Medication Policy Manual

Policy No: dru226

Date of Origin: August 11, 2010

Committee Approval Date: December 16, 2016

Next Review Date: December 2017

Effective Date: January 1, 2017

IMPORTANT REMINDER

This Medication Policy has been developed through consideration of medical necessity, generally accepted standards of medical practice, and review of medical literature and government approval status.

Benefit determinations should be based in all cases on the applicable contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between these guidelines and the contract language, the contract language will control.

The purpose of Medication Policy is to provide a guide to coverage. Medication Policy is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care.

Description

A blood glucose meter is a device that measures the amount of glucose (“sugar”) in the blood. Self-monitoring of the concentration of glucose in the blood is important for people who may experience high or very low blood glucose, such as people with diabetes. The use of the meter often requires that the patient use a lancet to draw blood from a finger. The blood is then placed on a test strip that is then read by the meter. The test strips are disposable and can often be purchased over-the-counter, but are usually covered under most health plans’ benefits.

Abbott glucose meters and testing strips include (but may not be limited to) the FreeStyle and Precision lines of products.
Policy/Criteria

I. Most contracts require prior authorization approval of all Abbott blood glucose testing strips and blood glucose meters prior to coverage (including, but not limited to the FreeStyle Lite, FreeStyle Freedom Lite, FreeStyle InsuLinx, and Precision lines of products). Roche blood glucose testing strips and blood glucose meters may be considered medically necessary when there is a medical reason that an individual member cannot use each of the following meters and test strips:
   A. The LifeScan OneTouch® Ultra® 2 blood glucose meter and test strips
   AND
   B. The LifeScan OneTouch® Verio® IQ blood glucose meter and test strips
   AND
   C. The LifeScan OneTouch® UltraMiniTM blood glucose meter and test strips
   AND
   D. The LifeScan OneTouch® Verio® Sync blood glucose meter and test strips

Medical reasons a member may not be able to use the LifeScan OneTouch Ultra 2, OneTouch Verio IQ, OneTouch® Verio® Sync, or OneTouch UltraMini glucose meters may include (but are not limited to):
- Visual impairment that requires a “talking” glucose meter
- A member uses an insulin pump that communicates with a non-preferred / non-formulary blood glucose meter.
- Clinical documentation of risk of hyper- or hypo-glycemia due to an inability to calculate an accurate correction dose of insulin.

II. Administration, Quantity Limitations, and Authorization Period

When prior authorization is approved, up to two glucose meters may be covered per two year period.
Position Statement

Summary

- Regence recognizes that patient self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) is a cornerstone of the effective management of type 1 and type 2 diabetes.
  * The American Diabetes Association has established a treatment algorithm for patient self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG). [1,2]
  * For patients using insulin injections, noninsulin therapies, or medical nutrition therapy (MNT) alone, SMBG may be useful as a guide to the success of therapy.

- All glucose testing meters and test strips are reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) before they can be marketed to the public.
  * The agency requires that all testing meters must demonstrate acceptable accuracy and consistency of results.
  * All meters are recognized as having similar accuracy and reliability.

- Regence has arranged with LifeScan to provide members with diabetes the opportunity to receive a new LifeScan blood glucose meter at no cost. Details can be found at: http://www.regencerx.com/programs/bloodGlucose/index.html. [3]
  * Members have a choice of the LifeScan OneTouch® Ultra® 2, LifeScan OneTouch® Verio® IQ, LifeScan OneTouch® Verio® Sync, or the LifeScan OneTouch® UltraMini™ meter. A comparison of these meters to other meters can be found at http://www.regencerx.com/docs/bloodGlucoseMeterComparison.pdf.
  * LifeScan OneTouch meters have the following features to help members manage their diabetes: [3]
    - Fast test time: 5 second countdown
    - No coding required
    - Small blood sample size

- The decision to select LifeScan as the formulary product line for diabetes meters and test strips at Regence was based on:
  * Recognition that all marketed meters meet industry standards for accuracy and reliability. There is no evidence that one brand is superior in accuracy or reliability than another.
  * Considerations such as functionality, ease of use, technological enhancements, and cost.
  * Recognition that OneTouch meters and test strips are recommended more frequently by physicians and are preferred by many patients.
  * Input from physicians, pharmacists, and a diabetes educator certified by the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators.

- Legitimate OneTouch brand product recalls shall be posted on the OneTouch website at: www.OneTouch.com.
Cross References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cross Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Testing Supplies, Bayer, dru329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Testing Supplies, Roche, dru228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Testing Supplies, Nipro Diagnostics, dru379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Monitoring of Glucose in the Interstitial Fluid, dme77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References


Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision Date</th>
<th>Revision Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/16/2016</td>
<td>Added exception for clinical documentation of risk of hyper- or hypoglycemia due to an inability to calculate an accurate correction dose of insulin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11/2015</td>
<td>No criteria changes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>