

CENTENE PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS  
THERAPEUTIC CLASS MATRIX  
GPI Code 34: Calcium Channel Blockers  
1Q18 January - February

Review Time Frame: November 2016 – October 2017

**Background:**

All calcium channel blockers inhibit the L-type calcium channel on cells. Calcium channel blockers are divided into two major categories based upon their predominant physiologic effects:

- Dihydropyridines, such as nifedipine, felodipine, and amlodipine, are potent vasodilators that have little or no negative effect upon cardiac contractility or conduction.
- Non-dihydropyridines, such as verapamil and diltiazem, are somewhat less potent vasodilators, but they have a greater depressive effect on cardiac conduction and contractility compared to dihydropyridines.

**New Drugs:**

None identified.

**Discontinued Drugs:**

None identified.

**FDA Safety Warnings:**

None identified.

**REVIEW RECOMMENDATION**

No changes are recommended to the clinical guidance for this drug class based on the review of available clinical practice guidelines.

**References:**

1. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2017. Available at: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/>. Accessed November 2017.
2. Page RL, Joglar JA, Caldwell MA, Calkins H, Conti JB, Deal BJ, Estes NAM 3rd, Field ME, Goldberger ZD, Hammill SC, Indik JH, Lindsay BD, Olshansky B, Russo AM, Shen W-K, Tracy CM, Al-Khatib SM. 2015 ACC/AHA/HRS guideline for the management of adult patients with supraventricular tachycardia: executive summary: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines and the Heart Rhythm Society. *Circulation*. 2016;133:e471–e505.DOI: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000000310.
3. Al-Khatib SM, Stevenson WG, Ackerman MJ, Bryant WJ, Callans DJ, Curtis AB, Deal BJ, Dickfeld T, Field ME, Fonarow GC, Gillis AM, Hlatky MA, Granger CB, Hammill SC, Joglar JA, Kay GN, Matlock DD, Myerburg RJ, Page RL, 2017 AHA/ACC/HRS Guideline for Management of Patients With Ventricular Arrhythmias and the Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2017.10.054.

CENTENE PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS  
THERAPEUTIC CLASS MATRIX  
GPI Code 34: Calcium Channel Blockers  
1Q18 January - February

Review Time Frame: November 2016 – October 2017

4. Whelton PK, Carey RM, Aronow WS, Casey Jr DE, Collins KJ, Dennison Himmelfarb C, DePalma SM, Gidding S, Jamerson KA, Jones DW, MacLaughlin EJ, Muntner P, Ovbigele B, Smith Jr SC, Spencer CC, Stafford RS, Taler SJ, Thomas RJ, Williams Sr KA, Williamson JD, Wright Jr JT, 2017  
ACC/AHA/AAPA/ABC/ACPM/AGS/APhA/ASH/ASPC/NMA/PCNA Guideline for the Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults, Journal of the American College of Cardiology (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2017.11.006.