Kansas City

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Palynziq (pegvaliase-pqpz)

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Origination: 11/2018 **Next Review:** 11/2019

Policy

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City (Blue KC) will provide coverage for Palynziq (pegvaliase-pqpz) when it is determined to be medically necessary because the criteria shown below are met.

When Policy Topic is covered

Palynziq may be considered **medically necessary** when all of the following criteria are met:

1. **Phenylketonuria (PKU) in Adults – Initial Therapy.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (A and B):
   - **A)** The patient has uncontrolled blood phenylalanine concentrations greater than 600 micromol/L on at least one existing treatment modality (e.g., restriction of dietary phenylalanine and protein intake, prior treatment with Kuvan® [sapropterin dihydrochloride tablets and powder for oral solution]); AND
   - **B)** The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a metabolic disease specialist (or specialist who focuses in the treatment of metabolic diseases).

2. **Phenylketonuria (PKU) in Adults – Patients Continuing Therapy [Maintenance Therapy].** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (A or B):
   - **A)** The patient's blood phenylalanine concentration is ≤ 600 micromol/L; OR
   - **B)** The patient has achieved a ≥ 20% reduction in blood phenylalanine concentration from pre-treatment baseline (i.e., blood phenylalanine concentration before starting Palynziq therapy).

When Policy Topic is not covered

Palynziq has not been shown to be effective, or there are limited or preliminary data or potential safety concerns that are not supportive of general approval for the following conditions and may be considered **investigational**. Rationale for non-coverage for these specific conditions is provided below. (Note: This is not an exhaustive list of Conditions Not Recommended for Approval.)

1. **Concomitant Therapy with Palynziq and Kuvan.** There are no data available to support the concomitant use of Palynziq and Kuvan. In the Palynziq pivotal studies patients were required to discontinue use of Kuvan at least 14 days prior to the first dose of Palynziq.

2. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

Considerations

Palynziq (pegvaliase-pqpz) requires prior authorization through the Clinical Pharmacy Department.

This Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City policy statement was developed using available resources such as, but not limited to: Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approvals, Facts and Comparisons, National specialty guidelines, local medical policies of other health plans, Medicare (CMS), local providers.

Description of Procedure or Service

Palynziq is indicated to reduce blood phenylalanine concentrations in adult patients with phenylketonuria (PKU) who have uncontrolled blood phenylalanine concentrations greater than 600 micromol/L (µmol/L) on existing management.[1] Treatment with Palynziq should be managed by a healthcare provider experienced in the management of PKU. Baseline blood phenylalanine concentrations should be obtained before initiating treatment. Palynziq is titrated up over a period of 9 weeks to the maintenance dose of 20 mg administered subcutaneously (SC) once daily (QD). Therapeutic response may not be achieved until the patient is titrated to an effective maintenance dosage. Palynziq 20 mg SC QD should be maintanined for at least 24 weeks. The dose can be increased to a maximum dose of Palynziq 40 mg SC QD in patients who have been maintained continuously on the 20 mg QD dose for at least 24 weeks and who have not achieved either a 20% reduction in blood phenylalanine concentration from pre-treatment baseline levels or a blood phenylalanine concentration ≤ 600 µmol/L. Palynziq should be discontinued in patients who have not achieved a response after 16 weeks of continuous treatment with the maximum dosage of 40 mg QD. In patients who experience blood phenylalanine concentrations < 30 µmol/L during the titration and maintenance phase, the dosage of Palynziq may be reduced and/or dietary protein and phenylalanine intake may be modified to maintain phenylalanine levels within a clinically acceptable range and above 30 µmol/L. Because of the risk of anaphylaxis Palynziq is available only through a restricted Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program. It was unclear from the Palynziq clinical trials if all patients had tried and were non-responders to Kuvan.

Guidelines/Recommendations

The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) published practice guidelines (2014) for the diagnosis and management of phenylalanine

hydroxylase (PAH) deficiency.[2] The guidelines recommend initiating treatment as early as possible, preferably within the first week of life. Dietary restriction of phenylalanine intake is the mainstay of therapy for PKU. Blood phenylalanine levels in all patients should be maintained in the range of 120 to 360 µmol/L. The guidelines state that approximately 25% to 50% of patients with PAH deficiency are responsive to Kuvan™ (sapropterin dihydrochloride tablets and powder for oral solution). A significant decline in blood phenylalanine level is expected in responders once treatment is initiated (with phenylalanine-restricted diet). An improvement in neuropsychiatric symptoms or increase in phenylalanine tolerance without a decrease in blood levels is sufficient reasoning to continue therapy. According to the guidelines, there is strong evidence to support life-long treatment and maintenance of metabolic control in patients with PAH deficiency.

Rationale

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate and cost effective use of Palynziq (pegvaliase-pqpz) while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

1. Palynziq™ injection [prescribing information]. Novato, CA: BioMarin Pharmaceuticals; May 2018.
2. Vockley J, Andersson HC, Antshel KM, et al. Phenylalanine hydroxylase deficiency: diagnosis and management guideline. Available at: https://www.acmg.net/docs/Phenylalanine_Hydrosylase_Deficiency_Practice_Guideline_AOP_Jan_2013.pdf. Accessed on May 24, 2018.

Billing Coding/Physician Documentation Information

J3590 – Unclassified biologics

Additional Policy Key Words

N/A

Policy Implementation/Update Information

NA New policy titled Palynziq (pegvaliase-pqpz)