Clinical Policy: Memantine ER (Namenda XR), Memantine/Donepezil (Namzaric)

Reference Number: CP.PCH.30
Effective Date: 09.01.20
Last Review Date: 02.22
Line of Business: Commercial, HIM

Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

The following are agents containing an N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist and requiring prior authorization: memantine extended-release (Namenda XR®) and memantine/donepezil hydrochloride (Namzaric™).

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Namenda XR and Namzaric are indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe dementia of the Alzheimer's type. Namzaric is only indicated in patients stabilized on 10 mg of donepezil hydrochloride once daily.

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 Namenda XR and Namzaric are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Moderate to Severe Dementia (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of moderate to severe dementia;
2. Age ≥ 18 years;
3. Failure of donepezil at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If request is for Namenda XR, member must use generic memantine extended release, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. If request is for Namzaric, member must use the individual generic components (donepezil and memantine) concurrently, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Dose does not exceed (a or b):
   a. Namenda XR: 28 mg per day;
   b. Namzaric: 28 mg/10 mg per day.

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

B. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial and HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Moderate to Severe Dementia (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed (a or b):
   a. Namenda XR: 28 mg per day (1 capsule per day);
   b. Namzaric: 28 mg/10 mg per day (1 capsule per day).

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

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

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
   Approval duration: Duration of request or 12 months (whichever is less); or
2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial and HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace.

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 HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
NMDA: N-methyl-D-aspartate

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
donepezil (Aricept®/Aricept ODT®)	Mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease: 5 mg to 10 mg PO QD Moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease: 10 to 23 mg PO QD	10 mg/day 23 mg/day
memantine (Namenda®)	Moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease: 5 mg to 20 mg PO QD	20 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): known hypersensitivity to memantine hydrochloride (Namenda XR/Namzaric), or donepezil hydrochloride/piperidine derivatives (Namzaric), or to any excipients used in the formulation
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

Appendix D: General Information

- Per the 2007 American Psychiatric Association practice guidelines for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, there is modest data that the combination of Namenda and Aricept is better than Aricept alone, and there is no evidence that the combination is better than monotherapy with Namenda.

V. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Memantine ER (Namenda XR)	Initial dose 7 mg PO QD, increase by 7 mg per day at one-week intervals	28 mg/day
Memantine/donepezil (Namzaric)	Initial dose 7 mg/10 mg PO QD, increased in 7 mg increments per week	28 mg/10 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Memantine ER (Namenda XR)	Capsule: 7 mg, 14 mg, 21 mg, 28 mg Titration pack: 7 x 7 mg, 7 x 14 mg, 7 x 21 mg, 7 x 28 mg
Memantine/donepezil (Namzaric)	Capsule: 7 mg/10 mg, 14 mg/10 mg, 21 mg/10 mg, 28 mg/10 mg Titration pack: 7 x 7mg/10 mg, 7 x 14 mg/10 mg, 7 x 21 mg/10 mg, 7 x 28 mg/10 mg

VII. References

1. Namenda XR Prescribing Information. Irvine, CA: Allergan USA, Inc.; November 2019. Available at: http://www.namendaxr.com/. Accessed April 15, 2021.
2. Namzaric Prescribing Information. Irvine, CA: Allergan USA, Inc.; January 2019. Available at: http://www.namzaric.com/. Accessed April 15, 2021.

3. Trinh NH, Hoblyn J, Mohanty S and Yaffe K. Efficacy of cholinesterase inhibitors in the treatment of neuropsychiatric symptoms and functional impairment in Alzheimer Disease. JAMA 2003;289(2): 210-216.
4. Tariot PN, Farlow MR, Grossberg GT, et al. for the Memantine Study Group. Memantine treatment in patients with moderate to severe Alzheimer Disease already receiving donepezil; a randomized controlled trial. JAMA 2004;291(3):317-324.
5. Rabins PV, Rovner BW, Rummans T, Schneider LS, Tariot PN. Guideline watch (October 2014): Practice guideline for the treatment of patients with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. American Psychiatric Association. 2014. Available online at: http://psychiatryonline.org/pb/assets/raw/sitewide/practice_guidelines/guidelines/alzheimerwatch.pdf. Accessed May 15, 2021.
6. Rabins PV, Blacker D, Rovner BW, et al. Practice guideline for the treatment of patients with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias 2nd edition. 2007. Available online at: https://psychiatryonline.org/pb/assets/raw/sitewide/practice_guidelines/guidelines/alzheimers.pdf. Accessed May 15, 2021.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created: adapted from previously approved policy (retire CP.CPA.195); added HIM line of business; no significant changes from previously approved policy; references reviewed and updated.	04.20.20	08.20
3Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; revised medical justification language for not using memantine and donepezil separately to "must use" language; added criterion that generic memantine extended release is used if Namenda XR is requested; references for HIM line of business off-label use revised from HIM.PHAR.21 to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	05.10.21	08.21
Revised approval duration for Commercial line of business from length of benefit to 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less	09.27.21	02.22

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.

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