

PREFERRED SPECIALTY MANAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY: Multiple Sclerosis Preferred Specialty Management Policy

Beta Interferon Products (Self-Injectable)

• Extavia® (interferon beta-1b subcutaneous injection - Novartis)

Fumarate Products (Oral)

• Tecfidera® (dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules - Biogen, generic)

Glatiramer Products (Self-Injectable)

• Copaxone® (glatiramer subcutaneous injection – Teva, generic)

Pyrimidine Synthesis Inhibitor (Oral)

• Aubagio® (teriflunomide tablets - Genzyme/Sanofi, generic)

Sphingosine 1-Phosphate Receptor Modulator

- Gilenya® (fingolimod capsules Novartis, generic)
- Tascenso ODT® (fingolimod orally disintegrating tablets Handa/Cycle)

REVIEW DATE: 11/08/2023; selected revision 03/27/2024

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

The following Coverage Policy applies to health benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Certain Cigna Companies and/or lines of business only provide utilization review services to clients and do not make coverage determinations. References to standard benefit plan language and coverage determinations do not apply to those clients. Coverage Policies are intended to provide guidance in interpreting certain standard benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Please note, the terms of a customer's particular benefit plan document [Group Service Agreement, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, Summary Plan Description (SPD) or similar plan document] may differ significantly from the standard benefit plans upon which these Coverage Policies are based. For example, a customer's benefit plan document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a Coverage Policy. In the event of a conflict, a customer's benefit plan document always supersedes the information in the Coverage Policies. In the absence of a controlling federal or state coverage mandate, benefits are ultimately determined by the terms of the applicable benefit plan document. Coverage determinations in each specific instance require consideration of 1) the terms of the applicable benefit plan document in effect on the date of service; 2) any applicable laws/regulations; 3) any relevant collateral source materials including Coverage Policies and; 4) the specific facts of the particular situation. Each coverage request should be reviewed on its own merits. Medical directors are expected to exercise clinical judgment and have discretion in making individual coverage determinations. Coverage Policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans. Coverage Policies are not recommendations for treatment and should never be used as treatment quidelines. In certain markets, delegated vendor quidelines may be used to support medical necessity and other coverage determinations.

Cigna National Formulary Coverage:

OVERVIEW

This Preferred Specialty Management policy involves the use of selected self-administered injectable products and selected oral disease-modifying agents used for **multiple sclerosis**.¹-6 All products are indicated for use in adults. Of note, fingolimod and Tascenso ODT are the only agents specifically indicated for children ≥ 10 years of age for the treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis.³,6 A practice guideline recommendation regarding disease-modifying agents for adults with multiple sclerosis from the American Academy of Neurology (2018) includes fingolimod as one of the agents to consider for patients with multiple sclerosis who have highly active disease.⁷

POLICY STATEMENT

The Multiple Sclerosis Preferred Specialty Management Program has been developed to encourage the use of the Preferred Products. For all medications (Preferred and Non-Preferred), the patient is required to meet the respective standard *Prior Authorization Policy* criteria. The Program also directs the patient to try both Preferred Products prior to the approval of a Non-Preferred Product. Requests for Non-Preferred Products will also be reviewed using the exception criteria (below). All approvals are provided for 1 year. If a patient requesting a Non-Preferred Product meets the standard *Prior Authorization Policy* criteria but has not tried both Preferred Products (generic glatiramer injection <u>and</u> generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules), an offer to review for the Preferred Products will be made.

The Tecfidera (Brand) Preferred Specialty Management Program has been developed to encourage the use of generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules. For all medications (Preferred and Non-Preferred) the patient is required to meet the respective standard *Prior Authorization Policy* criteria. Requests for the Non-Preferred Product will also be reviewed using the exception criteria (below). All approvals are provided for 1 year. If a patient requesting the Non-Preferred Product (Tecfidera [brand]) meets the standard *Prior Authorization Policy* criteria but has not tried the Preferred Product, an offer to review for the Preferred Product will be made.

The Fingolimod Preferred Specialty Management Program has been developed to encourage the use of the Preferred Products (generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules and generic fingolimod capsules). For all medications (Preferred and Non-Preferred) the patient is required to meet the respective standard *Prior Authorization Policy* criteria. Requests for the Non-Preferred Product will also be reviewed using the exception criteria (below). All approvals are provided for 1 year. If a patient requesting a Non-Preferred Product meets the standard *Prior Authorization Policy* criteria but has not tried the Preferred Products, an offer to review for the Preferred Products will be made.

The Aubagio Preferred Specialty Management Program has been developed to encourage the use of the Preferred Products (generic glatiramer injection, generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules, generic fingolimod capsules, and generic teriflunomide tablets). For all medications (Preferred and Non-Preferred), the patient is required to meet the respective standard *Prior Authorization Policy* criteria. Requests for the Non-Preferred Product will also be reviewed using the exception criteria (below). All approvals are provided for 1 year. If a patient requesting a Non-Preferred Product meets the standard *Prior Authorization Policy* criteria but has not tried the Preferred Products, an offer to review for the Preferred Products will be made.

<u>Documentation</u>: Documentation is required for use of certain products as noted in the criteria as **[documentation required]**. Documentation may include, but is not limited to, chart notes, prescription claims records, prescription receipts, magnetic resonance imaging reports, and/or other information.

Multiple Sclerosis Preferred Specialty Management Program

Preferred Products: generic glatiramer injection and generic dimethyl fumarate

delayed-release capsules

Non-Preferred Products: Copaxone, Extavia

<u>Tecfidera (Brand) Preferred Specialty Management Program</u>

Preferred Product: generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules

Non-Preferred Product: Tecfidera (brand)

Fingolimod Preferred Specialty Management Program

Preferred Products: generic fingolimod capsules <u>and</u> generic dimethyl fumarate

delayed-release capsules

Non-Preferred Products: Gilenya (brand), Tascenso ODT

Aubagio Preferred Specialty Management Program

Preferred Products: generic teriflunomide tablets <u>and</u> generic glatiramer

injection and generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release

capsules and generic fingolimod capsules

Non-Preferred Product: Aubagio (brand)

Multiple Sclerosis non-preferred product(s) is(are) covered as medically necessary when the following non-preferred product exception criteria is(are) met. Any other exception is considered not medically necessary.

Non-Preferred Product Exception Criteria

I. <u>Multiple Sclerosis Preferred Specialty Management Program</u>

Non- Preferred Product	Exception Criteria
Copaxone 20 mg/mL and 40 mg/mL	 Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (A and B): A) Patient meets the standard Multiple Sclerosis – Glatiramer Products Prior Authorization Policy criteria; AND B) Patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii): i. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):

Non- Preferred Product	Exception Criteria		
	 Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (A and B): A) Patient meets the standard Multiple Sclerosis – Betaseron/Extavia Prior Authorization Policy criteria; AND B) Patient meets ONE of the following (i or ii):		

II. <u>Tecfidera (Brand) Preferred Specialty Management Program</u>

Non- Preferred Product	Exception Criteria		
Tecfidera (brand)	 Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (A and B): A) Patient meets the standard Multiple Sclerosis – Dimethyl Fumarate Prior Authorization Policy criteria; AND B) Patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii): i. Patient has tried generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules [documentation required]; AND ii. Patient cannot continue to use generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules due to a formulation difference in the inactive ingredient(s) [e.g., differences in dyes, fillers, preservatives] between the Brand and the bioequivalent generic which, per the prescriber, would result in a significant allergy or serious adverse reaction [documentation required]. If the patient meets the standard Multiple Sclerosis – Dimethyl Fumarate Prior Authorization Policy criteria, but does not meet criterion 1B, offer to review for the Preferred Product. 		

III. Fingolimod Preferred Specialty Management Program

Non-	Exception Criteria					
Non- Preferred Product Gilenya (brand)	pprove for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (A nd B):) Patient meets the standard Multiple Sclerosis – Fingolimod Prior Authorization Policy criteria; AND) Patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii): i. Patient meets ONE of the following (a, b, c, or d): a) Patient has been established on Gilenya (brand or generic) for ≥ 120 days; OR b) According to the prescriber, the patient has highly active or aggressive multiple sclerosis by meeting ONE of the following [(1), (2), (3), or (4)]: (1) Patient has demonstrated rapidly advancing deterioration(s) in physical functioning [documentation required]; OR Note: Examples include loss of mobility, lower levels of ambulation, and/or severe changes in strength or coordination. (2) Disabling relapse(s) with suboptimal response to systemic corticosteroids [documentation required]; OR (3) Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) suggests highly active or aggressive multiple sclerosis [documentation required]; OR Note: Examples include new, enlarging, or a high burden of T2 lesions or gadolinium enhancing lesions. (4) Manifestations of multiple sclerosis-related					
	[documentation required]; OR Note: Examples include new, enlarging, or a high burden of T2 lesions or gadolinium enhancing lesions.					
	cognitive impairment [documentation required]; OR c) Patient is ≥ 10 to < 18 years of age; OR					
	 d) Patient is ≥ 10 to < 16 years of age, OR d) Patient meets BOTH of the following [(1) and (2)]: (1) Patient has tried generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules [documentation required]; AND 					
	(2) Patient has experience inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance according to the prescriber [documentation required]; AND Note: Prior use of Tecfidera, Bafiertam, or					
	Vumerity with inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance (according to the prescriber) also counts [documentation required]. Prior use of glatiramer injection (brand or generic) with					
	inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance					

Non- Preferred Product	Exception Criteria			
	(according to the prescriber) also counts			
	[documentation required].			
	ii. Patient meets BOTH of the following (a and b):			
	 a) Patient has tried generic fingolimod capsules 			
	[documentation required]; AND			
	b) Patient cannot continue to use generic fingolimod			
	capsules due to a formulation difference in the inactive			
	ingredient(s) [e.g., differences in dyes, fillers,			
	preservatives] between the Brand and the			
	bioequivalent generic which, per the prescriber, would			
	result in a significant allergy or serious adverse			
	reaction [documentation required].			
	2. If the patient meets the standard Multiple Sclerosis -			
	Fingolimod Prior Authorization Policy criteria, but does not meet criterion 1B, offer to review for the Preferred Product(s).			

Non-	Exception Criteria				
Preferred					
Product	4. Assessed for the section to see a DOTH of the following (A				
Tascenso ODT	1. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (and B):				
ODI	A) Patient meets the standard <i>Multiple Sclerosis – Tascenso</i>				
	ODT Prior Authorization Policy criteria; AND				
	B) Patient meets BOTH of the following (i <u>and</u> ii):				
	i. Patient meets ONE of the following (a, b, c, d, or e):				
	a) Patient cannot swallow or has difficulty swallowing				
	tablets or capsules; OR				
	b) Patient has been established on Tascenso ODT for ≥				
	120 days; OR				
	c) According to the prescriber, the patient has highly				
	active or aggressive multiple sclerosis by meeting ONE				
	of the following [(1), (2), (3), <u>or</u> (4)]: (1) Patient has demonstrated rapidly advancing				
	deterioration(s) in physical functioning				
	[documentation required]; OR				
	Note: Examples include loss of mobility, lower				
	levels of ambulation, and/or severe changes in				
	strength or coordination.				
	(2) Disabling relapse(s) with suboptimal response				
	to systemic corticosteroids [documentation				
	required]; OR (3) Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) suggests				
	highly active or aggressive multiple sclerosis				
	[documentation required]; OR				
	Note: Examples include new, enlarging, or a high				
	burden of T2 lesions or gadolinium enhancing				
	lesions.				
	(4) Manifestations of multiple sclerosis-related				
	cognitive impairment [documentation required];				
	OR d) Patient is ≥ 10 to < 18 years of age; OR				
	e) Patient meets BOTH of the following [(1) and (2)]:				
	(1) Patient has tried generic dimethyl fumarate				
	delayed-release capsules [documentation				
	required]; AND				
	(2) Patient has experience inadequate efficacy or				
	significant intolerance according to the prescriber				
	[documentation required]; AND				
	Note: Prior use of Tecfidera, Bafiertam, or Vumerity with inadequate efficacy or significant				
	intolerance (according to the prescriber) also				
	counts [documentation required]. Prior use of				
	glatiramer injection (brand or generic) with				
	inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance				

Non- Preferred Product	Exception Criteria
	(according to the prescriber) also counts [documentation required]. ii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b): a) Patient meets BOTH of the following (i and ii): i. Patient has tried generic fingolimod capsules [documentation required]; AND ii. Patient cannot continue to use generic fingolimod capsules due to a formulation difference in the inactive ingredient(s) [e.g., differences in dyes, fillers, preservatives] between the Brand and the bioequivalent generic which, per the prescriber, would result in a significant allergy or serious adverse reaction [documentation required]. b) Patient cannot swallow or has difficulty swallowing tablets or capsules. 2. If the patient meets the standard Multiple Sclerosis – Fingolimod Prior Authorization Policy criteria, but does not meet criterion 1B, offer to review for the Preferred Product(s).

IV. <u>Aubagio Preferred Specialty Management Program</u>

Non- Preferred Product Aubagio (brand)	 Exception Criteria 1. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (A and B): A) Patient meets the standard Multiple Sclerosis – Teriflunomide Prior Authorization Policy criteria; AND
Aubagio :	and B): A) Patient meets the standard <i>Multiple Sclerosis – Teriflunomide</i>
_	and B): A) Patient meets the standard <i>Multiple Sclerosis – Teriflunomide</i>
	 B) Patient meets ONE the following (i or ii): Patient meets BOTH of the following (a and b): Patient has been established on Aubagio (brand or generic) for ≥ 120 days; AND Patient meets BOTH of the following [(1) and (2)]: Patient has tried generic teriflunomide tablets [documentation required]; AND Patient cannot continue to use generic teriflunomide tablets due to a formulation difference in the inactive ingredient(s) [e.g., differences in dyes, fillers, preservatives] between the Brand and the bioequivalent generic which, per the prescriber, would result in a significant allergy or serious adverse reaction [documentation required]; OR Patient meets ALL of the following (a, b, c, and d): Patient meets BOTH of the following [(1) and (2)]: Patient has tried generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules [documentation required]; AND Patient has experienced inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance, according to the prescriber [documentation required]; AND Note: Prior use of Tecfidera, Bafiertam, or Vumerity with inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance (according to the prescriber) also counts. Patient meets BOTH of the following [(1) and (2)]: Patient has tried generic glatiramer injection [documentation required]; AND Patient has experienced inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance, according to the prescriber [documentation required]; AND Patient has experienced inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance, according to the prescriber [documentation required]; AND Patient has experienced inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance, according to the prescriber [documentation required]; AND Patient has experienced inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance, according to the prescriber [documentation required]; AND
	 (according to the prescriber) also counts. b) Patient meets BOTH of the following [(1) and (2)]: (1) Patient has tried generic fingolimod capsules
	[documentation required]; AND

Non- Preferred Product	Exception Criteria			
	(2) Patient has experienced inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance, according to the prescriber; AND			
	c) Patient meets BOTH of the following [(1) and (2)]			
	(1) Patient has tried generic teriflunomide tablets			
	[documentation required]; AND			
	(2) Patient cannot continue to use generic			
	teriflunomide tablets due to a formulation			
	difference in the inactive ingredient(s) [e.g.,			
	differences in dyes, fillers, preservatives] between			
	the Brand and the bioequivalent generic which, per			
	the prescriber, would result in a significant allergy			
	or serious adverse reaction [documentation			
	required].			
	2. If the patient meets the standard <i>Multiple Sclerosis</i> –			
	Teriflunomide Prior Authorization Policy criteria, but does not			
	meet criterion 1B, offer to review for the Preferred Product(s).			

REFERENCES

- 1. Copaxone® subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Parsippany, NJ: Teva; February 2023.
- 2. Extavia® subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis; July 2023.
- 3. Gilenya® capsules [prescribing information]. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis; September 2023.
- 4. Aubagio® tablets [prescribing information]. Cambridge, MA: Genzyme/Sanofi; December 2022.
- 5. Tecfidera® delayed-release capsules [prescribing information]. Cambridge, MA: Biogen; February 2023.
- 6. Tascenso ODT™ [prescribing information]. Cambridge, UK and San Jose, CA: Cycle/Handa; August 2023.
- 7. Rae-Grant A, Day GS, Marrie RA, et al. Practice guideline recommendations summary: disease-modifying therapies for adults with multiple sclerosis. Report of the guideline development, dissemination, and implementation subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology*. 2018;90:777-788.

HISTORY

Type of Summary of Changes	Review
Revision	Date
Revision Kesimpta: Added an exception to the requirement that the patient has tried one of the Preferred Products if the patient has previously received one of Briumvi or Mavenclad. Tascenso ODT was added to the Note related to the requirement of a trial of generic fingolimod capsules that prior use of Tascensco ODT, with inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance (according to the prescriber), also counts. Mavenclad: Added an exception to the requirement that the patient has tried one of the Preferred Products if the patient has previously received one of Tysabri, Lemtrada, Ocrevus, Briumvi, or Kesimpta. Tascenso ODT was added to the Note related to the requirement of a trial of generic fingolimod capsules that prior use of Tascenso ODT.	03/01/2023

with inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance (according to the prescriber), also counts. Aubagio, Avonex, Bafiertam, Betaseron, Copaxone, Extavia, Glatopa, Mayzent, Plegridy, Ponvory, Rebif, and Vumerity: Tascenso ODT was added to the Note related to the requirement of a trial of generic fingolimod capsules that prior use of Tascenso ODT, with inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance (according to the prescriber), also counts. Tascenso ODT: This was added as Non-Preferred Product to the Fingolimod Preferred Specialty Management Program, which was	
previous named the Gilenya (Brand) Preferred Specialty Management	
Program. Criteria were developed.	_

HISTORY (CONTINUED)

HISTORY (CONTINUED)			
Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date	
Selected Revision	It was noted that Aubagio is now available as a generic in the listing of the medications. Multiple Sclerosis Preferred Specialty Management: The criteria for Aubagio (brand) was removed. For Mavenclad and Kesimpta, regarding the criterion that addresses highly effective therapies, it was added to approve if the patient has tried the requested product (i.e., Mavenclad or Kesimpta). Aubagio (Brand) Preferred Specialty Management Program: This was added as a new program. Preferred Products are generic glatiramer injection, AND generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules, AND generic fingolimod capsules, AND generic teriflunomide; the Non-Preferred Product is Aubagio (brand). Criteria were developed (refer to the policy).	04/12/2023 (effective 07/01/2023 regarding Aubagio)	
Selected Revision	Multiple Sclerosis Preferred Specialty Management: Generic teriflunomide was added as a Preferred Product. If a patient has tried generic teriflunomide tablets and has experienced inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance, according to the prescriber, this would count toward the requirement to receive a Non-Preferred Product. A Note was added that prior use of Aubagio with inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance (according to the prescriber) also counts.	07/26/2023	
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	11/08/2023	
Selected Revision	Avonex, Bafiertam, Betaseron, Glatopa, Kesimpta, Mavenclad, Mayzent, Plegridy, Ponvory, Rebif, Vumerity, and Zeposia: These agents were removed from the Multiple Sclerosis Preferred Specialty Management Program as Non-Preferred Products and related exception criteria were deleted. Copaxone: The exception criteria were revised due to changes in the Preferred Products. For the Multiple Sclerosis Preferred Specialty Management Program, previously, a patient was required to try one of the following: generic glatiramer injection, generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules, generic fingolimod capsules, or generic teriflunomide tablets. Generic fingolimod capsules and generic teriflunomide tablets were removed as Preferred Products. Now, a patient is required to try both Preferred Products (generic glatiramer injection AND generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules); documentation was added for both of these trials. For the generic dimethyl fumarate delayed- release capsules, documentation has to be provided that the patient has experienced inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance, according to the prescriber. Also, for the trial of generic glatiramer	03/27/2024 (effective 05/01/2024)	

injection, documentation has to be provided that the patient cannot continue to use generic glatiramer injection due to a formulation difference in the inactive ingredient(s) [e.g., preservatives] between the brand and the bioequivalent generic product which, per the prescriber, would result in a significant allergy or serious adverse reaction. Exceptions were added for a patient who has been established on a glatiramer product for ≥ 120 days that a trial of generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules are not required. Exception criteria regarding generic fingolimod and generic teriflunomide were deleted.

Extavia: The exception criteria were revised due to changes in the Preferred Products. For the Multiple Sclerosis Preferred Specialty Management Program, previously, a patient was required to try one of the following: generic glatiramer injection, generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules, generic fingolimod capsules, or generic teriflunomide tablets. Generic fingolimod capsules and generic teriflunomide tablets were removed as Preferred Products. Now, a patient is required to try both Preferred Products (generic glatiramer injection AND generic dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules); documentation was added for both of these trials. Also, for both Preferred Products, documentation has to be provided that the patient has experienced inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance, according to the prescriber. Exception criteria regarding generic fingolimod and generic teriflunomide were deleted.

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