capsules per dispensing at home delivery.</p> <p>Varubi 90 mg tablets: Override for a patient who is receiving multiple courses of cancer chemotherapy within 1 month was updated to approve the requested quantity, not to exceed 4 tablets (2 wallets) per dispensing at retail and 12 tablets (6 wallets) per dispensing at home delivery. Previously, this override allowed for up to 12 tablets (6 wallets) per dispensing at retail and 36 tablets (18 wallets) per dispensing at home delivery.</p>	08/10/2022

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