



## Clinical Policy: Antimigraine Agents, Triptans

Reference Number: PHW.PDL.021

Effective Date: 01/01/2020

Last Review Date: 07/2020

[Revision Log](#)

### 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 health plans affiliated with PA Health and Wellness® that Triptan Antimigraine Agents are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

### I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Antimigraine Agents, Triptans

#### A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

Prescriptions for Antimigraine Agents, Triptans that meet any of the following conditions must be prior authorized:

1. A non-preferred Antimigraine Agent, Triptan.
2. An Antimigraine Agent, Triptan with a prescribed quantity that exceeds the quantity limit.
3. An Antimigraine Agent, Triptan when there is a record of a recent paid claim for another Antimigraine Agent, Triptan (therapeutic duplication).

#### B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for an Antimigraine Agent, Triptan, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account the whether the beneficiary:

1. For a non-preferred Antimigraine Agent, Triptan, has a history of therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance to the preferred Antimigraine Agents, Triptans; **AND**
2. For therapeutic duplication, **one** of the following:
  - a. Is being titrated to or tapered from another drug in the same class
  - b. Has a medical reason for concomitant use of the requested medications that is supported by peer-reviewed literature or national treatment guidelines;

**AND**

3. If a prescription for an Antimigraine Agent, Triptan is for a quantity that exceeds the quantity limit, the determination of whether the prescription is medically necessary will also take into account **both** of the following:
  - a. Has a history of chronic, severe migraine as defined by the International Classification of Headache Disorders (ICHD) criteria
  - b. Is using the requested medication in addition to a medication for migraine prophylaxis.

NOTE: If the beneficiary does not meet the clinical review guidelines listed above but, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the beneficiary, the request for prior authorization will be approved.

C. Clinical Review Process

Prior authorization personnel will review the request for prior authorization and apply the clinical guidelines in Section B. above to assess the medical necessity of a prescription for an Antimigraine Agent, Triptan. If the guidelines in Section B. are met, the reviewer will prior authorize the prescription. If the guidelines are not met, the prior authorization request will be referred to a physician reviewer for a medical necessity determination. Such a request for prior authorization will be approved when, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the beneficiary.

D. Approval Duration: 12 months

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date
Policy created	01/01/2020
Q3 2020 annual review: no changes.	07/2020