# **MEDICATION COVERAGE POLICY**

PHARMACY AND TH	of San Joaquin		
POLICY:	Anxiety & Depression	P&T DATE:	5/12/2020
CLASS:	Psychiatric – Anxiety/Depression	<b>REVIEW HISTORY:</b>	5/19, 5/18, 2/17, 9/15, 5/15,
LOB:	MCL	(MONTH/YEAR)	5/14, 9/13, 2/12, 11/11

#### **OVERVIEW** -th

Antidepressants have been among the most common classes of prescription drugs taken by Americans. Rate of antidepressant use has been growing over the past two decades with an increase of nearly 400% among individuals of all ages in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Antidepressants are primarily indicated for the treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD). However, many have indications for treatment of other conditions as well. Antidepressants are commonly grouped by their mechanism of action as: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs), monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs). Overall, studies have not demonstrated a distinct clinical superiority in terms of efficacy between different antidepressant drug classes for MDD.

The purpose of this Anxiety & Depression Coverage Policy is to review the coverage criteria of HPSI's formulary antidepressant and anti-anxiety agents (Table 1).

Generic Name (Brand Name)	Available Strengths	Fml Lmt	Avg Cost per Rx*	Notes	
Selective Serotonin R	euptake Inhibitors (SSRI)				
Citalopram (Celexa)	10 mg/5 ml solution	PA	\$68.33	Reserved for inability to use capsules or tablets	
	10 mg tablet		\$0.89		
	20 mg tablet		\$0.93		
	40 mg tablet		\$1.17		
Escitalopram	5 mg/5 ml solution	PA		Reserved for inability to use capsules or tablets	
	5 mg tablet		\$2.05		
(Lexapro)	10 mg tablet		\$2.04		
	20 mg tablet		\$2.73		
	20 mg/5 ml solution	PA	\$30.94	Reserved for inability to use capsules or tablets.	
	10 mg capsule		\$1.21		
	20 mg capsule		\$1.28	Long half-life: consider in patients who have partial	
[]	40 mg capsule		\$2.95	non-compliance issues.	
Fluoxetine (Prozac)	90 mg DR capsule	NF			
	10 mg tablet	NF	\$8.84	Formulary alternative = 10 mg capsule	
	20 mg tablet	NF		Formulary alternative = 20 mg capsule	
	60 mg tablet	NF		Formulary alternative = 20 mg + 40 mg capsule	
	25 mg tablet		\$82.20		
	50 mg tablet		\$25.11		
Fluvoxamine (Luvox)	100 mg tablet		\$90.41		
(LUVOX)	100 mg ER capsule	NF	\$779.05		
	150 mg ER capsule	NF	\$557.38	Formulary alternative = fluvoxamine tablets	
	10 mg/5 ml suspension	PA	\$214.74	Reserved for inability to use capsules or tablets	
	10 mg tablet	QL	\$2.06		
	20 mg tablet	QL	\$2.28		
Paroxetine	30 mg tablet	QL	\$3.06	Limit 30 per 30 days	
hydrochloride (Paxil/Paxil CR)	40 mg tablet	QL	\$3.50		
(Faxii/Faxii CK)	12.5 mg ER tablet	PA; QL	\$54.34		
	25 mg ER tablet	PA; QL	\$102.51	Reserved for failure of 2 months of dose-optimized	
	37.5 mg ER tablet	PA; QL	\$67.71	paroxetine. Limit 30 per 30 days.	
Paroxetine	7.5 mg capsule	NF			
mesylate (Brisdelle,	30 mg tablet	NF		Formulary alternative = Paroxetine HCl	
Pexeva)	40 mg tablet	NF			
Sertraline (Zoloft)	20 mg/ml oral concentrate	PA; QL	\$33.20	Reserved for inability to use capsules or tablets. Limit 300 ml per 30 days	
	25 mg tablet	QL	\$1.91	Limit 60 per 30 days	
	50 mg tablet	QL	\$1.53		
	100 mg tablet	OL	\$2.34		

#### Table 1. Available Antidepressant/Anti-Anxiety Medications (Current as of 2/2020)

NF = Non-Formulary; PA = Prior Authorization required; QL = Quantity Limit

Health Plan

\*Cost per Rx based on HPSJ utilization historical data

Generic Name (Brand Name)	Available Strengths	Fml Lmt	Avg Cost per Rx*	Notes
Selective Serotonin I	Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI)			
Nefazodone (Serzone)	50 mg tablet	QL	\$73.88	
	100 mg tablet	QL	\$59.61	
	150 mg tablet	QL	\$78.53	Limit 90 per 30 days
	200 mg tablet	QL	\$51.19	
	250 mg tablet	QL	\$46.98	
	50 mg tablet		\$1.68	
Tuonodono	100 mg tablet		\$3.07	Can be used in somewhid in some
Trazodone	150 mg tablet		\$5.43	Can be used in comorbid insomnia.
	300 mg tablet			
**	5 mg tablet	PA	\$407.41	Reserved for treatment failure of two different dose
Vortioxetine (Trintollin)	10 mg tablet	PA	\$367.97	optimized formulary antidepressants for 2 months
(Trintellix)	20 mg tablet	PA	\$389.57	each
	10 mg tablet	PA	\$277.69	Reserved for treatment failure of two different dose
Vilazodone	20 mg tablet	PA	\$278.85	optimized formulary antidepressants for 2 months
(Viibryd)	40 mg tablet	PA	\$277.00	each
(Thoryu)	10-20 mg starter pack	NF		
Serotonin Noreniner	ohrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SN			
Serotonini Norepinej	25 mg tablet	QL	\$13.26	Limit 90 per 30 days
	37.5 mg tablet	QL	\$8.01	Limit 90 per 30 days
	50 mg tablet	QL	\$7.10	Limit 90 per 30 days
	75 mg tablet	QL	\$11.04	Limit 90 per 30 days
	100 mg tablet	QL QL	\$9.10	Limit 90 per 30 days
Venlafaxine		QL QL	\$4.62	
(Effexor/Effexor	37.5 mg XR capsule 75 mg XR capsule	÷	\$4.02	Limit 60 per 30 days
XR)		QL	· · · · · ·	Limit 60 per 30 days
	150 mg XR capsule	QL	\$5.82	Limit 60 per 30 days
	37.5 mg XR tablet	NF	\$140.73	Formulary alternative = 37.5 mg XR capsule
	75 mg XR tablet	NF		Formulary alternative = 75 mg XR capsule
	150 mg XR tablet	NF		Formulary alternative = 150 mg XR capsule
	225 mg XR tablet	NF	\$303.74	Formulary alternative = 150 mg + 75 mg XR capsule
	20 mg DR capsule	QL	\$7.28	Limit 60 capsules per 30 days
Duloxetine	30 mg DR capsule	QL	\$6.83	Limit 60 capsules per 30 days
(Cymbalta)	40 mg DR capsule	NF	\$114.43	Formulary alternative = Two 20 mg XR capsules
	60 mg DR capsule	QL	\$5.71	Limit 30 capsules per 30 days
Desvenlafaxine	50 mg ER tablet	NF		
(Khedezla)	100 mg ER tablet	NF		Formulary alternative = Desvenlafaxine succinate
Desvenlafaxine	50 mg ER tablet	NF		50mg, 100mg ER tablets
fumarate	100 mg ER tablet	NF		
	25 mg ER tablet	NF	\$25.74	
Desvenlafaxine	50 mg ER tablet	PA	\$24.89	Reserved for patients diagnosed with MDD who
succinate (Pristiq)	100 mg ER tablet	PA	\$26.10	have failed dose optimized venlafaxine and duloxetine
	12.5 mg tablet	PA		
	25 mg tablet	PA	\$355.77	Reserved for treatment failure of dose-optimized
Milnacipran (Savella)	50 mg tablet	PA	\$341.12	Venlafaxine for at least 2 months
	100 mg tablet	PA	\$241.06	
	12.5 mg-25 mg-50 mg titration pack	PA	\$311.98	Reserved for treatment failure of dose-optimized Venlafaxine for at least 2 months. Limit 1 fill per 180 days.
	20 mg ER capsule	PA	\$397.32	
	40 mg ER capsule	PA	\$200.33	Reserved for treatment failure of dose optimized
Levomilnacipran	80 mg ER capsule	PA	\$400.66	venlafaxine and duloxetine for 2 months each
(Fetzima)	120 mg ER capsule	PA	\$403.39	
u cizimaj	20 mg-40 mg titration pack	PA; FL		Reserved for treatment failure of dose optimized venlafaxine and duloxetine for 2 months each. Limit 1 fill per 180 days.

NF = Non-Formulary; PA = Prior Authorization required; QL = Quantity Limit \*Cost per Rx based on HPSJ utilization historical data

Available Strengths	Fml Lmt	Avg Cost per Rx*	Notes	
Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitor	(NDRI)			
75 mg tablet		\$9.29		
		\$11.04		
3				
100 mg SR tablet		\$7.27		
150 mg SR tablet		\$6.34	Bupropion SR is equivalent to Zyban	
200 mg SR tablet		\$9.42		
150 mg XR tablet		\$8.57		
300 mg XR tablet		\$10.43		
			Formulary alternative = bupropion hydrochloride	
Forfivo XL 450 mg XR tablet	NF		150 mg + 300 mg XR tablet	
100 mg SR tablet	NF		Formulary alternative = bupropion hydrochloride	
			SR tablet	
			Formulary alternative = bupropion hydrochloride	
			150 mg, 300 mg XR tablet	
		\$3.32		
25 mg tablet		\$5.45		
50 mg tablet		\$10.52		
75 mg tablet		\$18.24	Avoid use in members over 65 years old	
100 mg tablet		\$21.53		
150 mg tablet		\$35.12		
25 mg capsule	NF	\$226.83	Avoid use in members over 65 years old	
50 mg capsule	NF	\$115.96	Use in beneficiaries less than 10 years of age	
75 mg capsule	NF	\$185.25	requires treatment authorization approval.	
		\$22.95		
		\$30.62		
50 mg tablet		\$57.10		
75 mg tablet			Avoid use in members over 65 years old	
100 mg tablet		\$90.02		
150 mg tablet				
Silenor 3 mg tablet	NF		Avoid use in members over 65 years old	
Silenor 6 mg tablet	NF		Use in beneficiaries less than 18 years of age requires treatment authorization approval.	
10 mg/5 ml solution		\$1.68		
10 mg capsule		\$12.31		
25 mg capsule		\$15.78		
50 mg capsule		\$28.83		
75 mg capsule		\$28.56	Avoid use in members over 65 years old	
		\$42.65	Avoid use in members over 05 years ou	
		\$71.14		
10 mg tablet		\$3.40		
		\$4.05		
25 mg tablet				
50 mg tablet		\$7.02		
50 mg tablet 10 mg/5 ml oral		\$7.02 \$51.32	Avoid use in members over 65 years old. Reserved	
50 mg tablet 10 mg/5 ml oral concentrate	 PA	\$51.32	Avoid use in members over 65 years old. Reserved for inability to use capsules or tablets.	
50 mg tablet 10 mg/5 ml oral concentrate 10 mg capsule	 PA 	\$51.32 \$3.89	for inability to use capsules or tablets.	
50 mg tablet 10 mg/5 ml oral concentrate 10 mg capsule 25 mg capsule	 PA 	\$51.32 \$3.89 \$4.59		
50 mg tablet 10 mg/5 ml oral concentrate 10 mg capsule 25 mg capsule 50 mg capsule	 PA  	\$51.32 \$3.89 \$4.59 \$5.24	for inability to use capsules or tablets.	
50 mg tablet10 mg/5 ml oral concentrate10 mg capsule25 mg capsule50 mg capsule75 mg capsule	 PA   	\$51.32 \$3.89 \$4.59	for inability to use capsules or tablets.	
50 mg tablet 10 mg/5 ml oral concentrate 10 mg capsule 25 mg capsule 50 mg capsule	 PA  	\$51.32 \$3.89 \$4.59 \$5.24	for inability to use capsules or tablets.	
	Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitor75 mg tablet100 mg SR tablet100 mg SR tablet150 mg SR tablet200 mg SR tablet150 mg XR tablet300 mg XR tablet300 mg XR tablet150 mg SR tablet100 mg SR tablet100 mg SR tablet100 mg SR tablet100 mg SR tablet25 mg XR tablet100 mg SR tabletAplenzin 174 mg XR tabletAplenzin 522 mg XR tablet25 mg tablet25 mg tablet50 mg tablet150 mg tablet25 mg tablet100 mg tablet25 mg capsule50 mg capsule75 mg tablet100 mg tablet25 mg tablet100 mg tablet25 mg capsule10 mg tablet25 mg tablet10 mg tablet25 mg capsule10 mg tablet25 mg capsule10 mg tablet150 mg tablet150 mg tablet150 mg tablet150 mg tablet150 mg capsule100 mg capsule25 mg capsule50 mg capsule50 mg capsule50 mg capsule50 mg capsule50 mg capsule50 mg capsule100 mg capsule	Available StrengthsLmtDopamine Reuptake Inhibitor (NDRI)75 mg tablet100 mg tablet100 mg SR tablet150 mg SR tablet200 mg SR tablet150 mg SR tablet300 mg SR tablet50 mg SR tablet100 mg SR tabletNF100 mg SR tabletNFAplenzin 174 mg XR tabletNFAplenzin 348 mg XR tabletNFAplenzin 522 mg XR tabletNF25 mg tablet10 mg tablet25 mg tablet100 mg tablet150 mg tablet100 mg tablet25 mg capsuleNF10 mg tablet25 mg capsuleNF10 mg tablet25 mg tablet50 mg tablet150 mg tablet150 mg tablet150 mg tablet150 mg tablet150 mg capsule100 mg capsule25 mg capsule100 mg capsule100 mg capsule100 mg capsule100 mg capsule150 mg capsule150 mg capsule150 mg capsule <t< td=""><td>Available Strengths      Lmt      per Rx*        Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitor (NDRI)      75 mg tablet       \$9.29        100 mg tablet       \$11.94        100 mg SR tablet       \$6.34        200 mg SR tablet       \$6.34        200 mg SR tablet       \$9.42        150 mg SR tablet       \$8.57        300 mg XR tablet       \$10.43        Forfivo XL 450 mg XR tablet      NF         100 mg SR tablet      NF         100 mg SR tablet      NF         Aplenzin 174 mg XR tablet      NF         Aplenzin 348 mg XR tablet      NF         10 mg tablet       \$10.52        75 mg tablet       \$10.52        75 mg tablet       \$21.53        150 mg tablet       \$21.53        150 mg tablet       \$21.53        150 mg tablet       \$22.683        50 mg tablet       \$30.62        75 mg tablet     &lt;</td></t<>	Available Strengths      Lmt      per Rx*        Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitor (NDRI)      75 mg tablet       \$9.29        100 mg tablet       \$11.94        100 mg SR tablet       \$6.34        200 mg SR tablet       \$6.34        200 mg SR tablet       \$9.42        150 mg SR tablet       \$8.57        300 mg XR tablet       \$10.43        Forfivo XL 450 mg XR tablet      NF         100 mg SR tablet      NF         100 mg SR tablet      NF         Aplenzin 174 mg XR tablet      NF         Aplenzin 348 mg XR tablet      NF         10 mg tablet       \$10.52        75 mg tablet       \$10.52        75 mg tablet       \$21.53        150 mg tablet       \$21.53        150 mg tablet       \$21.53        150 mg tablet       \$22.683        50 mg tablet       \$30.62        75 mg tablet     <	

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Generic Name (Brand Name)	Available Strengths	Fml Lmt	Avg Cost per Rx*	Notes		
Miscellaneous Antidepressants/Antianxiety agents						
	7.5 mg tablet	QL	\$30.19			
Mirtazapine	15 mg tablet	QL	\$2.21			
(Remeron,	30 mg tablet	QL	\$3.16			
Remeron SolTab)	45 mg tablet	QL	\$4.88	Limit 30 per 30 days		
	15 mg ODT	QL	\$19.60			
	30 mg ODT	QL	\$16.02			
	45 mg ODT	QL	\$24.93			
	5 mg tablet		\$1.62			
	7.5 mg tablet		\$21.13			
Buspirone (Buspar)	10 mg tablet		\$3.04	Can be used adjunctively in depression		
	15 mg tablet		\$3.98			
	30 mg tablet		\$13.56			
	HCl 10 mg/5 ml syrup		\$11.55			
	HCl 10 mg tablet	1	\$2.54			
	Pamoate 25 mg capsule		\$3.78			
Hydroxyzine	HCl 25 mg tablet		\$4.90			
(Atarax, Vistaril)	Pamoate 50 mg capsule					
	HCl 50 mg tablet		\$5.05			
	Pamoate 100 mg capsule		\$30.58			
Managhanata	200 mg tablet	NF				
Meprobamate	400 mg tablet	NF				
Benzodiazepines						
Alprazolam (Xanax)	0.25 mg tablet		\$0.82			
	0.5 mg tablet		\$1.09	Short term use only		
	1 mg tablet		\$1.59	Short term use only		
	2 mg tablet		\$3.35			
Lorazepam	0.5 mg tablet		\$1.14			
(Ativan)/	1 mg tablet		\$1.82	Short term use only		
Lorazepam	2 mg tablet		\$3.08	Short term use only		
Intensol)	2 mg/ml oral solution		\$19.82			
Chlordiazepoxide	5 mg capsule		\$1.61			
(Librium)	10 mg capsule		\$1.87	Short term use only		
	25 mg capsule		\$2.02			
Diazepam (Valium)	2 mg tablet	NF	\$0.52			
	5mg tablet	NF	\$1.79			
	10mg tablet	NF	\$1.99			
	5mg/5ml oral solution	NF	\$7.96			
	5 mg/ml injection	NF				
	2.5 mg rectal gel	NF				
	10 mg rectal gel	NF				
	20 mg rectal gel	NF				

NF = Non-Formulary; PA = Prior Authorization required; QL = Quantity Limit \*Cost per Rx based on HPSJ utilization historical data

# **<u>EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL/EXCEPTION CONSIDERATION</u>**

Below are the coverage criteria and required information for each agent. These coverage criteria have been reviewed approved by the HPSJ Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Advisory Committee. For conditions not covered under this Coverage Policy, HPSJ will make the determination based on Medical Necessity as described in HPSJ Medical Review Guidelines (UM06).

#### SSRI

Citalopram (Celexa) tablets; Escitalopram (Lexapro) tablets; Fluoxetine (Prozac) capsules; Fluvoxamine (Luvox) tablets; Trazodone

- **Coverage Criteria:** None
- □ Limits: None
- **D** Required Information for Approval: N/A

□ Non-Formulary: Fluoxetine tablets, Fluoxetine DR capsules, Fluvoxamine ER capsules

#### Paroxetine HCl (Paxil) immediate-release (IR) tablets; extended-release (ER) tablets

- **Coverage Criteria:** Paroxetine ER tablets are reserved for failure of 2 months of dose-optimized paroxetine IR tablets.
- **Limits:** 30 tablets per 30 days
- **Required Information for Approval:** N/A
- **Non-Formulary:** Paroxetine mesylate (Brisdelle, Pexeva)

# Citalopram solution; Escitalopram (Lexapro) solution; Fluoxetine solution; Paroxetine (Paxil) suspension; Sertraline (Zoloft) oral concentrate

- **Coverage Criteria:** Reserved for patients with inability to swallow tablets or capsules.
- □ Limits: None
- **Required Information for Approval:** Documented inability to use capsules or tablets by mouth.

#### Sertraline (Zoloft) tablets

- **Coverage Criteria:** None
- **Limits:** 60 tablets per 30 days
- **Required Information for Approval:** N/A

#### Sertraline (Zoloft) oral concentrate

- **Coverage Criteria:** Sertraline oral concentrate is reserved for patients with inability to swallow tablets or capsules.
- **Limits:** 300 ml per 30 days
- **Required Information for Approval:** Documented inability to use capsules or tablets by mouth.

#### Nefazodone (Serzone)

- **Coverage Criteria:** None
- **Limits:** 90 tablets per 30 days
- **Required Information for Approval:** N/A
- **Other Notes:** Avoid in patients with history of liver disease. BBW: Hepatotoxicity

#### Vortioxetine (Trintellix), Vilazodone (Viibryd)

- **Coverage Criteria:** Reserved for treatment failure of two different dose-optimized formulary antidepressants for 2 months each.
- □ Limits: None
- □ **Required Information for Approval:** Chart notes and pharmacy fill history documenting treatment failure of an "adequate trial" of 2 dose-optimized antidepressants for at least 2 months. Drug intolerance due to side effects does not qualify as an "adequate trial".

#### SNRI

#### Venlafaxine (Effexor), Venlafaxine XR Capsules (Effexor XR)

- **Coverage Criteria:** None
- □ Limits:
  - Venlafaxine tablets: 90 tablets per month
  - Venlafaxine XR capsules:
    - Venlafaxine XR 37.5 mg, 150 mg: 60 capsules per month
    - Venlafaxine XR 75 mg: 90 capsules per month
- **Required Information for Approval:** N/A
- **Other Notes:** Dose optimized Venlafaxine is defined as 150mg 220mg per day.
- □ Non-Formulary: Venlafaxine XR tablets

#### Duloxetine (Cymbalta) 20 mg, 30 mg, 60 mg DR capsules

- **Coverage Criteria:** None
- □ Limits:
  - o Duloxetine 20 mg, 30 mg DR capsules: 60 capsules per 30 days
  - **Duloxetine 60 mg DR capsules:** 30 capsules per 30 days
- **Required Information for Approval:** N/A

- □ **Other Notes:** There is no evidence that Duloxetine dosages of more than 60 mg/day confer additional benefit, even in patients who do not respond to a 60 mg dose, and higher doses are associated with a higher rate of adverse reactions.
- **Non-Formulary:** Duloxetine 40 mg DR capsules

#### Desvenlafaxine succinate (Pristiq) 50 mg, 100 mg ER tablets

- **Coverage Criteria:** Pristiq is reserved for patients with major depressive disorder who have had treatment failure of dose-optimized Effexor XR and Cymbalta for 2 months each.
- □ Limits: None
- **Required Information for Approval:** Chart notes and pharmacy fill history documenting treatment failure of dose optimized venlafaxine and duloxetine for at least 2 months each.
- □ Other Notes: Desvenlafaxine is the major active metabolite of venlafaxine.<sup>2</sup> At least 92% of a single dose of venlafaxine is absorbed, and venlafaxine is extensively metabolized by the liver—primarily to ODV—prior to reaching systemic circulation.<sup>3</sup> There is no evidence that desvenlafaxine is more effective than venlafaxine.
- **Non-Formulary:** Desvenlafaxine (Khedezla), Desvenlafaxine fumarate

#### NDRI

#### Bupropion (Welbutrin IR, SR, Zyban; 150 mg, 300 mg XL tablets)

- **Coverage Criteria:** None
- □ Limits: None
- **Required Information for Approval:** N/A
- **Other Notes:** Avoid use in patients with seizure disorders.
- □ **Non-Formulary:** Bupropion hydrochloride (Forfivo XL; 24-hour) 450 mg XL tablets, Bupropion (12-hour), Bupropion hydrobromide (Aplenzin; 24-hour)

## TCA

Amitriptyline (Elavil); Nortriptyline (Pamelor) capsules; Imipramine (Tofranil); Desipramine (Norpramine); Doxepin (Sinquan) capsules, solution

- **Coverage Criteria:** None
- **Limits:** None
- **Required Information for Approval:** N/A
- Other Notes: None
- **Non-Formulary:** Clomipramine, Doxepin (Silenor) tablets, Trimipramine

#### Nortriptyline solution

- **Coverage Criteria:** Nortriptyline solution is reserved for patients with inability to swallow tablets or capsules.
- □ Limits: None
- **Required Information for Approval:** Documented inability to use capsules or tablets by mouth.
- **Other Notes:** None

#### Miscellaneous Antidepressants/Antianxiety Agents

#### Mirtazapine (Remeron)

- **Coverage Criteria:** None
- **Limits:** 30 tablets per 30 days
- **Required Information for Approval:** N/A
- **Other Notes:** None

#### Buspirone (Buspar), Hydroxyzine (Atarax)

- **Coverage Criteria:** None
- Limits: None
- **Required Information for Approval:** N/A
- Other Notes: None
- **Non-Formulary:** Meprobamate

# Benzodiazepines

Alprazolam (Xanax), Lorazepam (Ativan), Chlordiazepoxide (Librium)

- **Coverage Criteria:** None
- □ Limits: None
- **Required Information for Approval:** N/A
- **Other Notes:** None

#### Temazepam (Restoril) 15 mg, 30 mg capsules

- **Coverage Criteria:** None
- **Limits:** 60 Capsules per 75 days
- **Required Information for Approval:** N/A
- **Other Notes:** For approval over the quantity limit, submit documentation that the member is in a skilled nursing facility, or has an activating mental health issue, such as bipolar disorder.
- **Non-Formulary:** 7.5 mg, 22.5 mg capsules

### **CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION**

According to the American Psychiatric Association guidelines for the treatment of patients with major depressive disorder, an SSRI, SNRI, mirtazapine, or bupropion is optimal for most patients and patients may be changed to an antidepressant from the same pharmacological class or to a different pharmacological class or local s.<sup>1</sup> Augmentation using another non-MAOI antidepressant from a different pharmacological class or lithium, thyroid hormone, or an antipsychotic is another option. These guidelines also recommend 4-8 weeks of treatment before concluding that a patient is partially-responsive or unresponsive to an intervention.<sup>1</sup>

Based on the APA guidelines, treatment failure with one antidepressant does not rule out an entire class. Many times patients will respond differently to another drug product within a class. Given the long lead time for efficacy (6-8 weeks), it is important that members give dose-optimized antidepressants a proper trial to determine efficacy. Providers should also give patients clear expectations of treatment goals. Cognitive behavioral therapy is an important part of treating depression and anxiety and greatly increases efficacy of treatment.

Most SSRIs, venlafaxine, mirtazapine, and bupropion are available on formulary without restrictions. In general, quantity limits are in place to ensure dose consolidation. Reduction in the number of tablets or capsules helps to ensure patient compliance by reducing pill burden. Quantity limits on the maximum available strength of these medications (e.g., Duloxetine 60 mg) are in place to ensure maximum effective doses are not exceeded. Specifically, duloxetine has been studied in doses up to 120 mg daily with similar efficacy to the 60 mg daily dose; however, there is no evidence that doses above 60 mg daily provides additional benefits for major depressive disorder. Additionally, incidence of treatment-emergent adverse reactions was significantly greater with 120 mg/day than 60 mg/day.<sup>4</sup> Prior authorization requirements are in place to ensure the patients first try the available first-line and more cost-effective therapies.

According to the International College of Neuro-Psychopharmacology (CINP) guidelines for generalized anxiety disorder, OCD, and PTSD and the APA guidelines for panic disorder, SSRIs and SNRIs are considered initial treatment for these anxiety-associated disorders.<sup>5-7</sup> Benzodiazepine use should be limited to short-term treatment. These agents should be used sparingly, and only in conjunction with agents used for chronic anxiety, such as an SSRI. Benzodiazepines have a high risk for addiction and dependence. While use is not restricted by the HPSJ formulary, physicians should be aware of the potential risks of overuse.

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<b>Document Changes</b>	Reference	Date	P&T Chairman	
Creation of Policy	Cymbalta 9-06.doc	9/2006	Allen Shek, PharmD, BCPS	
Update to Policy	SSRI_11-06.doc	11/2006	Allen Shek, PharmD, BCPS	
Update to Policy	SSRI review 9-16-08.doc	9/2008	Allen Shek, PharmD, BCPS	
Update to Policy	Venlafaxine ER_11-17-09 final.doc	11/2009	Allen Shek, PharmD, BCPS	
Update to Policy	Fibromyalgia review_11-17-09.doc	11/2009	Allen Shek, PharmD, BCPS	
Update to Policy	Citalopram FDA warning revision 3/20 20120329.pdf		Allen Shek, PharmD, BCPS	
Update to Policy	Savella Review 9-18-2012.doc	9/2012	Allen Shek, PharmD, BCPS	
Update to Policy	Savella Review 11-20-2012.doc	11/2012	Allen Shek, PharmD, BCPS	
Update to Policy	Antidepressant Class Review 2014-05-	5/2014	Jonathan Szkotak, PharmD,	
	29.docx		BCACP	
Update to Policy	HPSJ Coverage Policy - Psychiatric -	9/2015	Jonathan Szkotak, PharmD,	
	Depression-Anxiety 2015-05.docx		BCACP	
Update to Policy	HPSJ Coverage Policy - Psychiatric -	2/2017	Johnathan Yeh, PharmD	
	Depression-Anxiety 2017-02.docx			
Update to Policy	HPSJ Coverage Policy - Psychiatric -	5/2018	Johnathan Yeh, PharmD	
	Depression-Anxiety 2018-05.docx			
Update to Policy	Jpdate to Policy HPSJ Coverage Policy - Psychiatric -		Matthew Garrett, PharmD	
	Depression-Anxiety 2019-05.docx			
Update to Policy	HPSJ Coverage Policy - Psychiatric -	5/2020	Matthew Garrett, PharmD	
	Depression-Anxiety 2019-05.docx			

# **REVIEW & EDIT HISTORY**

Note: All changes are approved by the HPSJ P&T Committee before incorporation into the utilization policy