



## Drug Coverage Policy

Effective Date .....12/01/2024  
Coverage Policy Number.....IP0252  
Policy Title.....Teriflunomide for  
Employer Plans: Standard/  
Performance, Value/Advantage, Legacy,  
Total Savings Prescription Drug Lists

# Multiple Sclerosis – Teriflunomide for Employer Plans: Standard/ Performance, Value/Advantage, Legacy, Total Savings Prescription Drug Lists

- Aubagio® (teriflunomide tablets - Genzyme/Sanofi, generic)

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## Overview

Teriflunomide, a pyrimidine synthesis inhibitor, 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 disease, in adults.<sup>1</sup>

## 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.<sup>2-4</sup> 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,<sup>5</sup> as well as in 2017.<sup>6</sup> The revised disease courses are clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing remitting MS, primary progressive MS, and secondary progressive MS.<sup>2-6</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> Many options from various disease classes, involving different mechanisms of action and modes of administration, have shown benefits in patients with MS.

## Safety

Teriflunomide has a Boxed Warning regarding hepatotoxicity and the risk of embryofetal toxicity.<sup>1</sup>

## Medical Necessity Criteria

**Aubagio is considered medically necessary when the following are met:**

### FDA-Approved Indication

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

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

- i. Documentation the 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; AND
  - iii. Preferred product criteria is met for the product(s) as listed in the below table(s); OR
- B) Patient is Currently Receiving Teriflunomide for  $\geq 1$  Year.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (i, ii, and iii):
- i. Documentation the 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 State 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 MS Walking Scale; improvement on the Multiple Sclerosis Functional Composite (MSFC) score; and/or attenuation of brain volume loss.
    - b) 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; AND
  - iii. Medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist or a physician who specializes in the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

#### Employer Plans:

Product	Criteria
<b>Aubagio</b> (teriflunomide)	Documented trial of the bioequivalent generic product <b>teriflunomide tablets</b> AND cannot take due to a formulation difference in the inactive ingredient(s) [for example, difference in dyes, fillers, preservatives] between the Brand and the bioequivalent generic product which, per the prescriber, would result in a significant allergy or serious adverse reaction

When coverage is available and medically necessary, the dosage, frequency, duration of therapy, and site of care should be reasonable, clinically appropriate, and supported by evidence-based literature and adjusted based upon severity, alternative available treatments, and previous response to therapy.

Receipt of sample product does not satisfy any criteria requirements for coverage.

## Conditions Not Covered

Any other use is considered experimental, investigational, or unproven, including the following (this list may not be all inclusive; criteria will be updated as new published data are available):

- 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 teriflunomide has not been established in patients with non-relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis.<sup>1</sup>

Note: An example of a non-relapsing form of multiple sclerosis is primary progressive multiple sclerosis.

## References

1. Aubagio® tablets [prescribing information]. Cambridge, MA: Genzyme/Sanofi; December 2022.
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](http://www.nationalmssociety.org/getmedia/5ca284d3-fc7c-4ba5-b005-ab537d495c3c/DMT_Consensus_MS_Coalition_color). Accessed on November 4, 2023.
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.

## APPENDIX

Medication	Mode of Administration
Aubagio® (teriflunomide tablets, generic)	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)
Briumvi® (ublituximab-xkkj intravenous infusion)	Intravenous infusion
Copaxone® (glatiramer acetate subcutaneous injection, generic)	Injection (self-administered)
Extavia® (interferon beta-1b subcutaneous injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Gilenya® (fingolimod capsules, generic)	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
Ocrevus Zunovo™ (ocrelizumab and hyaluronidase-ocsq subcutaneous injection)	Subcutaneous Injection (not self-administered)
Plegridy® (peginterferon beta-1a subcutaneous or intramuscular injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Ponvory® (ponesimod tablets)	Oral
Rebif® (interferon beta-1a subcutaneous injection)	Injection (self-administered)
Tascenso ODT® (fingolimod orally disintegrating tablets)	Oral

Tecfidera® (dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules, generic)	Oral
Tyruko® (natalizumab intravenous infusion)	Intravenous infusion
Tysabri® (natalizumab intravenous infusion)	Intravenous infusion
Vumerity® (diroximel fumarate delayed-release capsules)	Oral
Zeposia® (ozanimod capsules)	Oral

## Revision Details

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Date
Selected Revision	<b>Added</b> a specialist prescribing requirement. <b>Added</b> criteria for patient Currently Receiving Teriflunomide for $\geq 1$ Year. <b>Updated</b> the preferred product multi-source brand language to current standards. Ocrevus Zunovo was added to the Appendix.	12/01/2024

The policy effective date is in force until updated or retired.

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