

Clinical Pharmacy Program Guidelines for Benznidazole

Program	Prior Authorization
Medication	Benznidazole tablets
Markets in Scope	Arizona, California, Hawaii, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, New York EPP, Pennsylvania- CHIP, Rhode Island, South Carolina
Issue Date	2/2018
Pharmacy and Therapeutics Approval Date	3/2020
Effective Date	5/2020

1. Background:

Benznidazole, a nitroimidazole antimicrobial, is indicated in pediatric patients 2 to 12 years of age for the treatment of Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis), caused by *Trypanosoma cruzi*.

Antiparasitic treatment is indicated for all cases of acute or reactivated Chagas disease and for chronic *Trypanosoma cruzi* (*T. cruzi*) infection in children up to 18 years old. Congenital infections are considered acute disease. Treatment is strongly recommended for adults up to 50 years old with chronic infection who do not already have advanced Chagas cardiomyopathy. For adults older than 50 years with chronic *T. cruzi* infection, the decision to treat with antiparasitic drugs should be individualized, weighing the potential benefits and risks for the patient. Physicians should consider factors such as the patient’s age, clinical status, preference, and overall health.

2. Coverage Criteria:

<p>A. <u>Authorization</u></p> <p>1. Benznidazole will be approved based on the following criteria:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Diagnosis of Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis) due to <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Authorization will be issued for 60 days.</p>
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3. Additional Clinical Rules:

- Notwithstanding Coverage Criteria, UnitedHealthcare may approve initial and re-authorization based solely on previous claim/medication history, diagnosis codes (ICD-10) and/or claim logic. Use of automated approval and re-approval processes varies by program and/or therapeutic class.
- Supply limits may be in place.

4. References:

1. Benznidazole [package insert]. Florham Park, NJ: Exeltis USA, Inc.: November 2019.
2. CDC Guidelines. Parasites – American Trypanosomiasis (also known as Chagas Disease). <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/chagas/>. January 2020.

Program	Prior Authorization –Benznidazole
Change Control	
Date	Change
2/2018	New program.
2/2019	Annual review, updated background and references.
3/2020	Annual review. Updated background and references.