

Policies Repository



Policy Title Ropinirole extended-release tablets (Requip® XL™)

Policy Number FS.CLIN.62

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 edits. 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. If the Medical/Pharmacy Reviewer is aware of any new information on the subject of this document, please provide it promptly to the Medical/Pharmacy Policy Department. 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.

Policy **Ropinirole extended-release tablets (Requip® XL™)** is indicated for treatment of signs and symptoms of idiopathic Parkinson's disease.

The use of Ropinirole extended-release tablets (Requip® XL™) requires prior authorization (ie, clinical pharmacy and/or Medical Director review).

Policy Description **Ropinirole extended-release tablets (Requip® XL™)** is a non-ergoline dopamine agonist with high relative in vitro specificity and full intrinsic activity at the D2 and D3 dopamine receptor subtypes, binding with higher affinity to D3 than to D2 or D4 receptor subtypes. Ropinirole has moderate in vitro affinity for opioid receptors. Ropinirole and its metabolites have negligible in vitro affinity for dopamine D1, 5-HT1, 5-HT2, benzodiazepine, GABA, muscarinic, alpha1-, alpha2-, and beta-adrenoreceptors. The precise mechanism of action of ropinirole as a treatment for Parkinson's disease is unknown, although it is believed to be due to stimulation of postsynaptic dopamine D2-type receptors within the caudate-putamen in the brain. This conclusion is supported by studies that show that ropinirole improves motor function in various animal models of Parkinson's disease. In particular, ropinirole attenuates the motor deficits induced by lesioning the ascending nigrostriatal dopaminergic pathway with the neurotoxin 1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine (MPTP) in primates.

Policy Guideline Inclusion **Ropinirole extended-release tablets (Requip® XL™)** is approved when **all** of the following inclusion criteria are met:

- Documentation of a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease
- Documentation of non-compliance with a 30 day therapy of Ropinirole immediate release containing product

Policy Guideline Exclusion **Ropinirole extended-release tablets (Requip® XL™)** is denied when **any** of the following exclusion criteria is met:

- No documentation of a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease
- No documentation of non-compliance with a 30 day therapy of Ropinirole immediate release containing product

Policy List of Applicable Drugs

Brand Name	Generic Name
Requip XL	ropinirole extended-release tablets

Dosing and Administration

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

Policy References

Requip® XL™ (ropinirole extended-release tablets). In: Facts and Comparisons [online through Facts and Comparisons Online]. Indy, IN: Walter Kluwer Health Inc. Accessed October 20, 2008.

Requip® XL™ (ropinirole extended-release tablets). In: Drugdex [online through Micromedex Healthcare Series]. Greenwood Village, CO: Thomson Micromedex. Accessed October 20, 2008.

Requip® XL™ (ropinirole extended-release tablets). Research Triangle Park, NC 27709: GlaxoSmithKline; July 2008.

Policy Link to Related Policies

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