



Drug Coverage Policy

Effective Date 07/01/2025

Coverage Policy Number IP0565

Policy Title Filspari

Nephrology – Filspari

- Filspari™ (sparsentan tablets – Travere)

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OVERVIEW

Filspari, an endothelin and angiotensin II receptor antagonist, is indicated to slow kidney function decline in adults with **primary immunoglobulin A nephropathy** (IgAN) who are at risk of rapid disease progression.¹

Filspari is contraindicated for use with renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS) inhibitors, endothelin receptor antagonists (ERAs), or aliskiren.¹ RAAS inhibitors, ERAs, and/or aliskiren must be discontinued prior to initiation of Filspari.

Clinical Efficacy

The efficacy of Filspari is being assessed in an ongoing Phase III trial in adults with biopsy-proven IgAN, proteinuria ≥ 1.0 g/day at screening, and estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) ≥ 30 mL/min/1.73 m² (PROTECT, n = 404).² Additionally patients were receiving the maximum tolerated dose (at least one-half of the maximum labeled dose) of an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor (ACEi) or angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) for ≥ 12 weeks prior to study entry and had blood pressure of $\leq 150/100$ mmHg (managed according to standard of care). Patients with use of immunosuppressive medications (including corticosteroids for > 2 weeks within 3 months of screening), chronic kidney disease (CKD) in addition to IgAN, or IgAN secondary to other conditions were excluded. Per study protocol, patients discontinued their ACEi or ARB 1 day prior to the start of Filspari.²

The primary efficacy endpoint was the change from baseline in urine protein-to-creatinine ratio (based on 24-hour urine sample) at Week 36.² The primary analysis was based on an interim data cutoff of August 1, 2021. At Week 36, the primary endpoint was significantly greater with Filspari vs. irbesartan in the interim analysis set (comprised of the first 281 patients randomized in the study, including 2 patients who were not treated); the geometric least squares mean percent change in UPCR from baseline was -45% vs. -15%, respectively. This resulted in a statistically significant relative reduction from baseline in UPCR for the Filspari vs. irbesartan group (geometric mean ratio 0.7; 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.6, 0.8; $P < 0.0001$), corresponding to a 35% relative reduction with Filspari. Supportive secondary endpoints for changes in UPCR from baseline to Week 94 and urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio (UACR) from baseline to Weeks 36 and 94, were significantly greater with Filspari. A confirmed 40% reduction in eGFR, end-stage kidney disease, or death was reported in a smaller proportion of patients treated with Filspari (3.5%) vs. irbesartan (6.4%) [$P =$ not estimable].

Several exploratory endpoints also favored Filspari over irbesartan. At the interim analysis (Week 36), the proportion of patients in the Filspari group who achieved partial proteinuria remission (< 1 g/day) was significantly higher with Filspari vs. irbesartan (55% vs. 24%, respectively) and numerically more patients in the Filspari vs. irbesartan group (11% vs. 4%, respectively) achieved complete proteinuria remission (< 0.3 g/day) at Week 36.

Following the 36 week randomized, treatment period, patients were followed until the patient reached Week 110.⁵ The significant reduction in proteinuria at Week 36 was maintained through Week 110. The UPCR at Week 110 was 40% lower in the Filspari group compared to the irbesartan group (-42.8% with Filspari versus -4.4% with irbesartan). Filspari also reduced the rate of decline in kidney function from baseline to Week 110 when compared with irbesartan (-3.0 mL/min/1.73 m² per year for Filspari vs. 4.2 mL/min/1.73 m² per year for irbesartan) with a corresponding treatment effect of 1.2 mL/min/1.73 m² per year ($P = 0.0168$).

Guidelines

Kidney Diseases: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) clinical practice guidelines for the management of IgAN and immunoglobulin A vasculitis (2024) recommend Filspari for patients who are at risk of progressive kidney function loss with IgAN.³ Therapeutic strategies that minimize or avoid systemic glucocorticoid exposure are considered areas of priority for future research to improve the treatment and outcomes of patients with IgAN.

Following biopsy-confirmed diagnosis of IgAN, the guidelines recommend assessment of disease progression.³ The primary focus of IgAN treatment should include multiple modalities such as

RAAS blockage (maximum dose or maximum tolerated dose), blood pressure control, cardiovascular risk minimization, and adherence to lifestyle advice (i.e., dietary counseling, smoking cessation, weight control, and exercise as appropriate). RAAS blockade (with either an ACEi or ARB) is recommended regardless of hypertension if a patient has proteinuria > 0.5 g/day (500 mg/day). There are no data to suggest that dual blockade with an ACEi and ARB is superior to single blockade. In patients who remain at high risk of progressive CKD despite maximal supportive care, a 6-month course of glucocorticoid therapy should be considered.

Safety

Filspari has a Black Box Warning and Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program around hepatotoxicity and embryo-fetal toxicity.^{1,4} The three objectives of the REMS are to monitor for elevations in liver enzymes in patients exposed to Filspari, ensure that patients who can become pregnant are not pregnant before initiating Filspari, and to minimize exposure in patients who may become pregnant while taking Filspari.

Coverage Policy

Policy Statement

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Filspari. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. In cases where the approval is authorized in months, 1 month is equal to 30 days. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Filspari as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, approval requires Filspari to be prescribed by a physician who has consulted with or who specializes in the condition. For certain criteria, verification is required as noted by [verification in claims history required]. In the criteria for Filspari, as appropriate, an asterisk (*) is noted next to the specified gender. In this context, the specified gender is defined as follows: females are defined as individuals with the biological traits of a woman, regardless of the individual's gender identity or gender expression.

Documentation: Documentation is required where noted in the criteria. Documentation may include, but not limited to, chart notes, laboratory tests, claims records, and/or other information.

Filspari is considered medically necessary when the following are met:

- 1. Primary Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy.** Approve for the duration noted if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):
 - A. Initial Therapy.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, and vii):
 - i.** Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND
 - ii.** The diagnosis has been confirmed by biopsy **[Documentation Required]**; AND
 - iii.** Patient is at high risk of disease progression, defined by meeting the following criteria (a and b):
 - a.** Patient meets ONE of the following [(1) or (2)]:
 - (1)** Proteinuria ≥ 0.5 g/day **[Documentation Required]**; OR
 - (2)** Urine protein-to-creatinine ratio ≥ 0.8 g/g **[Documentation Required]**; AND
 - b.** Patient has received the maximum or maximally tolerated dose of ONE of the following for ≥ 12 weeks prior to starting Filspari [(1) or (2)]:
 - (1)** Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; OR
 - (2)** Angiotensin receptor blocker; AND
 - iv.** Patient has received ≥ 3 months of optimized supportive care, including blood pressure management, lifestyle modification, and cardiovascular risk modification, according to the prescriber; AND

- v. Patient has an estimated glomerular filtration rate ≥ 30 mL/min/1.73 m²; AND
 - vi. The medication will not be used in combination with any renin-angiotensin-aldosterone antagonists (e.g., angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors or angiotensin receptor blockers), endothelin receptor antagonists, or aliskiren; AND
Note: Examples of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors include but are not limited to lisinopril, fosinopril, enalapril, benazepril. Examples of angiotensin receptor blockers include but are not limited to irbesartan, losartan, candesartan, valsartan.
 - vii. The medication is prescribed by or on consultation with a nephrologist.
- B) Patient is Currently Receiving Filspari.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (i, ii, iii, iv, v, and vi):
- i. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND
 - ii. The diagnosis has been confirmed by biopsy **[Documentation Required]**; AND
 - iii. Patient has had a response to Filspari, according to the prescriber; AND
Note: Examples of a response are a reduction in urine protein-to-creatinine ratio from baseline, reduction in proteinuria from baseline.
 - iv. Patient has an estimated glomerular filtration rate ≥ 30 mL/min/1.73 m²; AND
 - v. The medication is not being used in combination with any renin-angiotensin-aldosterone antagonists (e.g., angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors or angiotensin receptor blockers), endothelin receptor antagonists, or aliskiren; AND
Note: Examples of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors include but are not limited to lisinopril, fosinopril, enalapril, benazepril. Examples of angiotensin receptor blockers include but are not limited to irbesartan, losartan, candesartan, valsartan.
 - vi. The medication is prescribed by or on consultation with a nephrologist.

Conditions Not Covered

Filspari for any other use is considered not medically necessary. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

References

- Filspari™ tablets [prescribing information]. San Diego, CA: Travere; September 2024.
- Sparsentan for Primary IgAN, Formulary Dossier. Version 4.1 Travere. February 18, 2023
- Kidney Diseases: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) 2024 clinical practice guidelines for the management of immunoglobulin A nephropathy (IgAN) and immunoglobulin A vasculitis (IgAV). *Draft published online ahead of print.* Available at: <https://kdigo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/KDIGO-2024-IgAN-IgAV-Guideline-Public-Review-Draft.pdf>. Accessed on February 20, 2025.
- The Filspari™ REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy). Available at: <https://filsparirems.com/#Main>. Accessed on: February 20, 2025.
- Rovin BH, Barratt J, Heerspink HJL, et al. Efficacy and safety of sparsentan versus irbesartan in patients with IgA nephropathy (PROTECT): 2-year results from a randomised, active-controlled, phase 3 trial. *Lancet*. 2023;402(10417):2077-2090.

Revision Details

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Date
Annual Review	Primary Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy. (1) Added 'Patient is currently receiving Filspari' criteria. (2) Updated high risk of disease progression criteria.	06/01/2024

Selected Revision	Primary Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy: The criterion requiring that the patient is at high risk of disease progression, defined by ONE of the following: urine-to-protein-creatinine ratio \geq 1.5 g/g OR proteinuria \geq 1 g/day was revised to require that the patient is at high risk of disease progression, defined by urine-to-protein-creatinine ratio \geq 0.8 g/g OR proteinuria \geq 0.5 g/day. The approval duration was changed to 1 year for initial and continuation therapy (previously the approval duration was 9 months for initial and 1 year for continuation therapy).	12/15/2024
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	05/15/2025
Selected Revision	Primary Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy. Added documentation requirements.	07/01/2025

The policy effective date is in force until updated or retired.

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