

# Pharmacy Policy Bulletin

**Title:** Linagliptin (Tradjenta) and Linagliptin/metformin (Jentadueto)

**Policy #:** Rx.01.50

**Application of pharmacy policy is determined by benefits and contracts. Benefits may vary based on product line, group, or contract. Some medications may be subject to precertification, age, gender or quantity restrictions. Individual member benefits must be verified.**

**This pharmacy policy document describes the status of pharmaceutical information and/or technology at the time the document was developed. Since that time, new information relating to drug efficacy, interactions, contraindications, dosage, administration routes, safety, or FDA approval may have changed. This Pharmacy Policy will be regularly and updated as scientific and medical literature becomes available. This information may include new FDA-approved indications, withdrawals, or other FDA alerts. This type of information is relevant not only when considering whether this policy should be updated, but also when applying it to current requests for coverage.**

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

#### ▶ Intent:

**Linagliptin (Tradjenta)** is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus. **Linagliptin/metformin (Jentadueto)** is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus when treatment with both linagliptin and metformin is appropriate.

The use of Linagliptin (Tradjenta) and Linagliptin/metformin (Jentadueto) requires prior authorization (i.e. clinical pharmacy and/or Medical Director review).

#### ▶ Description:

**Linagliptin (Tradjenta)** is an inhibitor of DPP-4, an enzyme that degrades the incretin hormones glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) and glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP). Thus, linagliptin increases the concentrations of active incretin hormones, stimulating the release of insulin in a glucose-dependent manner and decreasing the levels of glucagon in the circulation. Jentadueto is a combination product containing linagliptin and the biguanide metformin.

#### ▶ Policy:

**Linagliptin (Tradjenta) and Linagliptin/metformin (Jentadueto)** are approved when the following inclusion criteria is met:

- Documentation of a trial and failure/contraindication/intolerance/allergy to a Januvia-containing product and Onglyza-containing product

#### ▶ Guidelines:

Refer to the specific manufacturer's prescribing information for administration and dosage details and any applicable Black Box warnings.

## BENEFIT APPLICATION

Subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable benefit contract, the applicable drug(s) identified in this policy is (are) covered under the pharmacy benefits of the Company's products when the medical necessity criteria listed in this pharmacy policy are met. Any services that are experimental/investigational or cosmetic are benefit contract exclusions for all products of the Company.


#### ▶ References:

Tradjenta [package insert], Boehringer Ingelheim International, 2011.

Facts and Comparison website [Tradjenta]. Available at [www.factsandcomparisons.com](http://www.factsandcomparisons.com). Accessed July 28, 2011.

Facts and Comparison website [Jentadueto]. Available at [www.factsandcomparisons.com](http://www.factsandcomparisons.com). Accessed February 13, 2012.

**Applicable Drugs:**

 Inclusion of a drug in this table does not imply coverage. Eligibility, benefits, limitations, exclusions, precertification/referral requirements, provider contracts, and Company policies apply.

Brand Name	Generic Name
Tradjenta	linagliptin
Jentadueto	linagliptin and metformin

**Cross References:**

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**Policy Version Number:** 1.00  
**P&T Approval Date:** February 03, 2012  
**Policy Effective Date:** February 17, 2012  
**Next Required Review Date:** February 03, 2013

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