Clinical Policy: Ibuprofen and Famotidine (Duexis)

Reference Number: PA.CP.PMN.120
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Revision Log

Description
Ibuprofen and famotidine (Duexis®) is a combination of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) ibuprofen and the histamine H_2-receptor (H_2RA) antagonist famotidine.

FDA Approved Indication(s)
Duexis is indicated for the relief of signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis and to decrease the risk of developing upper gastrointestinal ulcers, which in the clinical trials was defined as a gastric and/or duodenal ulcer, in patients who are taking ibuprofen for those indications.

Limitation(s) of use: The clinical trials primarily enrolled patients less than 65 years of age without a prior history of gastrointestinal ulcer. Controlled trials do not extend beyond 6 months.

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 Duexis is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Rheumatoid Arthritis or Osteoarthritis (must meet all)**:**

1. Prescribed to decrease the risk of developing gastric ulcers in patients with rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis;
2. Age ≥ 18 years;
3. Failure of an H_2RA antagonist (e.g., ranitidine) in combination with an NSAID (e.g., ibuprofen) unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. Failure of three proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) (e.g., omeprazole, pantoprazole, lansoprazole) in combination with three different NSAIDs, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Medical justification supports inability to use the individual components (i.e., famotidine and ibuprofen) concurrently (e.g., contraindications to the excipients of all brand and generic products);
6. Dose does not exceed 2,400 mg ibuprofen/79.8 mg famotidine per day (3 tablets per day).

Approval duration: 12 months

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. Rheumatoid Arthritis or Osteoarthritis (must meet all)**:**
1. Currently receiving medication via PA Health and Wellness benefit or member has previously met all initial approval criteria or the Continuity of Care Policy (PA.LTSS.PHAR.01) applies;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 2,400 mg ibuprofen/79.8 mg famotidine per day (3 tablets per day).

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**
1. Currently receiving medication via PA Health and Wellness benefit or member has previously met all initial approval criteria or the Continuity of Care Policy (PA.LTSS.PHAR.01) applies.
   Approval duration: Duration of request or 12 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 policy – PA.CP.PMN.53 or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

FDA: Food and Drug Administration
GI: gastrointestinal
H_2RA: histamine H_2-receptor antagonist
NSAID: nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
PPI: proton pump inhibitor

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
PPIs		
lansoprazole (Prevacid®)	NSAID-induced ulcer prophylaxis: 15 mg PO QD NSAID-associated gastric ulcer (healing): 30 mg PO QD	30 mg/day (for most indications)
omeprazole (Prilosec®)	NSAID-induced ulcer prophylaxis†: 20 mg PO QD	40 mg/day (for most indications)
pantoprazole (Protonix®)	NSAID-induced ulcer prophylaxis†: 40 mg PO QD	40 mg/day (for most GERD indications)
NSAIDs		
diclofenac (Voltaren®)	Osteoarthritis: 50 mg PO BID-TID or 75 mg PO BID Rheumatoid arthritis: 50 mg PO TID-QID, or 75 mg PO BID Ankylosing spondylitis: 25 mg PO QID with an additional 25 mg dose at bedtime	Osteoarthritis: 150 mg/day Rheumatoid arthritis: 200 mg/day PO Ankylosing spondylitis 125 mg/day
etodolac (Lodine®)	Osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis: 400 – 500 mg PO BID	1,200 mg/day
fenoprofen (Nalfon®)	400 – 600 mg PO TID-QID	3,200 mg/day
ibuprofen (Motrin®)	400 – 800 mg PO TID-QID	3,200 mg/day
indomethacin (Indocin®)	25 PO BID-TID	200 mg/day
indomethacin SR (Indocin SR®)	75 mg PO QD-BID	150 mg/day
ketoprofen (Orudis®)	50 mg PO QID or 75 mg PO TID	300 mg/day
meloxicam (Mobic®)	7.5 mg – 15 mg PO QD	15 mg/day
naproxen (Naprosyn®)	250 – 500 mg PO BID	1,500 mg/day
naproxen sodium (Anaprox®, Anaprox DS®)	275 – 550 mg PO BID	1,650 mg/day
oxaprozin (Daypro®)	600 – 1200 mg PO QD	1,800 mg/day
piroxicam (Feldene®)	10 – 20 mg PO QD	20 mg/day
salsalate (Disalcid®)	1,500 mg PO BID or 1,000 mg PO TID	3,000 mg/day
sulindac (Clinoril®)	150 mg – 200 mg PO BID	400 mg/day
tolmetin	400 – 600 mg PO TID	1,800 mg/day
meclofenamate	50 – 100 mg PO Q4-6hr	400 mg/day

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
H2RA antagonists		
famotidine (Pepcid®)	20 mg-40 mg BID	Varies based on indication
ranitidine (Zantac®)	150 mg PO BID	300 mg/day (for most indications)
cimetidine (Tagamet®)	NSAID induced ulcer prophylaxis†: 200-400 mg PO QD	1,200 mg/day (for most indications)

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.
†Off-label indication

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): hypersensitivity to ibuprofen or famotidine; history of asthma, urticaria, or allergic-type reactions to aspirin or other NSAIDs; in the setting of CABG surgery; hypersensitivity to other H_2-receptor antagonists
- Boxed Warning(s): NSAIDs cause an increased risk of serious cardiovascular thrombotic events, including myocardial infarction and stroke; NSAIDs cause an increased risk of serious GI adverse events including bleeding, ulceration, and perforation of the stomach or intestines.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis	One tablet PO TID	2,400 mg ibuprofen/79.8 mg famotidine per day

VI. Product Availability

Tablets: 800 mg ibuprofen/26.6 mg famotidine

VII. References

1. Duexis Prescribing Information. Lake Forest, IL: Horizon Pharma; June 2017. Available at: https://www.duexis.com/. Accessed February 23, 2019.
2. Micromedex® Healthcare Series [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colo: Thomson Healthcare. Updated periodically. Accessed February 23, 2019.
3. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2016. Available at: http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/. Accessed February 23, 2019.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
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