



UnitedHealthcare Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacy Programs

Program Number	2018 P 2051-5
Program	Prior Authorization/Medical Necessity
Medication	Duopa (carbidopa/levodopa)
P&T Approval Date	7/2015, 9/2016, 9/2017, 9/2018
Effective Date	12/1/2018; Oxford only: 12/1/2018

1. Background:

Duopa (carbidopa/levodopa) enteral suspension is indicated for the treatment of motor fluctuations in patients with advanced Parkinson’s disease. Duopa should be administered continuously via an infusion pump over 16 hours through a procedurally-placed tube. Duopa may be administered through a naso-jejunal (NJ) tube for a short period of time until a gastrostomy tube can be placed.

2. Coverage Criteria:

A. Initial Authorization

1. **Duopa** will be approved based on **all** of the following criteria:

a. Diagnosis of advanced Parkinson’s Disease

-AND-

b. Patient experiences a wearing “off” phenomenon that cannot be managed by increasing the dose of oral levodopa

-AND-

c. Has undergone or has planned placement of a procedurally-placed tube

Authorization will be issued for 12 months.

B. Reauthorization

1. Duopa will be approved based on the following criterion:

a. Documentation of positive clinical response to Duopa therapy

Authorization will be issued for 12 months.

3. Additional Clinical Rules:

- N/A

4. References:

1. Duopa Prescribing Information. AbbVie, Inc. North Chicago, IL. September 2016.
2. Sara Varanese, Zoe Birnbaum, Roger Rossi, and Alessandro Di Rocco, “Treatment of Advanced Parkinson's Disease,” *Parkinson's Disease*, vol. 2010, Article ID 480260, 9 pages, 2010. doi:10.4061/2010/480260.
3. Tarsy, D. Pharmacologic treatment of Parkinson Disease. Eichler, AF, ed. UpToDate. Waltham, MA: UpToDate Inc. <http://www.uptodate.com> (Accessed on August 7, 2018.)

Program	Prior Authorization/Medical Necessity - Duopa
Change Control	
Date	Change
7/2015	New program.
8/2016	Administrative change to fix typo
9/2016	Annual Review. Updated references.
9/2017	Annual Review. Updated background and references.
9/2018	Annual Review. Updated references.