Progressive Medication Program for Antidepressants
(Cymbalta, Pristiq, & Viibryd)

| Origination: 12/29/11 | Revised: 07/31/14 | Annual Review: 11/19/14 |

Purpose:
To provide guidelines and criteria for the review and decision determination of requests for medications that requires prior authorization.

Medication Summary

- Serotonin (5-HT) and norepinephrine (NE) reuptake inhibitors work by blocking the central presynaptic reuptake of 5-HT and NE, resulting in an increased sustained level of these neurotransmitters. Serotonin is a neurotransmitter which regulates an extensive modulatory behavioral system in the brain. The serotonergic system is known to modulate mood, emotion, sleep, and appetite and thus is implicated in the control of numerous behavioral and physiological functions. Norepinephrine is an adrenergic neurotransmitter which appears to be involved in a range of psychological processes, including mood stabilization, sleep regulation, overall alertness and arousal, and in regulating response to stressors which might initiate or exacerbate depressive symptomatology.

- There are currently three (3) serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors on the market: venlafaxine (Effexor), desvenlafaxine (Pristiq), and duloxetine (Cymbalta). Venlafaxine is indicated for depression, generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), social anxiety disorder (SAD) and panic disorder. Desvenlafaxine is indicated for depression. Duloxetine is indicated for depression and generalized anxiety disorder (GAD).

- Duloxetine is also indicated for diabetic neuropathy, fibromyalgia, chronic musculoskeletal pain (chronic low back pain and osteoarthritis).

- There is no clinical advantage to doses of duloxetine above 60mg.

Coverage Guidelines

- Member must be eligible and have applicable benefit coverage.

- Prior authorization requests that do not meet clinical criteria in this Procedure will be forwarded to a Clinical Pharmacist for review.
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Exclusion Criteria

- Concurrent use of monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOI).
- For desvenlafaxine, any hypersensitivity to venlafaxine or desvenlafaxine.
- For duloxetine, Members with uncontrolled closed-angle glaucoma.
- Members under 18 years of age, as safety and efficacy have not been established.

Procedure:

1.0 Request for initial therapy with desvenlafaxine (Pristiq) or vilazodone (Viibryd) requires documentation from the Member’s medical records maintained by the requesting independent practitioner’s office verifying the following:

1.1 Member is new Member to AvMed (eligibility within the past 120 days) and has been on targeted medication prior to joining AvMed (evidenced by progress notes from prescriber indicating use or documented previous fill history with pharmacy); OR

1.1 Member has tried and failed at least one (1) of the following selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI):

1.1.1 citalopram;
1.1.2 escitalopram
1.1.3 fluoxetine;
1.1.4 fluvoxamine
1.1.5 paroxetine
1.1.6 sertraline; AND
1.1.7 the serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor venlafaxine;

1.2 If criterion is met, request may be approved with a quantity limit of:

1.2.1 400mg daily for 30 days for Pristiq; or

1.2.1 40mg daily for 30 days for Viibryd:

1.2.1.1 Refills should continue to process every month thereafter.
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Procedure, continued:

2.0 Request for initial therapy with duloxetine (Cymbalta) for depression or GAD requires documentation from the Member’s medical records maintained by the requesting independent practitioner’s office verifying the following:

2.1 Member is new Member to AvMed (eligibility within the past 120 days) and has been on targeted medication prior to joining AvMed (evidenced by progress notes from prescriber indicating use or documented previous fill history with pharmacy);

OR

2.1 Member has tried and failed at least one (1) of the following selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI):

2.1.1 citalopram:
2.1.2 escitalopram;
2.1.3 fluoxetine;
2.1.4 fluvoxamine;
2.1.5 paroxetine;
2.1.6 sertraline; AND
2.1.7 The serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor venlafaxine;

2.2 If criterion is / criteria are met, request may be approved for one (1) month with a quantity limit of 30 tablets for 30 days:

2.2.1 Refills should continue to process every month thereafter.

3.0 Request for initial therapy with duloxetine (Cymbalta) for diabetic neuropathy, fibromyalgia, musculoskeletal pain or osteoarthritis requires documentation from the Member’s medical records maintained by the requesting independent practitioner’s office verifying the following:

3.1 Member is new Member to AvMed (eligibility within the past 120 days) and has been on targeted medication prior to joining AvMed (evidenced by progress notes from prescriber indicating use or documented previous fill history with pharmacy);

OR

3.1 Medication is prescribed by either a pain specialist or neurologist;

3.2 If criterion is met, request may be approved for one (1) month with a quantity limit of 30 tablets for 30 days:

3.2.1 Refills should continue to process every month thereafter.
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References:


Disclaimer Information:

Prior Authorization criteria are developed to determine coverage for AvMed’s benefits, and are published to provide a better understanding of the basis upon which coverage decisions are made. AvMed makes coverage decisions based on the Member’s benefit plan contract and these criteria. This guideline sets forth concise clinical coverage criteria which have been developed from a review of current literature, policies of the FDA and other government agencies, and other appropriate references, in consultation and with approval from practicing physicians who are members of AvMed’s Pharmacy and Therapeutic committee. Treating providers are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of Members. This guideline may be updated and therefore is subject to change. The use of these criteria is neither a guarantee of payment nor a final prediction of how specific claim(s) will be adjudicated.