

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

POLICY: Multiple Sclerosis – Dimethyl Fumarate (Tecfidera) Prior Authorization Policy

- Tecfidera® (dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules – Biogen, generic)

REVIEW DATE: 12/01/2021

OVERVIEW

Dimethyl fumarate is indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsing forms of **multiple sclerosis (MS)** to include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing remitting disease, and active secondary progressive MS 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.²⁻⁴ 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 2013,⁵ as well as in 2017.⁶ The revised disease courses are clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing remitting MS, primary progressive MS, and secondary progressive MS.²⁻⁶ 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.

Guidelines

In September 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.

Safety

Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy has occurred in patients with MS treated with dimethyl fumarate, including a fatal case.¹

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of dimethyl fumarate. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with dimethyl fumarate as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and efficacy, approval requires dimethyl fumarate to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

Automation: None.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

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

FDA-Approved Indication

1. Multiple Sclerosis. Approve for the duration noted below if the patient meets one of the following criteria (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (i and ii):

- i. Patient has a relapsing form of multiple sclerosis; AND

Note: Examples of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease.

- ii. Medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist or a physician who specializes in the treatment of multiple sclerosis; OR

B) Patient Has Been Receiving Dimethyl Fumarate for 1 Year. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (i, ii, and iii):

- i. Patient has a relapsing form of multiple sclerosis; AND

Note: Examples of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease.

- ii. Patient meets one of the following (a or b):

a) Patient experienced a beneficial clinical response when assessed by at least one objective measure; OR

Note: Examples include stabilization or reduced worsening in disease activity as evaluated by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) [absence or a decrease in gadolinium enhancing lesions, decrease in the number of new or enlarging T2 lesions]; stabilization or reduced worsening on the Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) score; achievement in criteria for No Evidence of Disease Activity-3 (NEDA-3) or NEDA-4; improvement on the fatigue symptom and impact questionnaire-relapsing multiple sclerosis (FSIQ-RMS) scale; reduction or absence of relapses; improvement or maintenance on the six-minute walk test or 12-Item Multiple Sclerosis Walking Scale; improvement on the Multiple Sclerosis Functional Composite (MSFC) score; and/or attenuation of brain volume loss; OR

b) Patient experienced stabilization, slowed progression, or improvement in at least one symptom such as motor function, vision, bowel/bladder function, spasticity, walking/gait, or pain/numbness/tingling sensation; AND

- iii. Medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist or a physician who specializes in the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of dimethyl fumarate is not recommended in the following situations:

1. **Concurrent Use with Other Disease-Modifying Agents Used for Multiple Sclerosis.** These agents are not indicated for use in combination (See [Appendix](#) for examples). Additional data are required to determine if use of disease-modifying multiple sclerosis agents in combination is safe and provides added efficacy.
2. **Non-Relapsing Forms of Multiple Sclerosis.** The efficacy of dimethyl fumarate has not been established in patients with non-relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis.¹
Note: An example of a non-relapsing form of multiple sclerosis is primary progressive multiple sclerosis.
3. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

REFERENCES

1. Tecfidera® delayed-release capsules [prescribing information]. Cambridge, MA: Biogen; January 2021.
2. A Consensus Paper by the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition. The use of disease-modifying therapies in multiple sclerosis. September 2019. Available at: http://www.nationalmssociety.org/getmedia/5ca284d3-fc7c-4ba5-b005-ab537d495c3c/DMT_Consensus_MS_Coalition_color. Accessed on August 18, 2021.
3. McGinley MP, Goldschmidt C, Rae-Grant AD. Diagnosis and treatment of multiple sclerosis. A review. *JAMA*. 2021;325(8):765-779.
4. No authors listed. Drugs for multiple sclerosis. *Med Lett Drugs Ther*. 2021;63(1620):42-48.
5. Lublin FD, Reingold SC, Cohen JA, et al. Defining the clinical course of multiple sclerosis: the 2013 revisions. *Neurology*. 2014;83:278-286.
6. 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.

HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
Annual Revision	The following criteria changes were made: Conditions Not Recommended for Approval: Bafiertam, Vumerity, and Zeposia were added to the Note that provides examples of disease-modifying multiple sclerosis agents in which Aubagio should not be used with concurrently.	08/05/2020
Selected Revision	The name of the Policy was changed to reflect its generic availability (Dimethyl Fumarate [Tecfidera]). It was noted that a generic to Tecfidera is available. Multiple Sclerosis: Examples of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis were added in a Note. Conditions Not Recommended for Approval: Regarding Use with Other Disease-Modifying Agents for Multiple Sclerosis, Kesimpta was added to the list of examples provided in the Note.	09/09/2020
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	09/01/2021
Early Annual Revision	Multiple Sclerosis: Criteria are now broken into initial criteria and currently receiving for ≥ 1 year. For a patient currently receiving therapy for ≥ 1 year, response criteria were developed for reauthorization in which the patient either experienced a beneficial clinical response when assessed by at least one objective measure (with examples provided in a Note), or the patient experienced stabilization, slowed progression, or improvement in at least one symptom such as motor function, fatigue, vision, bowel/bladder function, spasticity, walking/gait, or pain/numbness/tingling sensation. Conditions Not Recommended for Approval: Regarding Concurrent Use with Other Disease-Modifying Agents for Multiple Sclerosis, examples provided in the Note were changed to an Appendix table and Ponvory was added to the list. Also, the citing of the medication routes were updated, as well as generic availability.	12/01/2021

APPENDIX

Medication	Mode of Administration
Aubagio® (teriflunomide tablets)	Oral
Avonex® (interferon beta-1a intramuscular injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Bafiertam® (monomethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules)	Oral
Betaseron® (interferon beta-1b subcutaneous injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Copaxone® (glatiramer acetate subcutaneous injection, generic)	Injection (self-administered)
Extavia® (interferon beta-1b subcutaneous injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Gilenya® (fingolimod capsules)	Oral
Glatopa® (glatiramer acetate subcutaneous injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Kesimpta® (ofatumumab subcutaneous injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Lemtrada® (alemtuzumab intravenous infusion)	Intravenous infusion
Mavenclad® (cladribine tablets)	Oral
Mayzent® (siponimod tablets)	Oral
Ocrevus® (ocrelizumab intravenous infusion)	Intravenous infusion
Plegridy® (peginterferon beta-1a subcutaneous or intramuscular injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Ponvory™ (ponesimod tablets)	Oral
Rebif® (interferon beta-1a subcutaneous injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Tecfidera® (dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules, generic)	Oral
Tysabri® (natalizumab intravenous infusion)	Intravenous infusion
Vumerity® (diroximel fumarate delayed-release capsules)	Oral
Zeposia® (ozanimod capsules)	Oral