



## Clinical Policy: Intra-Articular Hyaluronates

Reference Number: PHW.PDL.696

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[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 Intra-Articular Hyaluronates are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

### I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Intra-Articular Hyaluronates

#### A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

All prescriptions for Intra-Articular Hyaluronates must be prior authorized.

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

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for an Intra-Articular Hyaluronate, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account whether the beneficiary:

1. Is prescribed the Intra-Articular Hyaluronate for the treatment of a diagnosis that is indicated in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved package labeling OR a medically accepted indication; **AND**
2. Has a documented history of therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance to **all** of the following:
  - a. Non-pharmacologic treatments,
  - b. Acetaminophen or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs),
  - c. Intra-articular glucocorticoid injection;

**AND**

3. Does not have a contraindication to the requested agent; **AND**
4. For a non-preferred Intra-Articular Hyaluronate, has a documented history of therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance of the preferred Intra-Articular Hyaluronates; **AND**
5. If a prescription for an Intra-Articular Hyaluronate is for a quantity that exceeds the quantity limit, the determination of whether the prescription is medically necessary

will also take into account the guidelines set forth PA.CP.PMN.59 Quantity Limit Override.

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.

**FOR RENEWALS OF PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR AN INTRA-ARTICULAR HYALURONATE:** The determination of medical necessity of a request for renewal of a prior authorization for an Intra-Articular Hyaluronate that was previously approved will take into account whether the beneficiary:

1. Has documented improvement in pain or joint function following the first treatment; **AND**
2. Did not receive an Intra-Articular Hyaluronate in the same knee within the past 6 months; **AND**
3. Does not have a contraindication to the requested agent; **AND**
4. If a prescription for an Intra-Articular Hyaluronate is for a quantity that exceeds the quantity limit, the determination of whether the prescription is medically necessary will also take into account the guidelines set forth in PA.CP.PMN.59 Quantity Limit Override.

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.

**B. 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 Intra-Articular Hyaluronate. 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.

**C. Dose and Duration of Therapy**

Requests for prior authorization of Intra-Articular Hyaluronates will be approved as follows:

1. Initial requests for prior authorization of an Intra-Articular Hyaluronate will be approved for one treatment course limited to one knee.
2. Renewals of requests for prior authorization of an Intra-Articular Hyaluronate will be approved for one treatment course per knee.

**D. References**

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3. Fernandes, L. et.al, EULAR recommendations for the non-pharmacological core management of hip and knee osteoarthritis. Ann Rheum Dis doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2012-202745 Published Online First 17 April 2013.
4. Jordan, K.M. et.al, EULAR Recommendations 2003: an evidence based approach to the management of knee osteoarthritis: Report of a Task Force of the Standing Committee for International Clinical Studies Including Therapeutic Trials (ESCISIT) Ann Rheum Dis, Publish Online First: 21 July 2003; 62: 1145 - 1155.
5. McAlindon, T.E. et.al, OARSI guidelines for the non-surgical management of knee osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis and Cartilage 22 (2014) 363e388.
6. Kalunian, K.C et.al, Initial pharmacologic therapy of osteoarthritis UpToDate accessed 1/26/15.
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8. Euflexxa prescribing information. Ferring Pharmaceuticals Inc. September 2011
9. Gel-One prescribing information. Zimmer, Inc; May 2011.
10. Hyalgan prescribing information. Fidia Pharma USA Inc. October 2013.
11. Orthovisc prescribing information. Anika Therapeutics, Inc.
12. Supartz prescribing information. Bioventus LLC. June 2012.
13. Synvisc prescribing information. Genzyme Biosurgery. September 2014.
14. Synvisc One prescribing information. Genzyme Biosurgery. September 2014.

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