

## Clinical Policy: Brand Name Override and Non-Formulary Medications

Reference Number: HIM.PA.103

Effective Date: 12.01.14

Last Review Date: 02.18

Line of Business: Health Insurance Marketplace

[Revision Log](#)

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

### Description

Brand name drugs and non-formulary drugs require review prior to approval. A generic drug is identical, or bioequivalent, to a brand name drug in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, performance characteristics, and intended use. Generic substitution is mandatory for Centene health plans when A-rated generic equivalents are available. In addition, non-formulary drugs are generally drugs that have been reviewed by the Centene Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and believed to be either second line therapy or of parity compared to formulary drugs.

### FDA Approved Indication(s)

N/A

### Policy/Criteria

*Provider must submit documentation (which may include office chart notes and lab results) supporting that member has met all approval criteria*

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation<sup>®</sup> that brand name drugs and non-formulary drugs are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### I. Initial Approval Criteria

##### A. Request for Brand Name or Non-Formulary Drug (must meet all):

1. Failure of 2 formulary agents either in the same therapeutic class or which are recognized as standards of care for the treatment of the relevant diagnosis, provided that 2 such agents exist, each trialed for 30 days unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
2. If request is for a brand name drug, at least one of the trialed agents was the generic version of the brand name drug;
3. Dose does not exceed the FDA approved maximum recommended dose.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

##### B. Other diagnoses/indications: Not applicable

#### II. Continued Therapy

##### A. Request for Brand Name or Non-Formulary Drug (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 the FDA approved maximum recommended dose.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

**B. Other diagnoses/indications:** Not applicable

**III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:** Not applicable

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

*Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives*

N/A

*Appendix C: General Information*

- Examples of failure of a generic drug include:
  - Suboptimal drug plasma levels while taking the generic drug as compared to drug plasma levels while taking the brand name drug;
  - Increase or worsening in symptoms (e.g., increase in seizure activity) when switched to a generic drug that is not attributed to progression of the disease state, increase in member age or weight, or member non-compliance.

**V. References**

1. FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Orange Book Preface at <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm079068.htm>. Accessed November 14, 2017.
2. FDA Electronic Orange Book at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/ob/>. Accessed November 14, 2017.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Changed guideline to new format.	08.16	08.16
Converted to new template, added maximum dose criteria	04.17	08.17
1Q18 annual review - No significant changes. - References added.	12.04.17	02.18

**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.

©2014 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<sup>®</sup> and Centene Corporation<sup>®</sup> are registered trademarks exclusively owned by Centene Corporation.