Clinical Policy: Denosumab (Prolia, Xgeva)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.58
Effective Date: 03.01.11
Last Review Date: 02.24
Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

Coding Implications
Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Denosumab (Prolia®, Xgeva®) is a receptor activator of nuclear factor kappa-B ligand inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Prolia is indicated:

- For the treatment of postmenopausal women with osteoporosis (PMO) at high risk for fracture*, or patients who have failed or are intolerant to other available osteoporosis therapy. In postmenopausal women with osteoporosis, Prolia reduces the incidence of vertebral, nonvertebral, and hip fractures.
- For the treatment to increase bone mass in men with osteoporosis at high risk for fracture*, or patients who have failed or are intolerant to other available osteoporosis therapy.
- For the treatment of glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis (GIO) in men and women at high risk of fracture* who are either initiating or continuing systemic glucocorticoids in a daily dosage equivalent to ≥ 7.5 mg of prednisone and expected to remain on glucocorticoids for ≥ 6 months.
- For treatment to increase bone mass in men at high risk for fracture* receiving androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) for nonmetastatic prostate cancer. In these patients Prolia also reduced the incidence of vertebral fractures.
- For treatment to increase bone mass in women at high risk for fracture* receiving adjuvant aromatase inhibitor therapy for breast cancer.

**High risk of fracture is defined as a history of osteoporotic fracture, multiple risk factors for fracture, or patients who have failed or are intolerant to other available osteoporosis therapy.*

Xgeva is indicated:

- For the prevention of skeletal-related events in patients with multiple myeloma (MM) and in patients with bone metastases from solid tumors.
- For the treatment of adults and skeletally mature adolescents with giant cell tumor of bone that is unresectable or where surgical resection is likely to result in severe morbidity.
- For the treatment of hypercalcemia of malignancy refractory to bisphosphonate therapy.

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.

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It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that Prolia and Xgeva are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Osteoporosis (must meet all)**:**

1. Request is for Prolia;
2. Diagnosis of PMO, GIO, or male osteoporosis and one of the following (a or b):
   a. Member is at very high risk for fracture as evidenced by one of the following (i, ii, or iii):
      i. Recent osteoporotic fracture (within the past 12 months)
      ii. Bone mineral density (BMD) T-score at hip or spine ≤ -3.0;
      iii. BMD T-score at hip or spine ≤ -2.5 AND major osteoporotic fracture (i.e., hip, spine, forearm, wrist, humerus);
   b. Member has completed a 3-year trial of bisphosphonate therapy* *(see Appendix B; generic alendronate is preferred)* at up to maximally indicated doses unless one of the following (i-v):
      i. All bisphosphonates are contraindicated;
      ii. Clinically significant adverse effects are experienced to both IV and PO formulations (*see Appendix D*);
      iii. Member has experienced a loss of BMD while receiving bisphosphonate therapy;
      iv. Member has experienced a lack of BMD increase after ≥ 12 months of bisphosphonate therapy;
      v. Member experienced an osteoporotic fracture or fragility fracture while receiving bisphosphonate therapy;

      **Prior authorization may be required for bisphosonates.*
3. Age ≥ 18 years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;
4. Prolia is not prescribed concurrently with Xgeva;

5. Dose does not exceed 60 mg every 6 months.

Approval duration:
Medicaid/HIM – 12 months
Commercial – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

B. Prostate/Breast Cancer - Fracture Prevention (must meet all)**:**
1. Request is for Prolia;
2. Diagnosis of one of the following (a or b):
   a. Prostate cancer, and member is receiving ADT (e.g., leuprolide (Lupron®), bicalutamide (Casodex®) or nilutamide (Nilandron®));
   b. Breast cancer, and member is receiving adjuvant endocrine therapy (e.g., tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors such as anastrozole (Arimidex®), exemestane (Aromasin®) or letrozole (Femara®));
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
4. Age ≥ 18 years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;
5. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
   a. For breast cancer, failure of zoledronic acid* (Zometa) or pamidronate*, at up to maximally indicated doses unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated *(see Appendices B and D)*;
   **Prior authorization may be required.*
   b. For prostate cancer, failure of zoledronic acid* (Zometa) at up to maximally indicated doses unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced *(see Appendices B and D)*;
   **Prior authorization may be required.*
   c. Request is for the treatment associated with stage IV or metastatic cancer for a state with regulations against step therapy in advanced oncology settings (*see Appendix E*);
6. Prolia is not prescribed concurrently with Xgeva;
7. Dose does not exceed 60 mg every 6 months.

Approval duration:
Medicaid/HIM – 12 months
Commercial – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

C. Multiple Myeloma or Solid Tumor (must meet all)**:**
1. Request is for Xgeva;
2. Diagnosis of one of the following (a or b):
   a. MM, and member is receiving or initiating therapy (e.g., chemotherapy, transplant) for symptomatic disease;
   b. Bone metastasis secondary to solid tumor (e.g., breast, kidney, lung, prostate, thyroid);
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
4. Age ≥ 18 years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;
5. For indications other than prostate or breast cancer, member meets one of the following (a or b):
   a. Failure of zoledronic acid* (Zometa) or pamidronate* at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated (*see Appendices B and D*);

**Prior authorization may be required.*

b. Request is for the treatment associated with stage IV or metastatic cancer for a state with regulations against step therapy in advanced oncology settings (*see Appendix E*);

6. Xgeva is not prescribed concurrently with Prolia;
7. Dose does not exceed 120 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration:
Medicaid/HIM – 6 months
Commercial – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

D. Giant Cell Tumor of Bone (must meet all)**:**

1. Request is for Xgeva;
2. Diagnosis of giant cell tumor of bone that is characterized as one of the following (a or b):
   a. Metastatic or unresectable disease;
   b. Localized disease, and Xgeva is prescribed as a single agent or in combination with interferon alfa or radiation therapy;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
4. Age ≥ 18 years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;
5. Xgeva is not prescribed concurrently with Prolia;
6. Dose does not exceed 120 mg every 4 weeks plus 120 mg on days 8 and 15 of first month of therapy.

Approval duration:
Medicaid/HIM – 6 months
Commercial – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

E. Hypercalcemia of Malignancy (must meet all)**:**

1. Request is for Xgeva;
2. Diagnosis of hypercalcemia of malignancy:
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
4. Age ≥ 18 years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;
5. Albumin-corrected calcium > 12.5 mg/dL despite IV bisphosphonate therapy in the last 30 days (*see Appendix B*);
   **Prior authorization may be required.*
6. Xgeva is not prescribed concurrently with Prolia;
7. Dose does not exceed 120 mg every 4 weeks plus 120 mg on days 8 and 15 of first month of therapy.

Approval duration:
Medicaid/HIM – 6 months
Commercial – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

F. Systemic Mastocytosis (off-label) (must meet all)**:**

1. Request is for Xgeva;
2. Diagnosis of systemic mastocytosis;
3. Member has osteopenia or osteoporosis with bone pain;
4. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
5. Age ≥ 18 years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;

6. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
   a. Failure of zoledronic acid* (Zometa) or pamidronate* at up to maximally indicated doses unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated *(see Appendices B and D)*;
      **Prior authorization may be required.*
   b. Request is for the treatment associated with Stage IV or metastatic cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy in advanced oncology settings (*see Appendix E*);
7. Xgeva is not prescribed concurrently with Prolia;
8. Dose is within FDA maximum limit for any FDA-approved indication or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (prescriber must submit supporting evidence).*
   **Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN.*

Approval duration:
Medicaid/HIM – 6 months
Commercial – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

G. 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, b, or c):
   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);*
   c. Documentation supports that member is currently receiving Prolia or Xgeva for a covered cancer-related indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;

3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed (a or b):
   a. Prolia: 60 mg every 6 months;
   b. Xgeva: 120 mg every 4 weeks or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (prescriber must submit supporting evidence).*

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN.*

Approval duration:
Medicaid/HIM – 12 months
Commercial – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

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

ADT: androgen deprivation therapy	GIO: glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis
BMD: bone mineral density	MM: multiple myeloma
FDA: Food and Drug Administration	PMO: postmenopausal osteoporosis

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
IV bisphosphonates		
ibandronate (Boniva®)	Treatment: PMO Hypercalcemia of malignancy *(off-label)*	Varies *See prescribing information and compendia for dosing.*
zoledronic acid (Reclast®; Zometa)	Reclast: Treatment/prevention: PMO, GIO Treatment: male osteoporosis Zometa: MM Bone metastasis from solid tumors Hypercalcemia of malignancy Systemic mastocytosis *(off-label)* Fracture prevention - breast/prostate cancer (*off-label*)	
pamidronate	MM Bone metastasis from breast cancer Hypercalcemia of malignancy Systemic mastocytosis *(off-label)* Fracture prevention – breast/prostate cancer (*off-label*)	
Oral bisphosphonates		
alendronate (Fosamax®)	Treatment: PMO Treatment: GIO, male osteoporosis	Varies *See prescribing information and compendia for dosing.*
Fosamax® Plus D (alendronate / cholecalciferol)	Treatment: PMO, male osteoporosis	
risedronate (Actonel®, Atelvia®)	Actonel: Treatment: PMO, GIO Treatment: male osteoporosis Atelvia: Treatment: PMO	
ibandronate (Boniva®)	Treatment/prevention: PMO	

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):
  - Prolia: hypocalcemia, pregnancy, known hypersensitivity to Prolia
  - Xgeva: hypocalcemia, known clinically significant hypersensitivity to Xgeva
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

Appendix D: IV/PO Bisphosphonates: Examples of Contraindications and Adverse Effects

Bisphosphonates	Oral Formulations	IV Formulations
Contraindications		
Hypocalcemia	X	X
Increased risk of aspiration	X	-
Hypersensitivity to product component	X	X
Inability to stand/sit upright for at least 30 minutes	X	-
Creatinine clearance < 35 mL/min or evidence of acute renal impairment	-	X
Esophagus abnormalities which delay emptying such as stricture or achalasia	X	-
Clinically significant warnings or adverse side effects		
Pregnancy	X	X
Eye inflammation	X	X
Acute renal failure	X	X
Osteonecrosis of the jaw	X	X
Atypical femoral shaft fracture	X	X
Drug interactions (product-specific)	X	X
Severe or incapacitating musculoskeletal pain	X	X

Appendix E: States with Regulations against Redirections in Stage III, IV or Metastatic Cancer

State	Step Therapy Prohibited?	Notes
FL	Yes	For stage 4 metastatic cancer and associated conditions.
GA	Yes	For stage 4 metastatic cancer. Redirection does not refer to review of medical necessity or clinical appropriateness.
IA	Yes	For standard of care stage 4 cancer drug use, supported by peer-reviewed, evidence-based literature, and approved by FDA.
LA	Yes	For stage 4 advanced, metastatic cancer or associated conditions. Exception if "clinically equivalent therapy, contains identical active ingredient(s), and proven to have same efficacy.
NV	Yes	Stage 3 and stage 4 cancer patients for a prescription drug to treat the cancer or any symptom thereof of the covered person
OH	Yes	**Applies to Commercial and HIM requests only** For stage 4 metastatic cancer and associated conditions
OK	Yes	**Applies to HIM requests only** For advanced metastatic cancer and associated conditions
PA	Yes	For stage 4 advanced, metastatic cancer
TN	Yes	For advanced metastatic cancer and associated conditions
TX	Yes	For stage 4 advanced, metastatic cancer and associated conditions

V. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Denosumab (Prolia)	Treatment: PMO, GIO, male osteoporosis	60 mg SC once every 6 months	60 mg/dose
	Oncology: fracture prevention - Men at high risk for fracture receiving ADT for nonmetastatic prostate cancer - Women at high risk for fracture receiving adjuvant aromatase inhibitor therapy for breast cancer		
Denosumab (Xgeva)	MM Solid tumor - bone metastasis	120 mg SC once every 4 weeks	20 mg/dose
	Giant cell tumor of bone Hypercalcemia of malignancy	120 mg SC every 4 weeks plus 120 mg on Days 8 and 15 of first month of therapy	120 mg/dose

VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Denosumab (Prolia)	Injection (single-use prefilled syringe): 60 mg/mL
Denosumab (Xgeva)	Injection (single-use vial): 120 mg/1.7 mL (70 mg/mL)

VII. References

1. Prolia Prescribing Information. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen Inc.; January 2023. Available at: http://www.prolia.com. Accessed October 23, 2023.
2. Xgeva Prescribing Information. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen Inc.; June 2020. Available at: http://www.xgeva.com. Accessed October 23, 2023.
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Osteoporosis Diagnosis, Fracture Risk, and Treatment

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6. Camacho PM, Petak SM, Brinkley N et al. American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists/American College of Endocrinology clinical practice guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis—2020 update. Endocr Pract. 2020;26(1):1-46..
7. LeBoggs MS, Greenspan SL, Insongna KL, et al. Clinician's guide to prevention and treatment of osteoporosis. *Osteoporos Int*. 2022 Oct;33(10):2049-2102. doi:10.1007/s00198-021-05900-y. Erratum in: *Osteoporos Int.* 2022 Jul 28.

8. Siris ES, Adler R, Bilezikian J, et al. The clinical diagnosis of osteoporosis: a position statement from the National Bone Health Alliance Working Group. Osteoporos Int (2014) 25:1439–1443. DOI 10.1007/s00198-014-2655-z.
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Male Osteoporosis

10. Watts NB, Adler RA, Bilezikian JP, et al. Osteoporosis in men: an Endocrine Society clinical practice guidelines. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2012;97(6):1802-1822.

Glucocorticoid-Induced Osteoporosis

11. Humphrey MB, Russell L, Danila MI, et al. 2022 American College of Rheumatology guideline for the prevention and treatment of glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2023 Oct 16. doi:10.1002/art.42646. Epub ahead of print. PMID:37845798.

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12. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at www.nccn.org. Accessed October 23, 2023.
13. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Multiple Myeloma Version 1.2024. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/myeloma.pdf. Accessed October 23, 2023.
14. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Bone Cancer Version 1.2024. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/bone.pdf. Accessed October 23, 2023.
15. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Breast Cancer Version 4.2023. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/breast.pdf. Accessed October 23, 2023.
16. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Prostate Cancer Version 4.2023. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/prostate.pdf. Accessed October 23, 2023.
17. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Version 4.2023. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/nscl.pdf. Accessed October 23, 2023.
18. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Kidney Cancer Version 1.2024. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/kidney.pdf. Accessed October 23, 2023.
19. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Systemic Mastocytosis Version 4.2023. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/mastocytosis.pdf. Accessed October 23, 2023.
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Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J0897	Injection, denosumab, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
1Q 2020 annual review: removed HIM disclaimer for HIM NF drugs; Prolia: very high fracture risk or 3-year bisphosphonate trial added with required contraindication to both PO/IV formulations; specialists removed; age 18 or closed epiphyses added per PI; nonmetastatic limitation removed from prostate cancer per NCCN; breast cancer expanded to include men; Xgeva: examples of skeletal related event and solid tumor added; oncologist added; lower age limit and weight restriction removed from giant cell tumor to include NCCN recommended localized disease; NCCN recommended use for systemic mastocytosis added with Zometa trial; hypercalcemia continuation of therapy criteria removed given response fluidity; references reviewed and updated.	11.19.19	02.20
The MM/solid tumor common criteria line item, at risk for skeletal related event, is removed for solid tumor and for MM is replaced with receiving or initiating therapy for symptomatic disease per pivotal trials/NCCN; IV bisphosphonate trials are added per labels/NCCN to prostate/breast fracture prevention, MM/solid tumor (exception prostate/breast cancer), and systemic mastocytosis.	08.25.20	11.20
1Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; references to HIM.PHAR.21 revised to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	10.26.20	02.21
For prostate/breast cancer - fracture prevention, multiple myeloma or solid tumor, and systemic mastocytosis: allowed bypassing of redirection if state regulations do not allow step therapy in Stage IV or metastatic cancer settings.	06.15.21	
Added Nevada to Appendix E.	08.03.21	
1Q 2022 annual review: updated definition of very high risk for fracture based on 2020 AACE/ACE PMO guidelines; references reviewed and updated.	10.02.21	02.22
For osteoporosis added option (in addition to contraindications or adverse effects) to bypass bisphosphonate trial if member has experienced a loss of BMD, lack of BMD increase, or has had an osteoporotic fracture or fragility fracture while receiving bisphosphonate therapy.	02.07.22	05.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	10.12.22	
1Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes, reference reviewed and updated.	10.28.22	02.23
Updated Appendix E to include Oklahoma.	06.07.23	

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
1Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; for osteoporosis initial criteria, clarified "failure" of generic alendronate is preferred; references reviewed and updated.	10.23.23	02.24

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.

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.