

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

POLICY: Multiple Sclerosis – Zeposia® (ozanimod capsules – Celegene)

DATE REVIEWED: 04/15/2020

OVERVIEW

Zeposia, a sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor modulator, is indicated for the treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS), to include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing-remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease in adults.¹

Disease Overview

MS is a chronic, inflammatory, demyelinating, autoimmune disease of the central nervous system (CNS) that impacts almost 1,000,000 people in the US.² The condition is marked by inflammation and demyelination, as well as degenerative alterations. Patients usually experience relapses and remissions in their neurological symptoms. For most patients, the onset of MS symptoms occurs when patients are 20 to 40 years of age; however, children can get MS and new onset disease can occur in older adults. The MS disease course is heterogeneous but has some patterns. Approximately 85% to 90% of patients have a relapsing pattern at onset. However, this transitions over time in patients who are untreated to a worsening with very few or no relapses or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) activity (secondary progressive MS). Around 10% to 15% of patients have a steady progression of symptoms over time (primary progressive MS), marked by some clinical manifestations or by MRI activity. Primary progressive MS is generally diagnosed in patients on the upper level of the typical age range (e.g., almost 40 years of age) and the distribution is equivalent among the two genders. Advances in the understanding of the MS disease process, as well as in MRI technology, spurred updated disease course descriptions in 2013,³ as well as in 2017.⁴ The revised disease courses are clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing remitting MS, primary progressive MS, and secondary progressive MS.²⁻⁴ Clinically isolated syndrome is now more recognized among the course descriptions of MS. It is the first clinical presentation of MS that displays characteristics of inflammatory demyelination that may possibly be MS but has yet to fulfill diagnostic criteria. It is notable that the other MS designations can be further characterized considering whether patients have active disease (or not active), as well as if disease is worsening or stable. Disability in MS is commonly graded on the deterioration of mobility per the Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) an ordinal scale that ranges from 0 to 10, with higher scores indicating greater disability.

Safety

Various assessments are required prior to the first dose of Zeposia (e.g., complete blood count, cardiac evaluation).¹ The most common adverse events (AEs) with Zeposia include upper respiratory tract infection, hepatic transaminase elevations, orthostatic hypotension, urinary tract infection, back pain, and hypertension. Zeposia has Warnings/Precautions regarding infections, macular edema, bradyarrhythmias and atrioventricular conduction delays, respiratory effects, liver injury, increased blood pressure, and respiratory effects. Due to the time it takes to eliminate the drug from the body after cessation of treatment, the potential risk of the fetus may persist, therefore, women of childbearing potential should use effective contraception to avoid pregnancy during and for up to 3 months after cessation of Zeposia therapy.

Guidelines

In June 2019, a consensus paper was updated by the MS Coalition that discusses the use of disease-modifying therapies in MS.² Many options from various disease classes, involving different mechanisms of action and modes of administration, have shown benefits in patients with MS.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Zeposia. All approvals are provided for the duration cited below.

Automation: None.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Zeposia is recommended in those who meet the following criteria:

FDA-Approved Indications

- 1. Multiple Sclerosis.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (A and B):
 - A)** The patient has a relapsing form of multiple sclerosis; **AND**
 - B)** The agent is prescribed by or in consultation with neurologist or a physician who specializes in the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Zeposia has not been shown to be effective, or there are limited or preliminary data or potential safety concerns that are not supportive of general approval for the following conditions. Rationale for non-coverage for these specific conditions is provided below. (Note: This is not an exhaustive list of Conditions Not Recommended for Approval.)

- 1. Non-Relapsing Forms of Multiple Sclerosis (MS).** Note: An example of a non-relapsing form of MS is primary progressive MS. The efficacy of Zeposia has not been established in patients with MS with non-relapsing forms of the disease.¹
 - 2. Current Use with Other Disease-Modifying Agents Used for Multiple Sclerosis.** Note: Examples of disease-modifying agents used for multiple sclerosis include Avonex[®] (interferon beta 1a injection [intramuscular]), Betaseron[®]/Extavia[®] (interferon beta-1b injection), Rebif[®] (interferon beta-1a injection [subcutaneous]), Copaxone[®]/Glatopa[®] (glatiramer acetate injection), Plegridy[®] (peginterferon beta-1a injection), Aubagio[®] (teriflunomide tablets), Gilenya[®] (fingolimod tablets), Mavenclad[®] (cladribine tablets), Mayzent[®] (siponimod tablets), Tecfidera[®] (dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules), Vumerity[®] (diroximel fumarate delayed-release capsules), Ocrevus[®] (ocrelizumab injection for intravenous use), Tysabri[®] (natalizumab injection for intravenous infusion), and Lemtrada[®] (alemtuzumab injection for intravenous use).² These agents are not indicated for use in combination. Additional data are required to determine if use of disease-modifying MS agents in combination is safe provides added efficacy.
 - 3.** Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.
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REFERENCES

1. Zeposia® tablets [prescribing information]. Summit, NJ: March 20120
 2. A Consensus Paper by the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition. The use of disease-modifying therapies in multiple sclerosis. Updated September 2019. Available at: http://www.nationalmssociety.org/getmedia/5ca284d3-fc7c-4ba5-b005-ab537d495c3c/DMT_Consensus_MS_Coalition_color. Accessed on March 27, 2020.
 3. Lublin FD, Reingold SC, Cohen JA, et al. Defining the clinical course of multiple sclerosis: the 2013 revisions. *Neurology*. 2014;83:278-286.
 4. Thompson AJ, Banwell BL, Barkhof F, et al. Diagnosis of multiple sclerosis: 2017 revisions of the McDonald criteria. *Lancet Neurol*. 2018;17(2):162-173.
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