Reference number(s)
2121-A

SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT

BUPHENYL (sodium phenylbutyrate)
OLPRUVA (sodium phenylbutyrate)
PHEBURANE (sodium phenylbutyrate)
sodium phenylbutyrate (generic)

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.

A. FDA-Approved Indications
   1. Buphenyl/sodium phenylbutyrate (generic) is indicated as adjunctive therapy in the chronic management of patients with urea cycle disorders involving deficiencies of carbamylphosphate synthetase (CPS), ornithine transcarbamylase (OTC), or argininosuccinic acid synthetase (AS). It is indicated in all patients with neonatal-onset deficiency (complete enzymatic deficiency, presenting within the first 28 days of life). It is also indicated in patients with late-onset disease (partial enzymatic deficiency, presenting after the first month of life) who have a history of hyperammonemic encephalopathy. It is important that the diagnosis be made early, and treatment initiated immediately to improve survival. Any episode of acute hyperammonemia should be treated as a life-threatening emergency.

   2. Pheburane is indicated as adjunctive therapy to standard of care, which includes dietary management, for the chronic management of adult and pediatric patients with urea cycle disorders (UCDs), involving deficiencies of carbamylphosphate synthetase (CPS), ornithine transcarbamylase (OTC) or argininosuccinic acid synthetase (AS).

   3. Olpruva is indicated as adjunctive therapy to standard of care, which includes dietary management, for the chronic management of adult and pediatric patients weighing 20 kg or greater and with a body surface area (BSA) of 1.2 m^2 or greater, with urea cycle disorders (UCDs) involving deficiencies of carbamylphosphate synthetase (CPS), ornithine transcarbamylase (OTC), or argininosuccinic acid synthetase (AS).

B. Compendial Use
   Arginase deficiency

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and not medically necessary.

II. DOCUMENTATION

Submission of the following information is necessary to initiate the prior authorization review:
A. Initial requests:
   1. Enzyme assay, biochemical, or genetic testing results supporting diagnosis; and
   2. Lab results documenting baseline plasma ammonia levels.

B. Continuation of therapy requests: lab results documenting a reduction in plasma ammonia levels from baseline.

III. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

Urea Cycle Disorders (UCDs) and Arginase Deficiency
Authorization of 12 months may be granted for chronic management of a urea cycle disorder (UCD), including arginase deficiency, when all of the following criteria are met:
A. The diagnosis is confirmed by enzymatic, biochemical, or genetic testing.
B. The member has elevated plasma ammonia levels at baseline.
C. If the request is for Olpruva, both of the following criteria are met:
   1. Patient weighs 20 kg or greater.
   2. Patient has a body surface area (BSA) of 1.2 m^2 or greater.

IV. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for continued treatment in members requesting reauthorization for an indication listed in Section III who are experiencing benefit from therapy as evidenced by a reduction in plasma ammonia levels from baseline.

V. REFERENCES

1. Buphenyl [package insert]. Deerfield, IL: Horizon Therapeutics USA, Inc.; March 2023.
2. Mew NA, Lanpher BC. Urea Cycle Disorders Overview. In: Pagon RA, Adam MP, Ardinger HH, et. al., editors. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2017 [updated June 22, 2017]. Available at: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1217/?report=printable.
3. Häberle J, Boddaert N, Burlina A, et al. Suggested guidelines for the diagnosis and management of urea cycle disorders. *J Inherit Metab Dis*. 2019;42(6):1192-1230.
4. Sun A, Crombez EA, Wong D. Arginase Deficiency. 2004 Oct 21 [Updated 2020 May 28]. In: Adam MP, Feldman J, Mirzaa GM, et al., editors. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2023. Available from: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1159/.
5. Pheburane [package insert]. Princeton, NJ: Medunik USA, Inc.; August 2023.
6. Olpruva [package insert]. Newton, MA: Acer Therapeutics, Inc.; December 2022.
7. sodium phenylbutyrate [package insert]. Chestnut Ridge, NY: Par Pharmaceutical Companies, Inc.; July 2017.