

Clinical Policy: Flibanserin (Addyi)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.446

Effective Date: 03.01.20

Last Review Date: 11.25

Line of Business*: Commercial, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Flibanserin (Addyi[®]) is a serotonin 5-HT_{1A} receptor agonist and a 5-HT_{2A} receptor antagonist.

**For Health Insurance Marketplace (HIM), drugs in this class are excluded from the benefit per the Evidence of Coverage, unless specifically listed on the formulary.*

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Addyi is indicated for the treatment of women less than 65 years of age with acquired, generalized hypoactive sexual desire disorder (HSDD) as characterized by low sexual desire that causes marked distress or interpersonal difficulty and is NOT due to:

- A co-existing medical or psychiatric condition,
- Problems within the relationship, or
- The effects of a medication or other drug substance.

Limitation(s) of use:

- Addyi is not indicated in men.
- Addyi is not indicated to enhance sexual performance.

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 Centene Corporation[®] that Addyi is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of HSDD in women;
2. Age \geq 18 years and $<$ 65 years;
3. If member is premenopausal, failure of a 3-month trial of bupropion at up to maximally studied effective doses (*see Appendix B*), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. HSDD symptoms have persisted for a minimum of 6 months;
5. HSDD is not attributed to any of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. A co-existing medical or psychiatric condition;
 - b. Problems within the relationship;
 - c. Effects of a medication or other drug substance;

6. Addyi is not prescribed concurrently with Vyleesi[®];
7. Dose does not exceed 100 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: 3 months

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

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 100 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 12 months

Commercial – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

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

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND

criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

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 – CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

DSM: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

HSDD: hypoactive sexual desire disorder

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
bupropion (Aplenzin [®] , Budeprion SR [®] , Budeprion XL [®] , Forfivo XL [®] , Wellbutrin [®] , Wellbutrin SR [®] , Wellbutrin XL [®])	Varies	Immediate-release: 450 mg/day (300 mg/day if pediatric) Sustained-release: 400 mg/day Extended-release (HCl): 450 mg/day Extended-release (HBr): 522 mg/day

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):
 - Moderate or strong cytochrome P450 3A4) (CYP3A4) inhibitors
 - Hepatic impairment
 - Known hypersensitivity to Addyi or its components
- Boxed warning(s): hypotension and syncope in certain settings (e.g., alcohol with Addyi)

Appendix D: General Information

- HSDD is characterized by a deficiency or absence of sexual fantasies and desire for sexual activity which causes marked distress or interpersonal difficulty, and is not better accounted for by another psychiatric disorder or due exclusively to the direct physiological effects of a substance or to the direct physiological effects of another medical condition. HSDD does not encompass normal (e.g., daily or weekly) fluctuations in levels of desire.

- Acquired HSDD refers to HSDD that develops in a patient who previously had no problems with sexual desire.
- Generalized HSDD refers to HSDD that occurs regardless of the type of stimulation, situation, or partner.
- There is currently no published data demonstrating the efficacy of Addyi in the treatment of HSDD in men.
- Treatment should be discontinued after 8 weeks if there is no improvement in symptoms.
- In the DSM-5, female hypoactive sexual desire disorder was merged with female arousal dysfunction and is now reclassified as one disorder: female sexual interest/arousal disorder.
- All of the DSM-5 sexual dysfunctions (except substance-/medication-induced sexual dysfunction) now require a minimum duration of approximately 6 months and more precise severity criteria to improve precision regarding duration and severity criteria and to reduce the likelihood of over-diagnosis. These changes provide useful thresholds for making a diagnosis and distinguish transient sexual difficulties from more persistent sexual dysfunction.
- Two randomized trials (Segraves RT, et al. and Safarinejad MR, et al.) of premenopausal women with HSDD and without underlying depression reported increased sexual pleasure, desire, arousal, and orgasm with bupropion compared with placebo.
- Examples of co-existing psychiatric conditions include a history of major depressive disorder within the previous six months, a current diagnosis of mild to severe depression using a validated depression scale.
- Examples of co-existing medical conditions that could contribute to sexual dysfunction include pelvic inflammatory disease, cervicitis, interstitial cystitis, vulvodynia, significant vaginal atrophy, sexual pain.
- Examples of medications associated with low sexual desire among women:
 - Cardiac and antihypertensive: lipid-lowering medications, beta-blockers, clonidine, digitalis, methyldopa, spironolactone
 - Hormonal: androgen antagonists, gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonists and analogs, oral contraceptives, tamoxifen
 - Opioids: any opioids used chronically, methadone
 - Psychotropic: antipsychotics, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, lithium, monoamine oxidase inhibitors, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants
 - Other: aromatase inhibitors, chemotherapy, histamine 2 receptor blockers, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents, ketoconazole

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
HSDD	100 mg PO QD at bedtime	100 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

Tablet: 100 mg

VII. References

1. Addyi Prescribing Information. Raleigh, NC: Sprout Pharmaceuticals, Inc; December 2025. Available at: www.addyi.com. Accessed January 5, 2026.
2. American Psychiatric Association. Highlights of changes from DSM-IV-TR to DSM-5. Available at: https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/Psychiatrists/Practice/DSM/APA_DSM_Changes_from_DSM-IV-TR_to_DSM-5.pdf. Accessed August 4, 2025.
3. Seagraves RT, Clayton A, Croft H, et al. Bupropion sustained release for the treatment of hypoactive sexual desire disorder in premenopausal women. *J Clin Psychopharmacol*. 2004;24(3):339.
4. Safarinejad MR, Hosseini SY, Asgari MA, et al. A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of the efficacy and safety of bupropion for treating hypoactive sexual desire disorder in ovulating women. *BJU Int*. 2010 Sep;106(6):832-9.
5. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Committee on Practice Bulletins – Gynecology. Female Sexual Dysfunction: ACOG Practice Bulletin Clinical Management Guidelines for Obstetrician-Gynecologists, Number 213. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2019;134 (1):e1-e18.
6. Pachano Pesantez GS and Clayton AH. Treatment of hypoactive sexual disorder among women: General considerations and pharmacological options. *Focus* 2021; 19(1):39-45.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
4Q 2021 annual review: Added criterion for symptom persistence of 6 months per DSM-5 diagnostic criteria.	08.15.21	11.21
4Q 2022 annual review: added to initial criteria that HSDD is not due to a co-existing medical or psychiatric condition, problems with the relationship, or the effects of a medication or drug substance per PI; appendix D updated with examples of co-existing medical or psychiatric conditions and medications associated with low sexual desire; references reviewed and updated. Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	08.11.22	11.22
4Q 2023 annual review: for Commercial line of business revised continued therapy approval duration from length of benefit to 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less; references reviewed and updated.	06.30.23	11.23
4Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	07.31.24	11.24
Removed HIM line of business as HSDD is excluded from coverage.	02.04.25	
4Q 2025 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	08.04.25	11.25
RT4: added population expansion to include postmenopausal women < 65 years of age (previously limited to premenopausal women only).	01.05.26	

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members, and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note:

For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

©2020 Centene Corporation. All rights reserved. All materials are exclusively owned by Centene Corporation and are protected by United States copyright law and international copyright law. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, modified, distributed, displayed, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means, or otherwise published without the prior written permission of Centene Corporation. You may not alter or remove any trademark, copyright or other notice contained herein. Centene[®] and Centene Corporation[®] are registered trademarks exclusively owned by Centene Corporation.