

Clinical Policy: Solriamfetol (Sunosi)

Reference Number: CP.PMN.209

Effective Date: 05.07.19

Last Review Date: 05.25

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Solriamfetol (Sunosi[®]) is a dopamine and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (DNRI).

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Sunosi is indicated to improve wakefulness in adult patients with excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS) associated with narcolepsy or obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).

Limitation(s) of use: Sunosi is not indicated to treat the underlying airway obstruction in OSA. Ensure that the underlying airway obstruction is treated (e.g., with continuous positive airway pressure [CPAP]) for at least one month prior to initiating Sunosi for excessive daytime sleepiness. Modalities to treat the underlying airway obstruction should be continued during treatment with Sunosi. Sunosi is not a substitute for these modalities.

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 Sunosi is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Narcolepsy with Excessive Daytime Sleepiness (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of narcolepsy with EDS;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist or sleep medicine specialist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Documentation of both of the following (a and b):
 - a. EDS associated with narcolepsy as confirmed by documented multiple sleep latency test (MSLT) and one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Mean sleep latency \leq 8 minutes with evidence of two or more sleep-onset rapid eye movement periods (SOREMPs);
 - ii. At least one SOREMP on MSLT and a SOREMP (less than 15 minutes) on the preceding overnight polysomnography (PSG);
 - b. Member has daily periods of irrepressible need to sleep or daytime lapses into sleep occurring for at least 3 months;
5. Failure of a 1-month trial of one of the following generic central nervous system stimulant-containing agents at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically

significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated: amphetamine, dextroamphetamine, or methylphenidate;[†]

**Prior authorization may be required for CNS stimulants*

†For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirements above do not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395

6. Failure of a 1-month trial of armodafinil or modafinil at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant side effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;[†]

**Prior authorization may be required for armodafinil and modafinil*

†For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirements above do not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395

7. Dose does not exceed both of the following (a and b):
 - a. 150 mg per day;
 - b. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration:

Medicaid/HIM – 12 months

Commercial – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

B. Obstructive Sleep Apnea (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of OSA;
2. Age ≥ 18 years;
3. Documented evidence of residual sleepiness despite compliant CPAP use as monotherapy for at least 1 month;[†]

†For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirements above do not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395

4. Failure of a 1-month trial of armodafinil or modafinil at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant side effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;[†]

**Prior authorization may be required for armodafinil and modafinil*

†For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirements above do not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395

5. Dose does not exceed both of the following (a and b):
 - a. 150 mg per day;
 - b. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration:

Medicaid/HIM – 12 months

Commercial – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

C. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business:

CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or

2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. All Indications in Section I (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed both of the following (a and b):
 - a. 150 mg per day;
 - b. 1 tablet per day.

Approval duration:

Medicaid/HIM – 12 months

Commercial – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and 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.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

CPAP: continuous positive airway pressure	MAOI: monoamine oxidase inhibitor
CNS: central nervous system	MSLT: multiple sleep latency test
DNRI: dopamine and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor	OSA: obstructive sleep apnea
EDS: excessive daytime sleepiness	PSG: polysomnography
FDA: Food and Drug Administration	SOREMP: sleep-onset rapid eye movement period

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/Maximum Dose
amphetamine/ dextroamphetamine (Adderall [®])	Narcolepsy 5 to 60 mg/day PO in divided doses	60 mg/day
dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine [®] , ProCentra [®] , Zenzedi [®])		
amphetamine (Evekeo [®])		
methylphenidate (Ritalin [®] LA or SR, Concerta [®] , Metadate [®] CD or ER, Methylin [®] ER, Daytrana [®])	Narcolepsy Dosing varies; 10-60 mg PO divided 2 to 3 times daily 30-45 min before meals	60 mg/day
armodafinil (Nuvigil [®])	Narcolepsy/OSA 150 mg PO once a day in the morning	250 mg/day
modafinil (Provigil [®])	Narcolepsy/OSA 200 mg PO once a day in the morning	400 mg/day

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name[®] (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name[®]) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): concomitant treatment with MAOIs, or within 14 days following discontinuation of MAOI
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Narcolepsy	Initiate at 75 mg PO once a day; dose may be doubled at intervals of at least 3 days	150 mg/day

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
OSA	Initiate at 37.5 mg PO once a day; dose may be doubled at intervals of at least 3 days	150 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

Tablets: 75 mg, 150 mg

VII. References

1. Sunosi Prescribing Information. Palo Alto, CA: Jazz Pharma, Inc.; June 2023. Available at: <https://www.sunosi.com/pi/sunosi.en.USPI.pdf>. Accessed January 14, 2025.
2. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2025. Available at: <https://www.clinicalkey.com/pharmacology>. Accessed January 27, 2025.
3. Morgenthaler TI, Kapur VK, Brown T, et al. Practice Parameters for the Treatment of Narcolepsy and other Hypersomnias of Central Origin An American Academy of Sleep Medicine Report: An American Academy of Sleep Medicine Report. *Sleep*. 2007;30(12):1705-1711.
4. Epstein LJ, Kristo D, Strollo PJ Jr, et al. Clinical guideline for the evaluation, management and long-term care of obstructive sleep apnea in adults. *J Clin Sleep Med*. 2009; 15;5(3):263-76.
5. Steier JS, Bogan RK, Cano-Pumarega IM, et al. Recommendations for clinical management of excessive daytime sleepiness in obstructive sleep apnoea - A Delphi consensus study. *Sleep Med*. 2023 Dec;112:104-115. doi: 10.1016/j.sleep.2023.10.001.
6. Bassetti CL, Kallweit U, Vignatelli, et al. European guideline and expert statements on the management of narcolepsy in adults and children. *J Sleep Res*. 2021;00:e13387. DOI: 10.1111/jsr.13387.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
2Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; updated reference for HIM off-label use to HIM.PA.154 (replaces HIM.PHAR.21); references reviewed and updated.	01.29.21	05.21
Revised approval duration for Commercial line of business from length of benefit to 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less	09.28.21	02.22
2Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	01.31.22	05.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	10.05.22	
2Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	02.07.23	05.23
2Q 2024 annual review: updated description section to align with FDA labeling; references reviewed and updated.	01.12.24	05.24
2Q 2025 annual review: for narcolepsy, updated indication in initial approval criteria to FDA-approved indication of “Narcolepsy with EDS” to align with prescriber information and competitor analysis;	04.07.25	05.25

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
<p>added criteria for documentation of MSLT with mean sleep latency \leq 8 minutes with evidence of two or more SOREMPs or at least one SOREMP on MSLT and a SOREMP (less than 15 minutes) on the preceding overnight PSG and daily periods of irrepressible need to sleep or daytime lapses into sleep occurring for at least 3 months to align with other narcolepsy with EDS criteria; references reviewed and updated.</p> <p>Added step therapy bypass for IL HIM per IL HB 5395.</p>		

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.

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.

©2019 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[®] and Centene Corporation[®] are registered trademarks exclusively owned by Centene Corporation.