



PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

POLICY: Parkinson's Disease – Duopa Prior Authorization Policy

- Duopa® (carbidopa and levodopa enteral suspension – AbbVie)

REVIEW DATE: 03/12/2025

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

THE FOLLOWING COVERAGE POLICY APPLIES TO HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS ADMINISTERED BY CIGNA COMPANIES. CERTAIN CIGNA COMPANIES AND/OR LINES OF BUSINESS ONLY PROVIDE UTILIZATION REVIEW SERVICES TO CLIENTS AND DO NOT MAKE COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS. REFERENCES TO STANDARD BENEFIT PLAN LANGUAGE AND COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS DO NOT APPLY TO THOSE CLIENTS. COVERAGE POLICIES ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE IN INTERPRETING CERTAIN STANDARD BENEFIT PLANS ADMINISTERED BY CIGNA COMPANIES. PLEASE NOTE, THE TERMS OF A CUSTOMER'S PARTICULAR BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT [GROUP SERVICE AGREEMENT, EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE, CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE, SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION (SPD) OR SIMILAR PLAN DOCUMENT] MAY DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE STANDARD BENEFIT PLANS UPON WHICH THESE COVERAGE POLICIES ARE BASED. FOR EXAMPLE, A CUSTOMER'S BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT MAY CONTAIN A SPECIFIC EXCLUSION RELATED TO A TOPIC ADDRESSED IN A COVERAGE POLICY. IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT, A CUSTOMER'S BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT ALWAYS SUPERSEDES THE INFORMATION IN THE COVERAGE POLICIES. IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONTROLLING FEDERAL OR STATE COVERAGE MANDATE, BENEFITS ARE ULTIMATELY DETERMINED BY THE TERMS OF THE APPLICABLE BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT. COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS IN EACH SPECIFIC INSTANCE REQUIRE CONSIDERATION OF 1) THE TERMS OF THE APPLICABLE BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT IN EFFECT ON THE DATE OF SERVICE; 2) ANY APPLICABLE LAWS/REGULATIONS; 3) ANY RELEVANT COLLATERAL SOURCE MATERIALS INCLUDING COVERAGE POLICIES AND; 4) THE SPECIFIC FACTS OF THE PARTICULAR SITUATION. EACH COVERAGE REQUEST SHOULD BE REVIEWED ON ITS OWN MERITS. MEDICAL DIRECTORS ARE EXPECTED TO EXERCISE CLINICAL JUDGMENT AND HAVE DISCRETION IN MAKING INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS. COVERAGE POLICIES RELATE EXCLUSIVELY TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS. COVERAGE POLICIES ARE NOT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TREATMENT AND SHOULD NEVER BE USED AS TREATMENT GUIDELINES. IN CERTAIN MARKETS, DELEGATED VENDOR GUIDELINES MAY BE USED TO SUPPORT MEDICAL NECESSITY AND OTHER COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS.

CIGNA NATIONAL FORMULARY COVERAGE:

OVERVIEW

Duopa, a combination enteral suspension of carbidopa and levodopa, is indicated for the treatment of motor fluctuations in patients with advanced **Parkinson's disease**.¹

Guidelines

The International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society published an evidence-based review for treatment for motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease (2018).² The review categorically divides treatment recommendations by Parkinson's disease characteristics. Duopa is noted to be efficacious and clinically useful for treatment of motor fluctuations, along with likely to be efficacious and clinically useful for dyskinesia.

POLICY STATEMENT

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

- **Duopa® (carbidopa and levodopa enteral suspension – AbbVie)** is(are) covered as medically necessary when the following criteria is(are) met for **FDA-approved indication(s) or other uses with supportive evidence (if applicable):**

FDA-Approved Indication

1. **Parkinson's Disease.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (A, B, C, D, and E):
 - A) Patient is diagnosed with advanced Parkinson's disease; AND
 - B) Patient is experiencing "off" episodes; AND
Note: Examples of "off" episodes include muscle stiffness, slow movements, or difficulty starting movements.
 - C) Patient has tried an oral extended-release carbidopa/levodopa therapy and meets ONE of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Patient had significant intolerance, according to the prescriber; OR
 - ii. Patient had inadequate efficacy, according to the prescriber; AND
 - D) Patient has previously tried THREE other treatments for "off" episodes; AND
Note: Examples of treatment for "off" episodes include entacapone, rasagiline, pramipexole, ropinirole, tolcapone, cabergoline, selegiline, Ongentys (opicapone capsules), or Xadago (safinamide tablets).
 - E) The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist.

CONDITIONS NOT COVERED

- **Duopa® (carbidopa and levodopa enteral suspension – AbbVie)** is(are) considered experimental, investigational, or unproven for ANY other use(s).

REFERENCES

1. Duopa® enteral suspension [prescribing information]. North Chicago, IL: AbbVie; March 2022.
2. Fox SH, Katzenschlager R, Lim SY, et al. International Parkinson and movement disorder society evidence-based medicine review: Update on treatments for the motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease. *Mov Disord.* 2018;33(8):1248-1266.

HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	09/20/2023
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	03/20/2024
Annual Revision	Parkinson's Disease: Examples of evidence of "off" episodes were moved to a Note.	03/12/2025

"Cigna Companies" refers to operating subsidiaries of The Cigna Group. All products and services are provided exclusively by or through such operating subsidiaries, including Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company, Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, Evernorth Behavioral Health, Inc., Cigna Health Management, Inc., and HMO or service company subsidiaries of The Cigna Group. © 2025 The Cigna Group.