

**Clinical Policy: Voclosporin (Lupkynis)**

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.504

Effective Date: 01.22.21

Last Review Date: 05.22

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

**Description**

Voclosporin (Lupkynis<sup>™</sup>) is a calcineurin inhibitor.

**FDA Approved Indication(s)**

Lupkynis is indicated in combination with a background immunosuppressive therapy regimen for the treatment of adult patients with active lupus nephritis (LN).

Limitation(s) of use: Safety and efficacy of Lupkynis have not been established in combination with cyclophosphamide. Use of Lupkynis is not recommended in this situation.

**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<sup>®</sup> that Lupkynis is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

**I. Initial Approval Criteria****A. Lupus Nephritis (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of LN with kidney biopsy confirming one of the following (a, b, or c):
  - a. LN class III (focal);
  - b. LN class IV (diffuse segmental or global);
  - c. LN class V (membranous);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a nephrologist or rheumatologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. Member has a confirmed diagnosis of systemic lupus erythematosus;
5. Evidence of one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Urine protein/creatinine ratio (UPCR)  $\geq$  1.5 mg/mg;
  - b. UPCR  $\geq$  2 mg/mg and LN Class V;
6. Prescribed in combination with a background immunosuppressive therapy (e.g., mycophenolate, azathioprine) and a systemic corticosteroid (e.g., prednisone);
7. Dose does not exceed 47.4 mg (6 capsules) per day.

**Approval duration: 6 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, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

## II. Continued Therapy

### A. Lupus Nephritis (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 as evidenced by one of the following (a, b, or c):
  - a. Reduced level of proteinuria measured by UPCR  $\leq$  0.5 mg/mg from baseline with low dose steroids (e.g., prednisone);
  - b. No reduction from baseline in eGFR of greater than 20% with low dose steroids (e.g., prednisone);
  - c. eGFR  $\geq$  60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> with low dose steroids (e.g., prednisone);
3. Prescribed in combination with a background immunosuppressive therapy (e.g., mycophenolate, azathioprine) and a systemic corticosteroid (e.g., prednisone);
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 47.4 mg (6 capsules) per day.

**Approval duration: 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 6 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, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, 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, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

## IV. Appendices/General Information

### *Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

LN: lupus nephritis

UPCR: urine protein/creatinine ratio

### *Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives*

Not applicable

*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*

- Contraindication(s):
  - Patients concomitantly using strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., ketoconazole, itraconazole, clarithromycin)
  - Known serious or severe hypersensitivity reaction to Lupkynis or any of its excipients
- Boxed warning(s): malignancies and serious infection

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
LN	23.7 mg PO BID	47.4 mg/day

**VI. Product Availability**

Capsule: 7.9 mg

**VII. References**

1. Lupkynis Prescribing Information. Rockville, MD: Aurinia Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; January 2021. Available at: <https://www.lupkynis.com/>. Accessed February 2., 2022.
2. ClinicalTrials.gov [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US). Identifier NCT03021499, Aurinia Renal Response in Active Lupus with Voclosporin (AURORA) Available at: <https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03021499>. Accessed June 22, 2020.
3. Weening J, Vivette D, Schwartz M, et al. The Classification of Glomerulonephritis in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Revisited. *JASN* February 2004, 15(2)241-250.
4. Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Glomerular Diseases Work Group. KDIGO 2021 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Glomerular Diseases. *Kidney Int.* 2021 Oct; 100(4S):S1-S276.
5. Fanouriakis A, Kostopoulou M, Alunno A, et al. 2019 update of the EULAR recommendations for the management of systemic lupus erythematosus. *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* 2019;78:736-745.
6. Petri M, Orbai AM, Alarcón GS, et al. Derivation and validation of the Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics classification criteria for systemic lupus erythematosus. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2012; 64:2677.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created pre-emptively	06.22.20	08.20
Drug is now FDA approved - criteria updated per FDA labeling: eGFR requirement removed, cyclophosphamide as an option for concurrent immunosuppressive therapy w/Lupkynis removed as this is not recommended per the labeling, and concurrently prescribed with “non-biologic” immunosuppressive therapy was changed to “background” immunosuppressive therapy; rheumatology specialist added, criterion for diagnosis of SLE added, clarification of maximum dose as 6 capsules/day added;	02.23.21	05.21

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
references for HIM line of business off-label use revised from HIM.PHAR.21 to HIM.PA.154.		
Removed requirement for prior trial of immunosuppressive therapy to align with FDA labeling.	06.15.21	
2Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	02.05.22	05.22

**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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**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.

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