

Policies Repository



Policy Title Pregabalin (Lyrica®)

Policy Number FS.CLIN.38

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

Policy **Pregabalin (Lyrica®)** is indicated for the treatment of postherpetic neuralgia (PHN), diabetic peripheral neuropathic pain (DPNP), fibromyalgia, and as an add-on therapy for the treatment of partial onset epileptic seizures in adults.

The use of pregabalin (Lyrica®) requires prior authorization (ie, clinical pharmacy and/or Medical Director review).

Policy Description

Pregabalin's (Lyrica®) exact mechanism of action of is unknown. Preclinical studies have shown that pregabalin (Lyrica®) binds with high affinity to the alpha-2-delta site (an auxiliary subunit of voltage-gated calcium channels) in central nervous system tissues. These results suggest that binding to the alpha-2-delta subunit may be involved in pregabalin's (Lyrica's®) antinociceptive and antiseizure effects.

In vitro, pregabalin (Lyrica®) reduces the calcium-dependent release of several neurotransmitters, possibly by modulation of calcium channel function. Pregabalin (Lyrica®) does not block sodium channels, is not active at opiate receptors, and does not alter cyclooxygenase enzyme activity. It is inactive at serotonin and dopamine receptors and does not inhibit dopamine, serotonin, or noradrenaline reuptake.

Policy Guideline Inclusion

Pregabalin (Lyrica®) is approved when **one** of the following inclusion criteria is met:

- Documentation of neuropathic pain that is associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN) secondary to diabetes
- Documentation of add-on therapy for partial onset epileptic seizures in adults with trial and failure or contraindication/intolerance/allergy to gabapentin
- Documentation of diagnosis of postherpetic neuralgia with trial and failure or contraindication/intolerance/allergy to gabapentin
- Documentation of diagnosis of fibromyalgia
- Documentation of diagnosis of non-diabetic neuropathic pain with trial and failure or

contraindication/intolerance/allergy to gabapentin and any three of the following medications:

- An opioid containing product
- Tramadol
- A tricyclic antidepressant
- A lidocaine-containing product
- Carbamazepine
- A venlafaxine-containing product

Policy Guideline Exclusion

Pregabalin (Lyrica®) is denied when **all** of the following exclusion criteria are present:

- No documentation of diagnosis of non-diabetic neuropathic pain with trial and failure or contraindication/intolerance/allergy to gabapentin and any three of the following medications
 - An opioid containing product
 - Tramadol
 - A tricyclic antidepressant
 - A lidocaine-containing product
 - Carbamazepine
 - A venlafaxine-containing product
- No documentation of neuropathic pain that is associated with DPN secondary of diabetes
- No documentation of add-on therapy for partial onset epileptic seizures in adults with trial and failure or contraindication/intolerance/allergy to gabapentin
- No documentation of diagnosis of postherpetic neuralgia with trial and failure or contraindication/intolerance/allergy to gabapentin
- No documentation of fibromyalgia

Policy List of Applicable Drugs

Brand Name	Generic Name
Lyrica	pregabalin

Dosing and Administration

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

Policy References

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Policy Link to Related Policies

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