



## PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

- POLICY:** Allergen Immunotherapy – Odactra Prior Authorization Policy
- Odactra® (house dust mite [*Dermatophagoides farina* and *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*] allergen extract sublingual tablets – Merck)

**REVIEW DATE:** 09/13/2023

### 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. 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 GUIDELINES. IN CERTAIN MARKETS, DELEGATED VENDOR GUIDELINES MAY BE USED TO SUPPORT MEDICAL NECESSITY AND OTHER COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS.

## CIGNA NATIONAL FORMULARY COVERAGE:

### OVERVIEW

Odactra, a house dust mite allergen extract, is indicated as immunotherapy for **house dust mite-induced allergic rhinitis**, with or without conjunctivitis, confirmed by *in vitro* testing for immunoglobulin E (IgE) antibodies to house dust mites or skin testing to licensed house dust mite allergen extracts.<sup>1</sup> It is approved for use in patients 12 to 65 years of age. Odactra is not indicated for the immediate relief of allergic symptoms.

### Clinical Efficacy

Pivotal trials of Odactra involved patients as young as 12 years of age with house dust mite-induced allergic rhinitis with or without conjunctivitis.<sup>2-4</sup> The house dust mite sensitivity was confirmed by a positive skin test response to *D. pteronyssinus* and/or *D. farina* and a specific IgE level of  $\geq 0.7$  kU/L against *D. pteronyssinus*, *D. farina* or both.

### POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Odactra. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below.

- **Odactra® (house dust mite [Dermatophagoides farina and Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus] allergen extract sublingual tablets – Merck)**

**is(are) covered as medically necessary when the following criteria is(are) met for fda-approved indication(s) or other uses with supportive evidence (if applicable):**

### **FDA-Approved Indication**

**1. House Dust Mite-Induced Allergic Rhinitis.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (A and B):

**A)** Patient is  $\geq 12$  years of age; AND

**B)** The diagnosis of house dust mite-induced allergic rhinitis is confirmed by meeting ONE of the following conditions (i or ii):

**i.** Patient has a positive skin test response to house dust mite allergen extracts; OR

**ii.** Patient has a positive *in vitro* test (i.e., a blood test for allergen-specific immunoglobulin E antibodies) for house dust mite.

### **CONDITIONS NOT COVERED**

- **Odactra® (house dust mite [Dermatophagoides farina and Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus] allergen extract sublingual tablets – Merck)**

**is(are) considered experimental, investigational or unproven for ANY other use(s) including the following (this list may not be all inclusive; criteria will be updated as new published data are available):**

**1. Concurrent Use of Odactra with Subcutaneous Allergen Immunotherapy or Sublingual Allergen Immunotherapy.** Note: This includes allergy shots as well as Grastek (Timothy grass pollen allergen extract sublingual tablets), Oralair (Sweet Vernal, Orchard, Perennial Rye, Timothy, and Kentucky Blue Grass mixed pollens allergen extract sublingual tablets), and Ragwitek (short ragweed pollen allergen extract sublingual tablets). The efficacy and safety of Odactra have not been evaluated in patients who are receiving concomitant allergen immunotherapy.<sup>1</sup> Approved product labeling for Odactra states that concomitant dosing with other allergen immunotherapy may increase the risk of local or systemic adverse events to either the subcutaneous or sublingual allergen immunotherapy.

## REFERENCES

1. Odactra® allergen extract sublingual tablets [prescribing information]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck; January 2023.
2. Nolte H, Bernstein DI, Nelson HS, et al. Efficacy of house dust mite sublingual immunotherapy tablet in North American adolescents and adults in a randomized, placebo-controlled trial. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2016;138(6):1631-1638.
3. Demoly P, Emminger W, Rehm D, et al. Effective treatment of house dust mite-induced allergic rhinitis with 2 doses of the SQ HDM SLIT-tablet: results from a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase III trial. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2016;137(2):444-451.
4. Nolte H, Maloney J, Nelson HS. Onset and dose-related efficacy of house dust mite sublingual immunotherapy tablets in an environmental exposure chamber. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2015;135(6):1494-1501.

## HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	08/31/2022
Selected Revision	<b>House Dust Mite-Induced Allergic Rhinitis:</b> The age of approval was changed from $\geq 18$ years of age to $\geq 12$ years of age.	02/01/2023
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	09/13/2023

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