

## Clinical Policy: Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonists

Reference Number: NH.PMN.183

Effective Date: 04.21

Last Review Date: 01.26

Line of Business: Medicaid

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

### Description

The following agents contain a synthetic glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist and require prior authorization: dulaglutide (Trulicity<sup>®</sup>), liraglutide (Victoza<sup>®</sup>), liraglutide/insulin degludec (Xultophy<sup>®</sup>), lixisenatide/insulin glargine (Soliqua<sup>®</sup>), and semaglutide (Ozempic<sup>®</sup>, Rybelsus<sup>®</sup>), tirzepatide\* (Mounjar<sup>®</sup>), Exenatide.

\*Tirzepatide is a combination GLP-1 and glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) receptor agonist.

### FDA Approved Indication(s)

GLP-1 receptor agonists are indicated as adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Trulicity and Victoza are indicated in patients 10 years of age and older, while the other GLP-1 receptor agonists are indicated in adults.

Ozempic, Trulicity, and Victoza are also indicated to reduce the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus and:

- Established cardiovascular disease (*Ozempic, Trulicity, Victoza*);
- Cardiovascular risk factors (*Trulicity only*).

Limitation(s) of use:

- Xultophy is not recommended as a first-line therapy for patients inadequately controlled on diet and exercise.
- GLP-1 receptor agonists should not be used for the treatment of type 1 diabetes. Xultophy and Soliqua are not for the treatment of diabetic ketoacidosis.
- Xultophy and Soliqua have not been studied in combination with prandial insulin. In addition, they are not recommended for use in combination with any other product containing a GLP-1 receptor agonist.
- Other than Victoza and Xultophy, GLP-1 receptor agonists have not been studied in patients with a history of pancreatitis. Other antidiabetic therapies should be considered.
- Trulicity is not for patients with pre-existing severe gastrointestinal disease.
- Soliqua are not recommended in patients with gastroparesis.

## CLINICAL POLICY

### Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonists

- Victoza and Xultophy contain liraglutide and should not be co-administered with other liraglutide-containing products.

#### 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® that GLP-1 receptor agonists are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### I. Initial Approval Criteria

##### A. Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of type 2 diabetes mellitus (must submit clinical chart notes);
2. Age is one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Trulicity, Liraglutide, and Victoza:  $\geq 10$  years;
  - b. All other GLP-1 receptor agonists:  $\geq 18$  years;
3. Member meets one of the following (must submit clinical chart notes) (a or b):
  - a. Member has established ASCVD, indicators of high ASCVD risk (*see Appendix D*), or chronic kidney disease, and both of the following (i and ii):
    - i. Request is for an agent with proven cardiovascular benefit (Ozempic, Trulicity, Liraglutide, Victoza);
    - ii. Failure of  $\geq 3$  consecutive months of an SGLT2 inhibitor or SGLT2 inhibitor-containing product (*see Appendix B*), unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
  - b. For members without established ASCVD, indicators of high ASCVD risk (*see Appendix D*), or chronic kidney disease: Failure of  $\geq 3$  consecutive month trial of two agents from any of the following classes, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated: biguanides, sulfonylureas (SU), thiazolidinediones (TZD), dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors (DDP-4), or sodium- glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor or SGLT2 inhibitor-containing product (*see Appendix B*);
4. **If request is for Victoza, Farxiga or Xigduo XR**, member must use **brand name**, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. If request is for Soliqua, member was prescribed one of the following within the past 180 days (i or ii):
  - i. Basal insulin (*see Appendix B*);
  - ii. GLP-1 receptor agonist;
6. If request is for a non-preferred GLP-1 receptor agonist, failure of  $\geq 3$  consecutive months of 2 preferred GLP-1 receptor agonists unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
7. Dose does not exceed the FDA-approved maximum recommended dose (*see Section V*).

**Approval duration: 12 months \*(Victoza, Farxiga and Xigduo XR approvals must be approved for brand name only unless generic specifically requested and contraindication or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced)**

##### B. Other diagnoses/indications

## CLINICAL POLICY

### Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonists

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.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

#### II. Continued Therapy

##### A. Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (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 Victoza, Farxiga or Xigduo XR**, member must use **brand name**, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed the FDA-approved maximum recommended dose (*see Section V*).

**Approval duration: 12 months \*(Victoza, Farxiga and Xigduo XR approvals must be approved for brand name only unless generic specifically requested and contraindication or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced)**

##### 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 12 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.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.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

#### I. Appendices/General Information

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

AACE: American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

ACE: American College of Endocrinology

ADA: American Diabetes Association

ASCVD: atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease

DPP-4: dipeptidyl peptidase-4

ER: extended-release

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

GIP: glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide

GLP-1: glucagon-like peptide-1

HbA1c: glycated hemoglobin

IR: immediate-release

SGLT2: sodium-glucose co-transporter 2

SU: sulfonylureas

TZD: thiazolidinediones

## CLINICAL POLICY

### Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonists

#### Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

| Drug Name   | Dosing Regimen  | Dose Limit/<br>Maximum Dose   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Biguanide</b>  |   |   |
| metformin (Fortamet <sup>®</sup> , Glucophage <sup>®</sup> ,<br>Glucophage <sup>®</sup> XR, Glumetza <sup>®</sup> ) | Regular-release (Glucophage): 500 mg PO BID<br>or 850 mg PO QD; increase as needed in<br>increments of 500 mg/week or 850 mg every 2<br>weeks<br><br>Extended-release:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fortamet, Glumetza: 1,000 mg PO QD; increase<br/>as needed in increments of 500<br/>mg/week</li> <li>Glucophage XR: 500 mg PO QD; increase<br/>as needed in increments of 500 mg/week</li> </ul> | Regular-release: 2,550<br>mg/day<br><br>Extended-release:<br>2,000 mg/day |
| <b>SGLT2 Inhibitors</b>   |   |   |
| Farxiga <sup>®</sup> (dapagliflozin)  | 5 mg PO QD<br><br>reduce the risk of hospitalization for heart failure,<br>the recommended dose is 10 mg PO QD  | 10 mg/day   |
| Glyxambi <sup>®</sup> (empagliflozin/linagliptin)   | One 10/5 mg tablet PO QD  | 25/5 mg/day   |
| Invokamet <sup>®</sup> (canagliflozin/metformin)  | One 50/500 mg tablet PO BID   | 300/2,000 mg/day  |
| Invokamet <sup>®</sup> XR (canagliflozin/metformin)   | Two 50/500 mg tablets PO QD   | 300/2,000 mg/day  |
| Invokana <sup>®</sup> (canagliflozin)   | 100 mg PO QD  | 300 mg/day  |
| Jardiance <sup>®</sup> (empagliflozin)  | 10 mg PO QD   | 25 mg/day   |
| Qtern <sup>®</sup> (dapagliflozin/saxagliptin)  | One 5/5 mg tablet PO QD   | 10/5 mg/day   |
| Segluromet <sup>™</sup> (ertugliflozin/ metformin)  | Individualized dose PO BID  | 15/2,000 mg/day   |
| Steglatro <sup>™</sup> (ertugliflozin)  | 5 mg PO QD  | 15 mg/day   |
| Steglujan <sup>™</sup> (ertugliflozin/sitagliptin)  | One 5/100 mg tablet PO QD   | 15/100 mg/day   |
| Synjardy <sup>®</sup> (empagliflozin/metformin)   | Individualized dose PO BID  | 25/2,000 mg/day   |
| Synjardy <sup>®</sup> XR (empagliflozin/metformin)  | Individualized dose PO QD   | 25/2,000 mg/day   |
| Trijardy <sup>™</sup> XR (empagliflozin/linagliptin/<br>metformin)  | Individualized dose PO QD   | 25/5/2,000 mg/day   |
| Xigduo <sup>®</sup> XR (dapagliflozin/metformin)  | Individualized dose PO QD   | IR: 40mg/day<br>XR: 20 mg/day   |
| <b>SUs</b>  |   |   |
| glipizide   | Instant-release, extended-release: 5 mg tablet PO<br>QD   | 10 mg/day   |
| glimpiride (Amaryl <sup>®</sup> )   | 1-2 mg tablet PO QD   | 8 mg/day  |
| lyburide, Micronized glyburide (Glynase <sup>®</sup> )  | 2.5- 5 mg tablet PO QD  | 20 mg/day   |
| <b>TZDs</b>   |   |   |
| pioglitazone (Actos <sup>™</sup> )  | 15-30 mg tablet PO QD   | 45 mg/day   |
| <b>DPP-4 Inhibitors</b>   |   |   |
| Jentadueto <sup>®</sup> (linagliptin/metformin)   | Individualized dose PO BID  | 5/2,000 mg/day  |
| Jentadueto <sup>®</sup> XR (linagliptin/metformin)  | Individualized dose PO QD   | 5/2,000 mg/day  |
| Kazano <sup>®</sup> (alogliptin/metformin)  | Individualized dose PO BID  | 25/2,000 mg/day   |
| Kombiglyze XR <sup>®</sup> (saxagliptin/metformin)  | Individualized dose PO QD   | 5/2,000 mg/day  |
| Nesina <sup>®</sup> (alogliptin)  | 25 mg tablet PO QD  | 25 mg/day   |
| Onglyza <sup>®</sup> (saxagliptin)  | 2.5 or 5 mg tablet PO QD  | 5 mg/day  |
| Oseni <sup>®</sup> (alogliptin/pioglitazone)  | Individualized dose PO QD   | 25/45 mg/day  |
| Tradjenta <sup>®</sup> (linagliptin)  | 5 mg tablet PO QD   | 5 mg/day  |
| pioglitazone (Actos <sup>™</sup> )  | 15-30 mg tablet PO QD   | 45 mg/day   |
| <b>Basal Insulins</b>   |   |   |
| Insulin determine (Levemir <sup>®</sup> )   | Individualized dose SC QD or BID  | Not applicable  |

## CLINICAL POLICY

### Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonists

| Drug Name   | Dosing Regimen            | Dose Limit/<br>Maximum Dose |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Insulin glargine (Lantus<sup>®</sup>, Toujeo<sup>®</sup>, Basaglar<sup>®</sup>, Semglee<sup>®</sup>)</i> | Individualized dose SC QD | Not applicable              |
| <i>Insulin degludec (Tresiba<sup>®</sup>)</i>   | Individualized dose SC QD | Not applicable              |

*Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name<sup>®</sup> (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name<sup>®</sup>) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.*

#### Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s):
  - Hypersensitivity to any product components
  - Personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma or multiple endocrine neoplasia syndrome type 2 (*all GLP-1 receptor agonists other than Soliqua*)
  - Use during episodes of hypoglycemia (*Xultophy and Soliqua only*)
- Boxed warning(s): thyroid C-cell tumors (*all GLP-1 receptor agonists other than Soliqua*)

#### Appendix D: General Information

- Per the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and American College of Endocrinology (AACE/ACE) guidelines:
  - Metformin is recommended for all patients with type 2 diabetes. It is effective and safe, is inexpensive, and may reduce risk of cardiovascular events and death. Monotherapy is recommended for most patients; however:
    - Starting with dual therapy (i.e., metformin plus another agent, such as a SU, TZD, DPP-4 inhibitor, SGLT2 inhibitor, GLP-1 receptor agonist, or basal insulin) may be considered for patients with baseline HbA1c  $\geq 1.5\%$  above their target. According to the ADA, a reasonable HbA1c target for many non-pregnant adults is  $< 7\%$  ( $\leq 6.5\%$  per the AACE/ACE).
    - Starting with combination therapy with insulin may be considered for patients with baseline HbA1c  $> 10\%$  or if symptoms of hyperglycemia are present.
    - For patients with established ASCVD or indicators of high ASCVD risk, heart failure, or chronic kidney disease, use of an SGLT2 inhibitor or GLP-1 receptor agonist with demonstrated cardiovascular benefit is recommended as part of the glucose-lowering regimen independent of HbA1c and metformin use.
  - If the target HbA1c is not achieved after approximately 3 months of monotherapy, dual therapy should be initiated. If dual therapy is inadequate after 3 months, triple therapy should be initiated. Finally, if triple therapy fails to bring a patient to goal, combination therapy with insulin should be initiated. Each non-insulin agent added to initial therapy can lower HbA1c by 0.7-1%.
- Although Trulicity is currently the only GLP-1 receptor agonist that is FDA approved for use in patients with multiple cardiovascular risk factors, the ADA guidelines recognize Ozempic, Trulicity, Liraglutide, and Victoza as agents that confer cardiovascular benefit and recommend the use of any of the three in patients at high risk of ASCVD, without preference for any one over the other. In addition, patients with multiple cardiovascular risk factors were included in each drug's cardiovascular outcomes trial.
- Examples of cardiovascular risk factors may include but are not limited to: dyslipidemia, hypertension, obesity, a family history of premature coronary disease, smoking, chronic kidney disease, and presence of albuminuria.
- According to the ADA, ASCVD includes coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, or peripheral arterial disease presumed to be of atherosclerotic origin. Indicators of high ASCVD risk are age  $\geq 55$  years with coronary, carotid, or lower-extremity artery stenosis  $> 50\%$ ; left ventricular hypertrophy; retinopathy; and other end organ damage.

## II. Dosage and Administration

## CLINICAL POLICY

### Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonists

| Drug Name                                | Dosing Regimen  | Maximum Dose                                   |
|--|---|--|
| Mounjaro (tirzepatide)                   | Initial dose: 2.5 mg SC once weekly. May increase by 2.5 mg every 4 weeks up to 15 mg once weekly   | 15 mg/week                                     |
| Ozempic (semaglutide)                    | 0.25 mg to 2 mg SC once weekly, increased no more frequently than every 4 weeks   | 2 mg/week                                      |
| Rybelsus (semaglutide)                   | Initial dose: 3 mg PO QD. After 30 days on the 3 mg dose, increase to 7 mg PO QD. May increase to 14 mg PO QD if needed after at least 30 days on the 7 mg dose   | 14 mg/day                                      |
| Soliqua (insulin glargine/lixisenatide)  | Treatment naïve to basal insulin or GLP-1 receptor agonist, currently on a GLP-1 receptor agonist, or currently on less than 30 units of basal insulin daily: 15 units (15 units insulin/5 mcg lixisenatide) SC QD<br>Currently on 30 to 60 units of basal insulin daily, with or without GLP-1 receptor agonist: 30 units (30 units insulin/10 mcg lixisenatide) SC QD | 60 units insulin/ 20 mcg lixisenatide/day      |
| Trulicity (dulaglutide)                  | 0.75 mg to 1.5 mg SC once weekly<br>For adults only: May increase to 3 mg once weekly if needed after at least 4 weeks on 1.5 mg dose. May further increase to 4.5 mg once weekly if needed after at least 4 weeks on 3 mg dose.  | Pediatrics: 1.5 mg/week<br>Adults: 4.5 mg/week |
| Victoza (liraglutide)                    | Initial: 0.6 mg SC QD for 7 days<br>Maintenance: 1.2 mg to 1.8 mg SC QD   | 1.8 mg/day                                     |
| Xultophy (liraglutide/ insulin degludec) | Treatment naïve to basal insulin or GLP-1 receptor agonist: 10 units (10 units of insulin/0.36 mg liraglutide) SC QD<br><br>Treatment experienced to basal insulin or GLP-1 receptor agonist: 16 units (16 units insulin/0.58 mg liraglutide) SC QD   | 50 units insulin/1.8 mg liraglutide/day        |

### III. Product Availabilit

| Drug Name                  | Availability  |
|----------------------------|---|
| Mounjaro (tirzepatide)     | Single-dose prefilled pen: 2.5 mg/0.5 mL, 5 mg/0.5 mL, 7.5 mg/0.5 mL, 10 mg/0.5 mL, 12.5 mg/0.5 mL, 15 mg/0.5 mL  |
| Ozempic (semaglutide)      | Prefilled pen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 mg/3 mL (0.68 mg/mL); delivers 0.25 mg or 0.5 mg per injection</li> <li>• 2 mg/1.5 mL (1.34 mg/mL); delivers 0.25 mg or 0.5 mg per injection</li> <li>• 4 mg/3 mL (1.34 mg/mL); delivers 1 mg per injection</li> <li>• 8 mg/3 mL (2.68 mg/mL); delivers 2 mg per injection</li> </ul> |
| Rybelsus (semaglutide)     | Tablets: 3 mg, 7 mg, 14 mg  |
| Soliqua (insulin glargine/ | Single-patient-use pen: 100 units/33mcg per mL in 3 mL  |

## CLINICAL POLICY

### Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonists

| Drug Name                                | Availability  |
|--|---|
| lixisenatide)                            |   |
| Trulicity (dulaglutide)                  | Single-dose prefilled pen: 0.75 mg/0.5 mL, 1.5 mg/0.5 mL, 3 mg/0.5 mL, 4.5 mg/0.5 mL        |
| Victoza (liraglutide)                    | Multi-dose prefilled pen: 18 mg/3 mL (6 mg/mL; delivers doses of 0.6 mg, 1.2 mg, or 1.8 mg) |
| Xultophy (liraglutide/ insulin degludec) | Single-patient use pen: 3.6 mg/100 units per mL in 3 mL                                     |

#### IV. References

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## CLINICAL POLICY

### Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonists

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals  | Date  | P&T Approval Date |
|--|-------|-------------------|
| Policy Created   | 04.21 | 04.21             |
| Annual review, no changes  | 01.22 | 01.22             |
| Removed criteria for Trulicity as a non-preferred treatment option.  | 04.22 | 04.22             |
| Updated policy with new dosing, references, and products   | 01.23 | 01.23             |
| 1Q 2023 annual review: added new dosage strength (2 mg/3 mL pen) for Ozempic; added pediatric expansion for age $\geq 10$ years for Trulicity; references reviewed and updated. Per November SDC, updated redirections from requiring metformin + SGLT2 to requiring two agents from any of the following classes: biguanides, SU, TZD, DPP-4 inhibitors, SGLT2 inhibitors; added bypass of required trial agents for members with ASCVD, indicators of high ASCVD risk, or chronic kidney disease per ADA guidelines; | 01.23 | 01.23             |
| Per February SDC, added Soliqua requiring use of either basal insulin or GLP-1 receptor agonist within the past 180 days.  | 04.23 | 04.23             |
| Updated criteria for initial T2DM requests to align with preferred options   | 06.23 | 06.23             |
| Removed Bydureon from criteria as product has been discontinued.   | 04.24 | 04.24             |
| Removed Bydureon BCise and Byetta from criteria as products have been discontinued. Added liraglutide to criteria as it's co-preferred with brand name Victoza.  | 04.25 | 04.25             |
| Add "must submit clinical chart notes" and brand requirement on Victoza, Farxiga and Xigduo XR   | 11.25 | 11.25             |
| 1Q 2026 annual review: no significant changes; removed Adlyxin as it is no longer commercially available; references reviewed and updated.   | 01.26 | 01.26             |

#### **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

## **CLINICAL POLICY**

### **Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonists**

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.

## CLINICAL POLICY

### Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonists

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.

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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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