Clinical Policy: Istradefylline (Nourianz)

Reference Number: AZ.CP.PMN.217
Effective Date: 2.1.2020
Last Review Date: 1.18.21
Line of Business: Arizona Medicaid (AzCH-CCP and Care1st) Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description
Istradefylline (Nourianz™) is an adenosine A_{2A} receptor antagonist.

FDA approved indication
Nourianz is indicated as adjunctive treatment to levodopa/carbidopa in adult patients with Parkinson's disease (PD) experiencing "off" episodes.

Policy/Criteria
Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of Arizona Complete Health-Complete Care Plan and Care1st that Nourianz is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

1. **Initial Approval Criteria**
   - **A. Parkinson's Disease** (must meet all)**:**
     1. Diagnosis of PD;
     2. Age ≥ 18 years;
     3. Member is experiencing "off" time (*see Appendix D*) on levodopa/carbidopa therapy;
     4. Failure of two of the following adjunct drugs prescribed in combination with levodopa/carbidopa, each from different classes, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced:*
        a. COMT inhibitor: **entacapone (Comtan®/Stalevo®) AHCCCS preferred**, tolcapone;
        b. Dopamine agonist: **ropinirole (AHCCCS Preferred)** /ropinirole ER, **pramipexole (AHCCCS Preferred)** /pramipexole ER, Neupro® (rotigotine);
        **Prior authorization may be required for the above agents*
     5. Prescribed in combination with levodopa/carbidopa;
     6. Dose does not exceed 40 mg (1 tablet) per day.

     Approval duration: 6 months

   - **B. Other diagnoses/indications**
     1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): AZ.CP.PMN.53 for Arizona Medicaid.

2. **Continued Therapy**
   A. **Parkinson's Disease** (must meet all)**:**
      1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
      2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
      3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 40 mg (1 tablet) per day.
      Approval duration:
      Medicaid– 12 months

   B. **Other diagnoses/indications** (must meet 1 or 2)**:**
      1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
      Approval duration: 12 months
      2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): AZ.CP.PMN.53 for Arizona Medicaid.

3. **Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:**
   A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – AZ.CP.PMN.53 for Arizona Medicaid.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

COMT: catechol-O-methyl transferase
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
MAO-B: monoamine oxidase type B
PD: Parkinson's disease

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
COMT Inhibitors		
carbadopa/levodopa/ entacapone (Stalevo)	PO: Dose should be individualized based on therapeutic response; doses may be adjusted by changing strength or adjusting interval. Fractionated doses are not recommended and only 1 tablet should be given at each dosing interval.	1,200 mg/day (divided doses)

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Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
entacapone (Comtan)	PO: 200 mg with each dose of levodopa/carbidopa	1,600 mg/day (divided doses)
tolcapone (Tasmar®)	PO: 100 mg 3 times daily, as adjunct to levodopa/carbidopa	300 mg/day
MAO-B Inhibitors		
rasagiline (Azilect)	PO: Monotherapy or adjunctive therapy (not including levodopa): 1 mg once daily. Adjunctive therapy with levodopa: Initial: 0.5 mg once daily; may increase to 1 mg once daily based on response and tolerability.	1 mg/day
Dopamine Agonists		
pramipexole (Mirapex)	PO: Initial dose: 0.125 mg 3 times daily, increase gradually every 5 to 7 days; maintenance (usual): 0.5 to 1.5 mg 3 times daily	4.5 mg/day (divided doses)
pramipexole ER (Mirapex ER)	PO: Initial dose: 0.375 mg once daily; increase gradually not more frequently than every 5 to 7 days to 0.75 mg once daily and then, if necessary, by 0.75 mg per dose	4.5 mg/day
Neupro (rotigotine)	Transdermal: Initial dose: 2 mg/24 hours for early-stage disease or 4 mg/24 hours for advanced-stage disease	6 mg/24 hours for early-stage disease; 8 mg/24 hours for advanced-stage disease
ropinirole (Requip)	PO: Recommended starting dose: 0.25 mg 3 times/day. Based on individual patient response, the dosage should be titrated with weekly increments: Week 1: 0.25 mg 3 times/day; total daily dose: 0.75 mg; week 2: 0.5 mg 3 times/day; total daily dose: 1.5 mg; week 3: 0.75 mg 3 times/day; total daily dose: 2.25 mg; week 4: 1 mg 3 times/day; total daily dose: 3 mg. After week 4, if necessary, daily dosage may be increased by 1.5 mg/day on a weekly basis up to a dose of 9 mg/day, and then by up to 3 mg/day weekly to a total of 24 mg/day.	24 mg/day (divided doses)

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
ropinirole ER (Requip ER)	PO: Initial dose: 2 mg once daily for 1 to 2 weeks, followed by increases of 2 mg/day at weekly or longer intervals based on therapeutic response and tolerability	24 mg/day

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindication/Boxed Warnings
None reported

Appendix D: General Information
- Off time/episodes represent a return of PD symptoms (bradykinesia, rest tremor or rigidity) when the L-dopa treatment effect wears off after each dosing interval.
- PD symptoms, resulting from too little levodopa (L-dopa), are in contrast with dyskinesia which typically results from too much L-dopa. The alterations between "on" time (the time when PD symptoms are successfully suppressed by L-dopa) and "off" time is known as "motor fluctuations".
- The addition of carbidopa to L-dopa prevents conversion of L-dopa to dopamine in the systemic circulation and liver.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Adjunctive treatment to levodopa/carbidopa in adult patients with PD experiencing "off" episodes	20 mg PO QD	40 mg/day

VI. Product Availability
Tablets: 20 mg, 40 mg

VII. References
1. Nourianz Prescribing Information. Bedminster, NJ: Kyowa Kirin, Inc.; May 2020. Available at: https://www.nourianzhcp.com/. Accessed October 20, 2020.
2. Pahwa MD, Factor SA, Lyons KE, et al. Practice Parameter: Treatment of Parkinson disease with motor fluctuations and dyskinesia (an evidence-based review): [RETIRED] Report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology*. 2006 Apr;66:983-995.
3. Fox SH, Katzenschlager R, Lim SY, et al. International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society evidence-based medicine review: Update on treatments for the motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease. *Mov Disord*. 2018 Aug;33(8):1248-1266.
4. Micromedex® Healthcare Series [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colo: Thomson Healthcare. Updated periodically. Accessed October 20, 2020.

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Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created. Edited new Corporate criteria to point out AHCCCS-preferred drugs. Changed policy number to AZ.CH.PMN.217.	12.30.19	02.20
1Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	10.20.20	02.21
Added Care1st logo. Added verbiage to specify that criteria also applies to Care1st.	5.10.21	04.21

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. "Health Plan" means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

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This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

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