



UnitedHealthcare Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacy Programs

Program Number	2020 P 3125-2
Program	Step Therapy
Medication/Therapeutic Class	Cetrotide® (cetorelix acetate)*
P&T Approval Date	8/1/2019, 8/2020
Effective Date	11/1/2020; Oxford only: N/A

1. Background:

Step therapy programs are utilized to encourage use of lower cost alternatives for certain therapeutic classes. This program requires members to use ganirelix acetate (Merck and Co., Inc. formulation) before providing coverage for Cetrotide.

Cetrotide (cetorelix acetate) and ganirelix acetate are synthetic decapeptides with gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) antagonist activity. These agents are indicated to inhibit premature leutinizing hormone (LH) surges in women undergoing controlled ovarian stimulation followed by insemination or assisted reproductive technology (ART) procedures.¹⁻³

Members continuing and new to therapy will be required to meet the coverage criteria below.

2. Coverage Criteria^a:

A. Cetrotide will be approved based on the following criterion:

1. History of failure, contraindication, or intolerance to ganirelix acetate[†] (Merck and Co., Inc. formulation)

Authorization will be issued for 2 months.

^a 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.

*Infertility is typically excluded from coverage for UnitedHealthcare. Please refer to member’s specific benefits for coverage determination.

3. Other 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.
- Notification and/or Supply Limits may also be in place
- Exclusion: [†]Ganirelix acetate (Ferring generic) is excluded from coverage for the majority of our benefits.

4. References:

1. Cetrotide [package insert]. Rockland, MA: EMD Serono, Inc.; May 2018.
2. Ganirelix acetate [package insert]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck and Co., Inc.; February 2019.

3. Ganirelix acetate [prescribing information]. Parsippany, NJ: Ferring Pharmaceuticals Inc.; March 2019.
4. Sahakyan M, Harlow BL, Hornstein MD. Influence of age, diagnosis, and cycle number on pregnancy rates with gonadotropin-induced controlled ovarian hyperstimulation and intrauterine insemination. *Fertil Steril* 1999; 72: 500-504.

Program	Step Therapy - Cetrotide® (cetorelix acetate)*
Change Control	
8/2019	New program
8/2020	Annual review with no change to coverage criteria. Updated background and formatting.