STEP THERAPY POLICY

POLICY: Bile Acid Sequestrants Step Therapy Program

DATE REVIEWED: 05/06/2020

DRUGS AFFECTED:

- Questran®, Questran® Light, Prevalite® (cholestyramine oral suspension – Par, Upsher Smith, generics)
- Colestid® (Colestipol oral suspension and micronized tablets – Pfizer, generics)
- Welchol® (colesevelam tablets, for oral suspension and chewable bars – Sankyo Pharma, generics to the tablets and for oral suspension)

OVERVIEW

Cholestyramine is indicated for use as adjunctive therapy for the lowering of serum cholesterol in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia who have not responded to diet or other measures alone.[1] Colestipol is indicated as adjunctive therapy to diet for the reduction of elevated serum total and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia (elevated LDL-C) who do not respond adequately to diet.[2,3] Colesevelam is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to reduce elevated LDL-C in adults with primary hyperlipidemia.[4] Colesevelam is also approved to reduce LDL-C levels in boys and postmenarchal girls, aged 10 to 17 years, with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia who are unable to reach LDL-C target levels despite an adequate trial of dietary therapy and lifestyle modification. Colesevelam is also indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

POLICY STATEMENT

Step therapy rules have been developed to encourage the use of generic bile acid sequestrants (Step 1) prior to a brand name bile acid sequestrants (Step 2). If the step therapy rule is not met at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the criteria below.

Step 1: cholestyramine oral suspension, colestipol oral suspension, colestipol micronized tablets, colesevelam tablets, colesevelam for oral suspension, and Prevalite oral suspension.
Step 2: Welchol tablets, Welchol for oral suspension, Questran oral suspension, Questran light oral suspension, Colestid oral suspension, and Colestid micronized tablets.

Automation: Patients with a history of one Step 1 drug within the 130-day look-back period are excluded from step therapy.
* Note: Welchol tablets and the product for oral suspension (with DAW9) will also count as a Step 1 drug. (DAW9 applies to National Preferred Formulary clients only.)

CRITERIA

1. Authorization for a Step 2 product can be made if the patient has tried one Step 1 product.

REFERENCES

1. WelChol® tablets, oral suspension and chewable bars [prescribing information]. Parsippany, NJ: Sankyo Pharma Inc.; April 2019.

2. Colestid®, Flavored Colestid® oral suspension [prescribing information]. New York, NY: Pfizer; May 2014.
3. Colestid® tablets [prescribing information]. New York, NY: Pfizer; May 2017.
4. Cholestyramine (DRUGDEX® System Drug Evaluation). In: Klasco RK (Ed): DrugKnowledge® System (electronic version). Thomson MICROMEDEX, Greenwood Village, Colorado, USA. Available at: http://www.thomsonhc.com Last modified on February 21, 2017. Accessed on April 29, 2019.