

Clinical Policy: Furosemide (Furoscix)

Reference Number: PA.CP.PHAR.608

Effective Date: 01/2023

Last Review Date: 01/2024

[Revision Log](#)

Description

Furosemide (Furoscix[®]) is a loop diuretic administered via a wearable, single-use, pre-programmed On-Body Infusor for outpatient self-administration.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Furoscix is indicated for the treatment of congestion due to fluid overload in adults with New York Heart Association (NYHA) Class II/III chronic heart failure.

Limitation(s) of use:

- Furoscix is not indicated for emergency situations or in patients with acute pulmonary edema.
- The On-Body Infusor will deliver only an 80-mg dose of Furoscix.

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 PA Health & Wellness[®] that Furoscix is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Heart Failure (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of chronic heart failure (CHF) of NYHA Class II or Class III;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a cardiologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Provider attestation that member is showing signs of extracellular volume expansion due to CHF;
5. Documentation that member is a candidate for parenteral diuresis outside of the hospital, as defined by all of the following (a, b, c, and d):
 - a. Oxygen saturation \geq 90% on exertion;
 - b. Respiratory rate $<$ 24 breaths per minute;
 - c. Resting heart rate $<$ 100 beats per minute;
 - d. Systolic blood pressure $>$ 100 mmHg;
6. Provider attestation that member will use Furoscix for short-term use only and will be transitioned to oral diuretics as soon as practical;
7. Member has been stable and is refractory (as defined by *Appendix D*) to at least one of the following loop diuretics, at up to maximally indicated doses (a, b, or c):
 - a. Furosemide oral tablets;
 - b. Torsemide oral tablets;
 - c. Bumetanide oral tablets;
8. Dose does not exceed both of the following (a and b):

- a. 160 mg (2 cartridge) per day;
- b. Total of 8 kits over 30 days*.

**more than 8 kits in 30 days will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.*

Approval duration: 4 weeks (up to 8 kits total)

B. Other diagnoses/indications

- 1. Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): PA.CP.PMN.53

II. Continued Therapy

A. Heart Failure

- 1. Re-authorization is not permitted. Members must meet the initial approval criteria for each request.

Approval duration: Not applicable

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

- 1. Currently receiving medication via PA Health & Wellness benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy or the Continuity of Care policy (PA.LTSS.PHAR.01) applies.

Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or

- 2. Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): PA.CP.PMN.53

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

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – PA.CP.PMN.53.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

CHF: congestive heart failure

NYHA: New York Heart Association

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
bumetanide (Bumex [®])	0.5 to 2 mg orally per day	10 mg/day
Furosemide (Lasix [®])	20 to 80 mg orally per day	600 mg/day
torseamide (Soanz [®])	10 to 20 mg orally per day	200 mg/day

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s):
 - Anuria
 - Hepatic cirrhosis or ascites
 - Hypersensitivity to furosemide or medical adhesives
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

Appendix D: General Information

- Definition of disease refractory to loop diuretics
 - Failure to relieve volume overload, edema, or congestion despite a full dose of loop diuretic. Full dose of loop diuretic is defined by oral furosemide 80 mg daily or equivalent. The approximate dose conversion ratio for bumetanide: torsemide: furosemide is 1:20:40.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
NYHA Class II/III CHF	80 mg SC once over 5 hours	80 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

Carton containing one prefilled cartridge co-packed with one On-body Infusor [i.e., one kit]: 80 mg/mL

VII. References

1. Furoscix Prescribing Information. Burlington, MA: scPharmaceuticals, Inc; October 2022. Available at www.furoscix.com. Accessed November 6, 2023.
2. Heidenreich PA, Bozkurt B, Aguilar D, et al. 2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA guideline for the management of heart failure: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines. *Circulation*. 2022;145:e895–e1032. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000001063.
3. Wilcox CS, Testani JM, Pitt B. Pathophysiology of Diuretic Resistance and Its Implications for the Management of Chronic Heart Failure. *Hypertension*. 2020 Oct;76(4):1045-1054. doi: 10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.120.15205. Epub 2020 Aug 24. PMID: 32829662.
4. ClinicalTrials.gov. Furoscix Real-World Evaluation for Decreasing Hospital Admissions in Heart Failure (FREEDOM-HF). Last updated July 15, 2021. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03458325>. Accessed November 6, 2023.
5. Merative™ Micromedex® Alternative Medicine (electronic version). Merative, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. Available at: <https://www.micromedexsolutions.com>.
6. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Elsevier; 2023. URL: www.clinicalkeys.com/pharmacology.

Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Code	Description
J1941	Injection, furosemide (furoscix), 20 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date
Policy created	01/2023
1Q 2024 annual review: added HCPCS code [J1941]; in Appendix B, removed thiazide diuretics (metolazone and chlorothiazide) since there are no thiazide-related redirection in criteria and added commercially available brand names; references reviewed and updated.	01/2023