

Clinical Policy: Request for Medically Necessary Drug Not on the PDL

Reference Number: OR.CP.PMN.1001

Effective Date: 10.01.21

Last Review Date: 08.25

Line of Business: Medicaid – Trillium Oregon Health Plan

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

The intent of the criteria is to ensure that members follow selection elements established by Trillium Oregon Health Plan for drugs that are not on the preferred drug list (PDL).

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Varies by drug product.

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 Trillium Community Health Plan that non-PDL drugs are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Request for a Non-PDL Drug (must meet all):

1. Prescribed indication is FDA-approved;*
**Requests for off-label use when there is no drug specific coverage criteria should also be reviewed against CP.PMN.53 – Off-Label Drug Use*
2. Request is not for a benefit excluded use (e.g., cosmetic);
3. Request meets one of the following (a or b)
 - a. Request is for treatment of a condition funded by the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) (i, ii and iii):
 - i. Request falls on a funded line of the Prioritized List;
 - ii. Members condition meets the definition of the funded line;
 - iii. Requirements of applicable Guideline Notes are met;
 - b. OR.CP.PMN.234 criteria for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Benefit for Pediatric Members (EPSDT) is met;
4. Failure of at least two preferred agents within the same therapeutic class that are FDA-approved for the same indication and/or drugs that are considered the standard of care for the indication, when such agents exist, at up to maximally indicated doses, each used for the appropriate duration of treatment or for ≥ 30 days for diseases requiring maintenance treatment, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
5. Trial and failure of preferred agents is supported by one of the following (a, b, c, or d):

- a. Presence of claims in pharmacy claims history supporting failure of preferred agents as described in criteria 2 above;
 - b. Documented contraindication(s) or clinically significant adverse effects to **all** preferred agents within the same therapeutic class or preferred drugs that are recognized as standards of care for the treatment of member's diagnosis;
 - c. Drug sample logs which include all of the following: medication name, dose/strength, lot number, expiration date, quantity dispensed, date sample was provided, and initials/title of the dispenser;
 - d. Documentation in provider chart notes which include all of the following: medication name, dose/strength, and start/end dates of therapy;
6. For combination product or alternative dosage form or strength of existing drugs, medical justification* supports inability to use the individual drug products concurrently or alternative dosage forms or strengths (e.g., contraindications to the excipients of all alternative products);
- *Use of a copay card or discount card does not constitute medical necessity*
7. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
- a. Request meets drug specific coverage criteria adopted by the plan if applicable;
 - b. Request meets one of the following if no drug specific criteria has been adopted by the plan (ii or iii):
 - i. Dose does not exceed the FDA approved maximum recommended dose for the relevant indication and health plan approved daily quantity limit;
 - ii. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: up to 12 months. Reference OR.PHAR.123 for approval requirements for members post hospital discharge and transition of care.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Request for a Non-PDL Drug (must meet all):

1. One of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit;
 - b. Member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - c. State or health plan continuity of care programs apply to the requested drug and indication (e.g., seizures, heart failure, human immunodeficiency virus infection, and psychotic disorders [e.g., schizophrenia, bipolar disorder], depression, transplant, oncology) with documentation that supports that member has received this medication for at least 30 days (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. New dose does not exceed the FDA-approved maximum recommended dose for the relevant indication and health plan approved daily quantity limit;
 - b. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: up to 12 months (max of one fill (up to 30 day supply) if member is new to plan ≤90 days of request AND does not meet applicable Initial Approval criteria)

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized: Not applicable

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

PDL: preferred drug list

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Varies by drug product

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

Varies by drug product

V. Dosage and Administration

Varies by drug product.

VI. Product Availability

Varies by drug product

VII. References

Not applicable

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Plan Approval Date
Policy created: adapted from previously approved policy TCHP.PHAR.1905 Request for Medically Necessary Drug Not on the PDL	06.15.21	07.15.21
3Q 2022 annual review: added pathway for approval of EPSDT request that are non-funded and removed acne as condition is now funded; references reviewed and updated.	06.15.22	07.07.22
3Q 2023 annual review; no significant changes	07.03.23	09.19.23
3Q 2024 annual review; no significant changes	07.03.24	09.17.24
Added requirement that request is not for a benefit excluded use, added depression and transplant to list of continuity of care programs per current Centene standard approach, edited I.A.3.b. to remove age from direction to EPSDT criteria as new 2025 YSHCN program expands EPSDT coverage to specific OHP members.	10.16.24	11.19.24
3Q 2025 annual review; no significant changes	07.11.25	08.12.25

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.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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Note:

For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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