

## STEP THERAPY POLICY

- POLICY:** Diabetes – Sodium Glucose Co-Transporter-2 Inhibitors Step Therapy Policy
- Farxiga® (dapagliflozin tablets – Bristol-Myers Squibb)
  - Invokana® (canagliflozin tablets – Janssen)
  - Jardiance® (empagliflozin tablets – Boehringer Ingelheim/Eli Lilly)
  - Invokamet® (canagliflozin and metformin hydrochloride tablets – Janssen)
  - Invokamet® XR (canagliflozin and metformin hydrochloride extended-release tablets – Janssen)
  - Segluromet™ (ertugliflozin and metformin tablets – Merck)
  - Steglatro™ (ertugliflozin tablets – Merck)
  - Synjardy® (empagliflozin /metformin hydrochloride tablets – Boehringer Ingelheim/Eli Lilly)
  - Synjardy® XR (empagliflozin /metformin extended-release tablets – Boehringer Ingelheim/Eli Lilly)
  - Xigduo® XR (dapagliflozin/metformin extended-release tablets – Bristol-Meyers Squibb)

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### OVERVIEW

Farxiga, Invokana, Jardiance, and Steglatro are sodium glucose co-transporter-2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with **type 2 diabetes**.<sup>14</sup> The SGLT-2 inhibitors also possess the following additional indications in diabetic patients:

- Jardiance: To reduce the risk of cardiovascular (CV) death in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus and established CV disease.
- Invokana: 1) To reduce the risk of major adverse CV events in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus and established CV disease; AND 2) To reduce the risk of end-stage kidney disease, doubling of serum creatinine, CV death, and hospitalization for heart failure in adults with type 2 diabetes and diabetic nephropathy with albuminuria.
- Farxiga: To reduce the risk of hospitalization for heart failure in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus and established CV disease or multiple CV risk factors.

In addition to indications in diabetes, Farxiga is indicated to reduce the risk of CV death and hospitalization for heart failure in adults with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (New York Heart Association class II through IV). This indication is applicable to both diabetic and non-diabetic patients.

### Guidelines

#### *Diabetes*

The American Diabetes Association Standards of Care (2020) recommend metformin as initial therapy for most patients with type 2 diabetes, unless contraindications to metformin are present.<sup>5</sup> Very high circulating levels of metformin have been associated with lactic acidosis. However, the occurrence of this complication is now known to be very rare. In patients with contraindications or intolerance to metformin, initial therapy should be based on patient factors. SGLT-2 inhibitors are among the classes of medications recommended as add-on therapy after metformin (or as initial therapy if metformin cannot be used). Because type 2 diabetes is a progressive disease in many patients, combination therapy may be needed for many patients over time to achieve glycemic targets. Other guidelines have similar recommendations.<sup>6</sup>

## POLICY STATEMENT

This program has been developed to encourage the use of a Step 1 Product prior to the use of a Step 2 Product. If the Step Therapy rule is not met for a Step 2 Product at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the Step Therapy criteria below. All approvals are provided for 1 year in duration.

**Automation:** A patient with a history of one Step 1 Product within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy. Additionally, a patient with a history of one SGLT-2 inhibitor (e.g., Farxiga, Invokana, Jardiance, Steglatro), or an SGLT-2 inhibitor/metformin combination product (e.g., Invokamet, Invokamet XR, Segluromet, Synjardy, Synjardy XR, Xigduo XR) within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy.

**Step 1:** metformin, metformin-extended release, Fortamet ER, Glucophage, Glucophage XR, Glumetza ER, Riomet, metformin oral solution, Riomet ER, Glucovance, glyburide/metformin, glipizide/metformin, Actoplus Met, pioglitazone/metformin, Actoplus Met XR, Avandamet, repaglinide/metformin, Kazano, alogliptin/metformin, Jentadueto, Jentadueto XR, Kombiglyze XR, Janumet, Janumet XR

**Step 2:** Farxiga, Invokana, Invokamet, Invokamet XR, Jardiance, Xigduo XR, Synjardy, Synjardy XR, Segluromet, Steglatro

## CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one Step 1 Product, approve a Step 2 Product.
2. If the patient will be initiating dual therapy with metformin AND a single-entity Step 2 sodium glucose co-transporter-2 (SGLT-2) inhibitor, approve a single-entity Step 2 SGLT-2 inhibitor.
3. If the patient has been started on a Step 2 Product, approve the Step 2 Product.
4. If the patient has a contraindication to metformin, according to the prescriber, approve a single-entity Step 2 SGLT-2 inhibitor.  
(Note: Examples of contraindications to metformin include acute or chronic metabolic acidosis, including diabetic ketoacidosis).
5. For patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction, approve Farxiga.
6. No other exceptions are recommended.

## REFERENCES

1. Farxiga® tablets [prescribing information]. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca; May 2020.
2. Invokana® tablets [prescribing information]. Titusville, NJ: Janssen; January 2020.
3. Jardiance® tablets [prescribing information]. Ridgefield, CT and Indianapolis, IN: Boehringer Ingelheim/Lilly; January 2020.
4. Steglatro™ tablets [prescribing information]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck; January 2020.
5. American Diabetes Association. Standards of medical care in diabetes – 2020. *Diabetes Care*. 2020;43(Suppl 1):S1-S212. Available at: [https://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/43/Supplement\\_1](https://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/43/Supplement_1). Accessed on March 18, 2020.
6. Garber AJ, Handelsman Y, Grunberger G, et al. Consensus statement by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and American College of Endocrinology on the comprehensive type 2 diabetes management algorithm – 2020 executive summary. *Endocr Pract*. 2020;26(1):107-139. Available at: <https://www.aace.com/sites/all/files/diabetes-algorithm-executive-summary.pdf>. Accessed on: May 7, 2020.