

Effective Date: 07/1/2021
Reviewed: 4/2021, 3/2022, 4/2022, 4/2024
Scope: Medicaid

Verquvo (vericiguat)

POLICY

I. INDICATIONS

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered a covered benefit provided that all the approval criteria are met, and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

FDA-Approved Indication

Verquvo is indicated to reduce the risk of cardiovascular death and heart failure (HF) hospitalization following a hospitalization for heart failure or need for outpatient IV diuretics, in adults with symptomatic chronic HF and ejection fraction less than 45%.

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and are not a covered benefit.

II. CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL

An authorization may be granted when all the following criteria are met:

- The requested drug is being prescribed to reduce the risk of cardiovascular death and heart failure hospitalization in an adult patient with symptomatic chronic heart failure of NYHA class II-IV; AND
- Medication is being prescribed or in consultation with a cardiologist; AND
- The patient is at least 18 years of age; AND
- Documentation that patient has a left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) less than 45 percent; AND
- The dose does not exceed 10 mg/day; AND
- The patient is currently receiving optimal therapy for heart failure management (e.g., angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor [ACEI], angiotensin II receptor blocker [ARB], angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor [ARNI], beta-blocker); AND
- If the request is not for continuation of therapy, the patient has had one of the following:
 - A) Hospitalization for heart failure within the past 6 months OR
 - B) Use of outpatient intravenous (IV) diuretics for heart failure within the past 3 months

III. DOSING LIMITS

- 1 tablet / day

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IV. COVERAGE DURATION

- 1 year

V. REFERENCES

1. Verquvo [package insert]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.; October 2023.
2. Lexicomp Online, Lexi-Drugs Online. Hudson, OH: Wolters Kluwer Clinical Drug Information, Inc. <http://online.lexi.com/>. Accessed January 2021.
3. Micromedex (electronic version). Truven Health Analytics, Greenwood Village, Colorado, USA. <http://www.micromedexsolutions.com/>. Accessed January 2021.
4. Maddox TM, Januzzi JL, Allen LA, et al. 2021 Update to the 2017 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway for Optimization of Heart Failure Treatment: Answers to 10 Pivotal Issues About Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction: A Report of the American College of Cardiology Solution Set Oversight Committee. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. Published online January 2021. Available at: https://www.jacc.org/doi/10.1016/j.jacc.2020.11.022?_ga=2.266943758.1073019511.1611765807-2024013049.1611765807