

UnitedHealthcare Pharmacy  
Clinical Pharmacy Programs

Program Number	2025 P 2004-23
Program	Prior Authorization/Medical Necessity - Multisource Brand/Modified Release Anticonvulsants
Medication/Therapeutic Class	Multisource Brand/Modified Release Anticonvulsants – Aptiom® (eslicarbazepine), Banzel®, Depakote®, Depakote ER®, Felbatol®, Fycompa® (brand and generic), Keppra®, Keppra XR®, Lamictal, Lamictal XR, Lamictal ODT (brand and generic), Lyrica®, Motpoly XR, Mysoline®, Neurontin®, Onfi®, Sabril®, Topamax®, Trileptal®, Vimpat®, ZONEGRAN®
P&T Approval Date	10/2013, 2/2014, 7/2014, 8/2014, 4/2015, 2/2016, 6/2016, 9/2016, 10/2017, 9/2018, 8/2019, 7/2020, 6/2021, 8/2021, 3/2022, 5/2022, 1/2023, 11/2023, 2/2024, 4/2025, 8/2025
Effective Date	11/1/2025

## 1. Background:

### Multisource Brand Anticonvulsants

This program requires a member to try the A-rated generic prior to receiving coverage for brand Banzel, Depakote, Depakote ER, Felbatol, Keppra, Keppra XR, Lamictal, Lamictal ODT, Lamictal XR, Lyrica, Mysoline, Neurontin, Onfi, Sabril, Trileptal, Topamax, Vimpat or Zonegran unless patient has a history of drug-resistant epilepsy or is at high risk of seizure recurrence. Fycompa (brand and generic) requires a trial of one generic anticonvulsant. Aptiom brand and generic require a trial of two generic anticonvulsants and brand will require trial of the generic.

### Modified Release Products

This program requires a member to try lamotrigine or lamotrigine chewable tablet prior to coverage of lamotrigine orally disintegrating tablet and lacosamide prior to coverage of Motpoly XR unless patient has a history of drug-resistant epilepsy or is at high risk of seizure recurrence.

## 2. Coverage Criteria<sup>a</sup>:

### A. Initial Authorization for Epilepsy, Seizures and Status Epilepticus

- The multisource brand anticonvulsants **Banzel, Depakote, Depakote ER, Felbatol, Keppra, Keppra XR, Lamictal, Lamictal ODT, Lamictal XR, Lyrica, Mysoline, Neurontin, Onfi, Sabril\*, Trileptal, Topamax, Vimpat or ZONEGRAN** will be approved based on one of the following criteria:

- Both** of the following:

- (1) History of greater than or equal to 4 week trial of the therapeutically equivalent generic (document date of trial)

**-AND-**

(2) Documented history of an inadequate response to the therapeutically equivalent generic as evidenced by one of the following (document inadequate response):

- (a) Change in seizure frequency from baseline
- (b) Breakthrough seizures not explained by medication nonadherence or significant provoking factor
- (c) Status epilepticus

**-OR-**

b. Documented history of an intolerance to the therapeutically equivalent generic which was unable to be resolved with attempts to minimize the adverse effects where appropriate (e.g. change timing of dosing, divide daily dose out for more frequent but smaller doses)

**-OR-**

c. Documented history of drug-resistant epilepsy (defined as the failure of two tolerated and appropriately chosen and used anti-epileptic drug schedules [as either mono-therapy or combination therapy] to achieve sustained seizure freedom) (document names of the two medications and dates of trials)

**-OR-**

d. Documented history of a high risk for seizure recurrence defined as one or more of the following:

- (1) Identifiable brain disease
- (2) Intellectual disability
- (3) Abnormal neurologic examination
- (4) Seizure onset after the first decade
- (5) Multiple seizure types
- (6) Poor initial response to treatment
- (7) Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy
- (8) Epileptiform discharges on electroencephalogram (EEG)
- (9) Family history of epilepsy
- (10) Hippocampal atrophy or abnormal hippocampal signal on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

**Authorization will be issued for 12 months.**

2. The modified release products **lamotrigine orally disintegrating tablet or Motpoly XR** will be approved based on one of the following criteria:

a. Both of the following:

- (1) History of greater than or equal to 4 week trial of the corresponding release products:

- (a) For **lamotrigine orally disintegrating tablet**: a trial of lamotrigine immediate-release or lamotrigine chewable tablet
- (b) For **Motpoly XR**: a trial of lacosamide immediate-release

**-AND-**

- (2) Documented history of an inadequate response to the corresponding release product as evidenced by **one** of the following (document inadequate response):
  - (a) Change in seizure frequency from baseline
  - (b) Breakthrough seizures not explained by medication nonadherence or significant provoking factor
  - (c) Status epilepticus

**-OR-**

- b. Documented history of an intolerance to the corresponding release product which is unable to be resolved with attempts to minimize the adverse effects where appropriate (e.g. change timing of dosing, divide daily dose out for more frequent but smaller doses)

**-OR-**

- c. Documented history of drug-resistant epilepsy (defined as the failure of two tolerated and appropriately chosen and used anti-epileptic drug schedules [as either mono-therapy or combination therapy] to achieve sustained seizure freedom) (document names of the two medications and dates of trials)

**-OR-**

- d. Documented history of a high risk for seizure recurrence defined as **one** or more of the following:
  - (1) Identifiable brain disease
  - (2) Intellectual disability
  - (3) Abnormal neurologic examination
  - (4) Seizure onset after the first decade
  - (5) Multiple seizure types
  - (6) Poor initial response to treatment
  - (7) Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy
  - (8) Epileptiform discharges on electroencephalogram (EEG)
  - (9) Family history of epilepsy
  - (10) Hippocampal atrophy or abnormal hippocampal signal on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

**Authorization will be issued for 12 months.**

**B. Reauthorization for Epilepsy, Seizures and Status Epilepticus**

1. **Banzel, Depakote, Depakote ER, Felbatol, Keppra, Keppra XR, Lamictal, Lamictal ODT, Lamictal XR, lamotrigine orally disintegrating tablet, Lyrica, Motpoly XR, Mysoline, Neurontin, Onfi, Sabril\*, Trileptal, Topamax, Vimpat or Zonegran** will be approved based on the following criterion:

- a. Documentation of positive clinical response to therapy

**Reauthorization will be issued for 12 months.**

**C. Initial Authorization for Other Indications (e.g. mania, bipolar disorder, migraine prophylaxis, neuropathy, postherpetic neuralgia)**

1. The multisource brand anticonvulsants **Banzel, Depakote, Depakote ER, Felbatol, Keppra, Keppra XR, Lamictal, Lamictal ODT, Lamictal XR, Mysoline, Neurontin, Onfi, Sabril\*, Trileptal, Topamax, Vimpat or Zonegran** will be approved based on one of the following criteria:

- a. Both of the following:

- (1) History of greater than or equal to 4 week trial of the therapeutically equivalent generic (document date of trial)

**-AND-**

- (2) Documented history of an inadequate response to the therapeutically equivalent generic (document inadequate response)

**-OR-**

- b. Documented history of an intolerance to the therapeutically equivalent generic which was unable to be resolved with attempts to minimize the adverse effects where appropriate (e.g. change timing of dosing, divide daily dose out for more frequent but smaller doses)

2. The multisource brand anticonvulsant **Lyrica** will be approved based on both of the following criteria:

- a. One of the following:

- (1) Diagnosis of neuropathic pain and history of failure, contraindication, or intolerance to two of the following medications (Document date of trial):

- (a) gabapentin (generic Neurontin)
- (b) duloxetine (generic Cymbalta)
- (c) tricyclic antidepressant (e.g. amitriptyline)

**-OR-**

- (2) All other diagnoses and history of failure, contraindication or intolerance to

the following: (Document the diagnosis and ensure that the diagnosis is not associated with nerve pain which would require review as neuropathic pain. [Document date of trial]).

(a) gabapentin (generic Neurontin)

**-AND-**

b. **One** of the following:

(1) **Both** of the following:

- (a) History of greater than or equal to 4 week trial of the therapeutically equivalent generic (document date of trial)
- (b) Documented history of an inadequate response to the therapeutically equivalent generic (document inadequate response)

**-OR-**

- (2) Documented history of an intolerance to the therapeutically equivalent generic which was unable to be resolved with attempts to minimize the adverse effects where appropriate (e.g. change timing of dosing, divide daily dose out for more frequent but smaller doses)

**Authorization will be issued for 12 months.**

3. The modified release products **lamotrigine orally disintegrating tablets or Motpoly XR** will be approved based on **one** of the following criteria:

- a. For **lamotrigine orally disintegrating tablets**: history of inadequate response after greater than or equal to a 4 week trial of lamotrigine immediate-release or lamotrigine chewable tablet (document date of trial).
- b. For **Motpoly XR**: history of an inadequate response after greater than or equal to a 4 week trial of lacosamide immediate-release (document date of trial).

**-OR-**

- c. Documented history of an intolerance to the corresponding release product which is unable to be resolved with attempts to minimize the adverse effects where appropriate (e.g. change timing of dosing, divide daily dose out for more frequent but smaller doses)

**Authorization will be issued for 12 months.**

**D. Reauthorization for Other Indications (e.g. mania, bipolar disorder, migraine prophylaxis, neuropathy, postherpetic neuralgia)**

- 1. **Banzel, Depakote, Depakote ER, Felbatol, Keppra, Keppra XR, Lamictal, Lamictal ODT, Lamictal XR, lamotrigine orally disintegrating tablet, Lyrica,**

**Motpoly XR, Mysoline, Neurontin, Onfi, Sabril\*, Trileptal, Topamax, Vimpat or Zonegran** will be approved based on the following criterion:

- a. Documentation of positive clinical response to therapy

**Reauthorization will be issued for 12 months.**

**E. Fycompa**

1. **Fycompa (brand and generic)** will be approved based on one of the following:

- a. All of the following:

- (1) Diagnosis of partial onset or primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures

**-AND-**

- (2) History of greater than or equal to 4 week trial of at least one of the following (any release formulation qualifies):

- (a) Carbamazepine (e.g. generic Tegretol)
- (b) Divalproex (e.g. generic Depakote)
- (c) Gabapentin (e.g. generic Neurontin)
- (d) Lamotrigine (e.g. generic Lamictal)
- (e) Levetiracetam (e.g. generic Keppra)
- (f) Oxcarbazepine (e.g. generic Trileptal)
- (g) Phenytoin (e.g. generic Dilantin)
- (h) Pregabalin (e.g. generic Lyrica)
- (i) Topiramate (e.g. generic Topamax)
- (j) Valproic acid (e.g. generic Depakene)
- (k) Zonisamide (generic Zonegran)

**-AND-**

- (3) One of the following:

- (a) **Both** of the following:

- i. Documented history of persisting seizures after titration to the highest tolerated dose with each medication trial
- ii. Lack of compliance as a reason for treatment failure has been ruled out

**-OR-**

- (b) **Both** of the following:

- i. Documentation of failure due to intolerable side effects.
- ii. Reasonable efforts were made to minimize the side effect (e.g. change timing of dosing, divide dose out for more frequent but smaller doses,

etc.)

**-OR-**

- b. For continuation of prior therapy for a seizure disorder

**Authorization will be issued for 12 months.**

**2. Reauthorization for Fycompa**

- a. Documentation of positive clinical response to therapy

**Reauthorization will be issued for 12 months.**

**F. Aptiom**

1. **Aptiom (brand)** will be approved based on **ALL** of the following:

- a. Diagnosis of partial onset seizures

**-AND-**

- b. History of greater than or equal to 4 week trial of at least **two** of the following (any release formulation qualifies):

- (1) Carbamazepine (e.g. generic Tegretol)
- (2) Divalproex (e.g. generic Depakote)
- (3) Gabapentin (e.g. generic Neurontin)
- (4) Lamotrigine (e.g. generic Lamictal)
- (5) Levetiracetam (e.g. generic Keppra)
- (6) Oxcarbazepine (e.g. generic Trileptal)
- (7) Phenytoin (e.g. generic Dilantin)
- (8) Pregabalin (e.g. generic Lyrica)
- (9) Topiramate (e.g. generic Topamax)
- (10) Valproic acid (e.g. generic Depakene)
- (11) Zonisamide (generic Zonegran)

**-AND-**

- c. History of greater than or equal to 4 week trial of eslicarbazepine (generic Aptiom)

**-AND-**

- d. **One** of the following:

- (1) **Both** of the following:

- (a) Documented history of persisting seizures after titration to the highest

- tolerated dose with each medication trial  
(b) Lack of compliance as a reason for treatment failure has been ruled out

**-OR-**

- (2) **Both** of the following:

- (a) Documentation of failure due to intolerable side effects.
- (b) Reasonable efforts were made to minimize the side effect (e.g. change timing of dosing, divide dose out for more frequent but smaller doses, etc.)

**Authorization will be issued for 12 months.**

2. **Eslicarbazepine (generic Aptiom)** will be approved based on **one** of the following:

- a. **All** of the following:

- (1) Diagnosis of partial onset seizures

**-AND-**

- (2) History of greater than or equal to 4 week trial of at least **two** of the following (any release formulation qualifies):

- (a) Carbamazepine (e.g. generic Tegretol)
- (b) Divalproex (e.g. generic Depakote)
- (c) Gabapentin (e.g. generic Neurontin)
- (d) Lamotrigine (e.g. generic Lamictal)
- (e) Levetiracetam (e.g. generic Keppra)
- (f) Oxcarbazepine (e.g. generic Trileptal)
- (g) Phenytoin (e.g. generic Dilantin)
- (h) Pregabalin (e.g. generic Lyrica)
- (i) Topiramate (e.g. generic Topamax)
- (j) Valproic acid (e.g. generic Depakene)
- (k) Zonisamide (generic Zonegran)

**-AND-**

- (3) **One** of the following:

- (a) **Both** of the following:

- i. Documented history of persisting seizures after titration to the highest tolerated dose with each medication trial
- ii. Lack of compliance as a reason for treatment failure has been ruled out

**-OR-**



(b) **Both** of the following:

- i. Documentation of failure due to intolerable side effects.
- ii. Reasonable efforts were made to minimize the side effect (e.g. change timing of dosing, divide dose out for more frequent but smaller doses, etc.)

**-OR-**

- b. For continuation of prior therapy for a seizure disorder

**Authorization will be issued for 12 months.**

### **3. Reauthorization for Aptiom and Eslicarbazepine (generic Aptiom)**

- b. Documentation of positive clinical response to therapy

**Reauthorization will be issued for 12 months.**

<sup>a</sup> State mandates may apply. Any federal regulatory requirements and the member specific benefit plan coverage may also impact coverage criteria. Other policies and utilization management programs may apply.

### **3. Additional Clinical Programs:**

- 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.
- \* Oxtellar XR, Qudexy XR (brand and authorized generic), brand Sabril, Spritam and Trokendi XR are typically excluded from coverage.

### **4. References:**

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13. Talati R, et al. Effectiveness and Safety of Antiepileptic Medications in Patients with Epilepsy. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US); December 2011.
14. Felbatol [package insert]. Sommerset, NJ: Meda Pharmaceuticals Inc; February 2018.
15. Mysoline [package insert]. Bridgewater, NJ: Bausch Health US, LLC; July 2020.
16. Lyrica [package insert]. New York, NY: Pfizer Inc; June 2020.
17. Onfi [package insert]. Deerfield, IL: Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals LLC; March 2024.
18. Sabril [package insert]. Deerfield, IL: Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals, LLC; December 2021.
19. Banzel [package insert]. Woodcliff Lake, NJ: Eisai Inc; December 2022.
20. Vimpat [package insert]. Smyrna, GA: UCB, Inc.; October 2023.
21. Motpoly XR [package insert]. Piscataway, NJ: Aucta Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; June 2024.
22. Fycompa [package insert]. Coral Gables, FL: Catalyst Pharmacetuicals, Inc; June 2023.
23. Aptiom [package insert]. Marlborough, MA: Sumitomo Pharma American, Inc. March 2019.

Program	Prior Authorization/Medical Necessity - Multisource Brand/Modified Release Anticonvulsants
Change Control	
Date	Change
10/2013	New program
2/2014	Added modified release products Oxtellar XR, Stavzor and Trokendi XR to program.
7/2014	Moved Lamictal ODT from Multisource Brand section to Modified release section, as generic launch has been delayed.
8/2014	Updates to FAERS requirement to allow for submission of medical records documenting failure or intolerance to generic rather than submission of FAERS report.
4/2015	Added Qudexy XR to criteria. Moved brand Lamictal ODT to Multisource Brand section as the generic has launched.
2/2016	Added lamotrigine extended-release, Felbatol and Mysoline to criteria. Reduced authorization period from 5 years to 12 months.
6/2016	Stavzor removed from criteria as product was discontinued. Added Spritam to criteria. Removed FAERS requirement as an exception to requiring medical record submission. Added Maryland requirements. Added Indiana and West Virginia coverage information.
9/2016	Updated formatting.
11/2016	Administrative change. Added California coverage information.
10/2017	Removed requirement for submission of medical records. References and state mandate language updated.
9/2018	Added reauthorization criteria. Added requirement to document name of drug and trial dates or adverse event. References updated.
12/2018	Administrative change to add statement regarding use of automated processes.
8/2019	Added Lyrica and Onfi to criteria. Updated references.
7/2020	Updated Lyrica criteria for non-seizure disorders to require trial failure of step one medications based on indication. References updated.
6/2021	Added Sabril to criteria. Updated mental retardation language to intellectual disability. Removed the typically excluded medications:

	Oxtellar XR, Qudexy XR, Spritam and Trokendi XR. Updated references.
8/2021	Added Banzel to criteria.
3/2022	Updated to include criteria for lamotrigine extended-release for seizure disorders. Updated references.
5/2022	Vimpat added to criteria. Administrative changes.
1/2023	Lamotrigine extended-release removed from program.
11/2023	Updated references.
2/2024	Added Motpoly XR to criteria.
4/2025	Added footnote that brand Sabril is typically excluded from coverage. Added Fycompa to criteria.
8/2025	Added Aptiom to criteria. Added reauthorization criteria for Fycompa.