

Drug and Biologic Coverage Policy



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Carbidopa

Table of Contents

Overview 1
Medical Necessity Criteria 1
Reauthorization Criteria 2
Authorization Duration 2
Conditions Not Covered..... 2
Background..... 2
References 2

Related Coverage Resources

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.

Overview

This policy supports medical necessity review for carbidopa (Lodosyn®).

Receipt of sample product does not satisfy any criteria requirements for coverage.

Medical Necessity Criteria

Carbidopa (Lodosyn) is considered medically necessary when the following are met:

Parkinson's disease, Postencephalitic Parkinsonism or Symptomatic Parkinsonism. Individual meets **ALL** of the following criteria:

1. Currently receiving levodopa-based treatment
2. Medication is prescribed by, or in consultation with, a neurologist

3. Documentation the individual has tried **carbidopa tablet** (the bioequivalent generic product) AND cannot take due to a formulation difference in the inactive ingredient(s) which would result in a significant allergy or serious adverse reaction

When coverage is available and medically necessary, the dosage, frequency, duration of therapy, and site of care should be reasonable, clinically appropriate, and supported by evidence-based literature and adjusted based upon severity, alternative available treatments, and previous response to therapy.

Reauthorization Criteria

Continuation of carbidopa (Lodosyn) is considered medically necessary for Parkinson's disease, Postencephalitic Parkinsonism or Symptomatic Parkinsonism when the above medical necessity criteria are met AND there is documentation of beneficial response

Authorization Duration

Initial approval duration: up to 12 months
Reauthorization approval duration: up to 12 months

Conditions Not Covered

Any other use is considered experimental, investigational or unproven.

Background

OVERVIEW

Carbidopa, an aromatic amino acid decarboxylation inhibitor, is indicated for use with carbidopa-levodopa or with levodopa for the following uses:¹

- **Parkinson's disease**, idiopathic.
- **Postencephalitic parkinsonism**.
- **Symptomatic parkinsonism**, which may follow injury to the nervous system by carbon monoxide intoxication and/or manganese intoxication.

References

1. Lodosyn® tablets [prescribing information] Bridgewater, NJ: Bausch Health; July 2020.

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