Verquvo (vericiguat)

Override(s)	Approval Duration
Prior Authorization Quantity Limit	1 year

Medications	Quantity Limit
Verquvo (vericiguat)	May be subject to quantity limit

APPROVAL CRITERIA

Initial requests for Verquvo (vericiguat) may be approved if the following criteria are met:

I. Individual is 18 years of age or older; **AND**
II. Individual is using for the treatment of New York Heart Association (NYHA) class II, III or IV heart failure symptoms; **AND**
III. Individual has a left ventricular ejection fraction less than 45%; **AND**
IV. Individual has experienced one of the following:
    A. Heart failure hospitalization within 6 months;
    OR
    B. Use of intravenous outpatient diuretics within 3 months;

AND

V. Individual will be taking Verquvo (vericiguat) in combination with the following (Armstrong 2020):
    A. Entresto (sacubitril/valsartan), angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor or angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) unless contraindicated or not tolerated; **AND**
    B. Beta-blocker (bisoprolol, carvedilol, metoprolol succinate) unless contraindicated or not tolerated.

Continuation requests for Verquvo (vericiguat) may be approved if the following criteria are met:

I. There is confirmation of clinically significant improvement or stabilization in clinical signs and symptoms of disease (including but not limited to improvement in heart failure symptoms, reduction in heart failure related physical limitations, reduction in hospitalizations); **AND**
II. Individual continues to use Verquvo (vericiguat) in combination with Entresto (sacubitril/valsartan), angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor or angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) unless contraindicated or not tolerated; **AND**
III. Individual continues to use Verquvo (vericiguat) in combination with beta-blocker (bisoprolol, carvedilol, metoprolol succinate) therapy unless contraindicated or not tolerated.

Verquvo (vericiguat) may not be approved for the following:

I. Use in combination with another soluble guanylate cyclase stimulator [including Adempas (riociguat)].

NOTE:
Verquvo has a black box warning for fetal toxicity. Do not administer Verquvo to a pregnant female as it may cause fetal harm. Females of reproductive potential should exclude pregnancy before initiating treatment. Effective contraception must be utilized during treatment and for one month after discontinuing therapy.

Key References:

1. Armstrong PW, Pieske B, Anstrom KJ, et al. Vericiguat in patients with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction. *N Engl J Med*. 2020;382(20):1883-1893.
2. DailyMed. Package inserts. U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health website. http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/about.cfm. Accessed: May 11, 2022.
3. DrugPoints® System [electronic version]. Truven Health Analytics, Greenwood Village, CO. Updated periodically.
4. Heidenreich P, Bozkurt B, Aguilar D, et al. 2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2022 May;79(17):e263–e421.
5. Lexi-Comp ONLINE™ with AHFS™, Hudson, Ohio: Lexi-Comp, Inc.; 2022; Updated periodically.

Federal and state laws or requirements, contract language, and Plan utilization management programs or polices may take precedence over the application of this clinical criteria.

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