

Policies Repository



Policy Title Tadalafil (Adcirca™)

Policy Number FS.CLIN.13

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Members are advised to use participating pharmacies in order to receive the highest level of benefits.

Policy

Tadalafil (Adcirca™) is a phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitor indicated for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (WHO Group 1) to improve exercise ability.

The use of tadalafil (Adcirca™) requires prior authorization (ie, clinical pharmacy and/or Medical Director review).

Policy Description

Tadalafil (Adcirca™) is an inhibitor of PDE5, the enzyme responsible for the degradation of cGMP. PAH is associated with impaired release of nitric oxide by the vascular endothelium and consequent reduction of cGMP concentrations in the pulmonary vascular smooth muscle. PDE5 is the predominant phosphodiesterase in the pulmonary vasculature. Inhibition of PDE5 by tadalafil increases the concentrations of cGMP resulting in

relaxation of pulmonary vascular smooth muscle cells and vasodilation of the pulmonary vascular bed.

Policy Guideline Inclusion

Tadalafil (Adcirca™) is approved when all of the following inclusion criteria are met:

- Documentation of a diagnosis of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- No documentation or history of nitrate use within the past six months

Policy Guideline Exclusion

Tadalafil (Adcirca™) is denied when any of the following exclusion criterion is present:

- No documentation of a diagnosis of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- Documentation or history of nitrate use within the past six months

Policy List of Applicable Drugs

Brand Name	Generic Name
Adcirca	Tadalafil

Dosing and Administration

Refer to the specific manufacturer's prescribing information for administration and dosage details for each specific agent.

Policy References

Product Information: ADCIRCA (TM) oral tablets, tadalafil oral tablets. Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN, 2009. Accessed December 28, 2009.

Galie N, Brundage BH, Ghofrani HA, et al: Tadalafil therapy for pulmonary arterial hypertension. Circulation 2009; Epub: Epub-.

Policy Link to Related Policies

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