Clinical Policy: Levomilnacipran (Fetzima)
Reference Number: HIM.PA.125
Effective Date: 12.01.17
Last Review Date: 11.19
Line of Business: HIM

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

Description
Levomilnacipran (Fetzima®) is a serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI).

FDA Approved Indication(s)
Fetzima is indicated for the treatment of major depressive disorder.

Limitation(s) of use: Fetzima is not approved for the management of fibromyalgia. The efficacy and safety of Fetzima for the management of fibromyalgia have not been established.

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 Fetzima is medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria
A. Major Depressive Disorder (must meet all):
   1. Diagnosis of major depressive disorder;
   2. Age ≥ 18 years;
   3. Failure of a ≥ 8 week trial of one SNRI at up to maximally indicated doses unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
   4. Failure of a ≥ 8 week trial of one selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) at up to maximally indicated doses unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
   5. Dose does not exceed 120 mg per day (1 capsule per day).

   Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications
   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): HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace.

II. Continued Therapy
A. Major Depressive Disorder (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 120 mg per day (1 capsule per day).

**Approval duration: 12 months**

**B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):**
1. Currently receiving medication via health plan 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): HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace.

**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 policy – HIM.PHAR.21 or evidence of coverage documents;
B. Fibromyalgia.

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*
- FDA: Food and Drug Administration
- MAOI: monoamine oxidase inhibitor
- SNRI: serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor
- SSRI: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor

*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.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Dosing Regimen</th>
<th>Dose Limit/Maximum Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>citalopram (Celexa®)</td>
<td>20 mg PO QD</td>
<td>40 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>escitalopram (Lexapro®)</td>
<td>10-20 mg PO QD</td>
<td>20 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluvoxamine® (Luvox CR®)</td>
<td>50-300 mg PO QD</td>
<td>300 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fluoxetine (Prozac®)</td>
<td>20 mg PO QD</td>
<td>80 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paroxetine (Paxil®)</td>
<td>20 mg PO QD</td>
<td>50 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paroxetine controlled release (Paxil CR®)</td>
<td>25 mg PO QD</td>
<td>62.5 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sertraline (Zoloft®)</td>
<td>50 mg PO QD</td>
<td>200 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desvenlafaxine (Cymbalta®)</td>
<td>20 mg PO BID or 60 mg PO QD</td>
<td>120 mg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venlafaxine (Effexor®)</td>
<td>75 mg PO BID to TID</td>
<td>225 mg/day</td>
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*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):**
  - Hypersensitivity to levomilnacipran, milnacipran HCl, or any excipient;
  - Serotonin Syndrome and MAOIs: Do not use MAOIs with Fetzima or within 7 days of stopping treatment with Fetzima. Do not use Fetzima within 14 days of stopping an MAOI. In addition, do not start Fetzima in a patient who is being treated with linezolid or intravenous methylene blue.

- **Boxed warning(s):** Increased risk of suicidal thinking and behavior in children, adolescents and young adults taking antidepressants; monitor for worsening and emergence of suicidal thoughts and behaviors; not approved for use in pediatric patients.

V. **Dosage and Administration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Dosing Regimen</th>
<th>Maximum Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major depressive disorder</td>
<td>40 mg to 120 mg PO QD</td>
<td>120 mg QD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI. **Product Availability**

Extended-release capsules: 20 mg, 40 mg, 80 mg and 120 mg

VII. **References**


Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>P&amp;T Approval Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Policy created</td>
<td>08.23.17</td>
<td>11.17</td>
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<td>4Q 2018 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>08.10.18</td>
<td>11.18</td>
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<td>4Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>08.26.19</td>
<td>11.19</td>
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**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.

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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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For Health Insurance Marketplace members, when applicable, this policy applies only when the prescribed agent is on your health plan approved formulary. Request for non-formulary drugs must be reviewed using the non-formulary policy; HIM.PA.103.

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