

taliglucerase alfa (Elelyso)

Medicare Part B Drug Policy

- Medicare coverage is limited to items and services that are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury (and within the scope of a Medicare benefit category).
- Medicare Benefit Policy Manual - Pub. 100-02, Chapter 15, Section 50, describes national policy regarding Medicare guidelines for coverage of drugs and biologicals.
- Blue Shield of California (BSC) follows Medicare statutes, regulations, National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and policy articles for determining coverage for Part B drug requests when applicable.
- BSC Medicare Part B Drug Policies will be used when coverage criteria are not fully established or there is an absence of any applicable Medicare statutes, regulations, NCDs or LCDs.

Drug Details

USP Category: GENETIC OR ENZYME OR PROTEIN DISORDER: REPLACEMENT, MODIFIERS, TREATMENT

Mechanism of Action: A recombinant active form of the lysosomal enzyme beta-glucocerebrosidase

HCPCS:

J3060:Injection, taliglucerase alfa, 10 units

How Supplied:

- 200 units per vial (lyophilized powder)

Condition(s) listed in policy (see coverage criteria for details)

- Gaucher's disease, Type I

Any request for a condition not listed in policy must meet the definition of a medically accepted indication. Section 1861(t)(2)(B) of the Act defines "medically-accepted indication," as any use of a prescription drug or biological product which is approved under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or the use of which is supported by one or more citations included (or approved for inclusion) in one or more of the CMS approved compendia.

Special Instructions and Pertinent Information

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) to ensure the member has met all medical necessity requirements.

For members enrolled in our Blue Shield Select (PPO) and Blue Shield Medicare (PPO) plans:

Elelyso requires step therapy. Step therapy requires you to try other drug(s) first before a drug can be covered. The BSC preferred drug is Cerezyme and Vpriv. Cerezyme and Vpriv will need to be tried for members newly initiating Elelyso therapy.

Coverage Criteria

The following condition(s) require Prior Authorization/Preservice:

Gaucher's disease, Type I

Meets medical necessity if all the following are met:

Blue Shield of California is an independent member of the Blue Shield Association

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1. Diagnosis of Gaucher's disease Type I
2. Patient has at least ONE of the following (a, b, c, d, or e):
 - a. Anemia
 - b. Thrombocytopenia
 - c. Bone disease (e.g., lesions, fractures, osteopenia, osteonecrosis, osteosclerosis)
 - d. Hepatosplenomegaly or splenomegaly
 - e. Symptomatic disease (including abdominal or bone pain, fatigue, physical function limitation, growth retardation in children, or malnutrition/cachexia)
3. Not being used in combination with other therapies for Type 1 Gaucher disease [e.g., ERT Cerezyme (imiglucerase), VPRIV (velaglucerase), SRT (Cerdelga (eliglustat), Zavesca (miglustat)],
4. For PPO request: Patient is unable to use Cerezyme (imiglucerase) and Vpriv (velaglucerase)

Covered Doses:

Up to 120 Units/kg per month

Coverage Period:

indefinite

Additional Information

Summary of Evidence

The contents of this policy were created after examining the following resources:

1. The prescribing information for Elelyso
2. Consensus Conference: A reappraisal of Gaucher disease - diagnosis and disease management algorithms (2011)
3. Enzyme replacement therapy and monitoring for children with type 1 Gaucher disease: consensus recommendations (2004)
4. Therapeutic Goals in the Treatment of Gaucher Disease (2004)

Explanation of Rationale:

- Support for FDA-approved indications can be found in the manufacturer's prescribing information.
- Support for Cerezyme step in type 1 Gaucher disease is found in consensus guidelines. The Consensus Conference (Mistry et al 2011) calls out Cerezyme as the standard of care for type 1 Gaucher disease. Consensus Recommendations (Charrow et al 2004) state that type 1 Gaucher disease responds well to ERT with Cerezyme and recommends that all children with physical signs or manifestations of Gaucher disease be treated with ERT. In the consensus by Pastores et al (2004), ERT with Cerezyme is called out as the core of any type 1 Gaucher disease therapeutic plan

References

1. CMS Benefit Policy Manual. Chapter 15; § 50 Drugs and Biologicals
2. Medicare Coverage Database. Available at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare-Coverage-Database/search.aspx>
3. Social Security Act (Title XVIII) Standard References, Sections: 1862(a)(1)(A) Medically Reasonable & Necessary; 1862(a)(1)(D) Investigational or Experimental; 1833(e) Incomplete Claim; 1861(t) (1) Drugs and Biologicals

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4. AHFS®. Available by subscription at <http://www.lexi.com>
5. Biegstraaten M, Cox TM, Belmatoug N et al. Management goals for type 1 Gaucher disease: An expert consensus document from the European working group on Gaucher disease. *Blood Cell Mol Dis* 2018; 68:203–208.
6. Charrow J, Andersson HC, Kaplan P, et al. Enzyme replacement therapy and monitoring for children with type 1 Gaucher disease: consensus recommendations. *J Pediatr* 2004;144: 112–120.
7. DrugDex®. Available by subscription at <http://www.micromedexsolutions.com/home/dispatch>
8. Elelyso® (taliglucerase alfa) [Prescribing Information].: Pfizer, Inc., New York, NY. 4/2024.
9. Mistry PK, Cappellini MD, Lukina E, et al. A reappraisal of Gaucher disease – Diagnosis and disease management algorithms (Consensus conference) 2010. *Am J Hematol* 2011; 86(1):110-5.
10. Pastores GM, Weinreb NJ, Aerts H, et al. Therapeutic Goals in the Treatment of Gaucher Disease. *Semin Hematol* 41 (suppl 5):4-14. 2004.

Review History

Date of Last Annual Review: 3Q2024

Changes from previous policy version:

- Update step requirement for PPO request to include a trial of Vpriv in addition to Cerezyme

*Blue Shield of California Medication Policy to Determine Medical Necessity
Reviewed by P&T Committee*

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