carbinoxamine 6 mg tablets (Ryvent™, generics)

Policy # 00566
Original Effective Date: 06/21/2017
Current Effective Date: 07/10/2023

Applies to all products administered or underwritten by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana and its subsidiary, HMO Louisiana, Inc. (collectively referred to as the “Company”), unless otherwise provided in the applicable contract. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

When Services May Be Eligible for Coverage
Coverage for eligible medical treatments or procedures, drugs, devices or biological products may be provided only if:

- Benefits are available in the member’s contract/certificate, and
- Medical necessity criteria and guidelines are met.

Based on review of available data, the Company may consider Ryvent™ (carbinoxamine 6 mg tablets) and generic carbinoxamine 6 mg tablets to be eligible for coverage** when the patient selection criteria are met.

Patient Selection Criteria
Coverage eligibility for Ryvent (carbinoxamine 6 mg tablets) or generic carbinoxamine 6 mg tablets will be considered when BOTH of the following criteria are met:

- Patient has tried and failed generic carbinoxamine 4 mg tablets/liquid unless there is clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the use of generic carbinoxamine 4 mg tablets/liquid will be ineffective or cause an adverse reaction to the patient; AND
- Patient has tried and failed TWO additional generic prescription antihistamine products (e.g. levocetirizine, desloratadine, clemastine, diphenhydramine, etc) unless there is clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the use of TWO additional generic prescription antihistamine products will be ineffective or cause an adverse reaction to the patient.

When Services Are Considered Not Medically Necessary
Based on review of available data, the Company considers the use of Ryvent (carbinoxamine 6 mg tablets) or generic carbinoxamine 6 mg tablets when BOTH of the patient selection criteria are not met to be not medically necessary.**
Background/Overview
Ryvent is a 6 mg tablet containing carboxamine. Recently, a 6 mg generic carboxamine tablet has become available at an exorbitant price that is even greater than the brand name product’s price. Carboxamine is also generically available as 4 mg tablets and as an oral solution, and it should be noted that these formulations were the original strength carboxamine products on the market. Ryvent and the 6 mg generic carboxamine tablets are approved for the exact same indications as the generic 4 mg products. Those indications are seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis, vasomotor rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis due to inhalant allergens and foods, mild, uncomplicated allergic skin manifestations of urticarial and angioedema, dermatographism, adjunctive anaphylactic reaction therapy, and amelioration of the severity of allergic reactions to blood or plasma.

FDA or Other Governmental Regulatory Approval
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Ryvent and the 6 mg generic carboxamine tablets are indicated for seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis, vasomotor rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis due to inhalant allergens and foods, mild, uncomplicated allergic skin manifestations of urticarial and angioedema, dermatographism, adjunctive anaphylactic reaction therapy, and amelioration of the severity of allergic reactions to blood or plasma.

Rationale/Source
This medical policy was developed through consideration of peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval status, nationally accepted standards of medical practice and accepted standards of medical practice in this community, technology evaluation centers, reference to federal regulations, other plan medical policies, and accredited national guidelines.

Ryvent is simply a 6 mg containing carboxamine tablet. There is a newly existing 6 mg generic carboxamine tablet available at an exorbitant price that is even greater than the brand name product’s price. Ryvent and the 6 mg generic carboxamine tablets have the exact same indications as generic carboxamine 4 mg tablets and liquid, which were the original strength carboxamine products on the market. There are no clinical studies in the package insert to give insight into any advantages of the 6 mg products. There have been no head to head studies of the 6 mg products...
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versus generic carbinoxamine 4 mg products in a clinical setting. Based on a review of the available data, there is no advantage of using Ryvent or the 6 mg generic carbinoxamine tablets over generic carbinoxamine 4 mg products.

References

Policy History
Original Effective Date:  06/21/2017
Current Effective Date:  07/10/2023
06/01/2017       Medical Policy Committee review
06/21/2017       Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. New policy.
06/07/2018       Medical Policy Committee review
06/20/2018       Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. No change to coverage.
06/06/2019       Medical Policy Committee review
06/19/2019       Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. No change to coverage.
06/04/2020       Medical Policy Committee review
06/10/2020       Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Changed the title of the policy to “carbinoxamine 6 g tablets (Ryvent, generics)”. Added the newly available 6 mg carbinoxamine tablets to the policy. Updated the background and rationale sections.
06/03/2021       Medical Policy Committee review
06/09/2021       Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
06/02/2022       Medical Policy Committee review
06/08/2022       Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
06/01/2023       Medical Policy Committee review
06/14/2023       Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.

Next Scheduled Review Date:  06/2024
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**Medically Necessary (or “Medical Necessity”) - Health care services, treatment, procedures, equipment, drugs, devices, items or supplies that a Provider, exercising prudent clinical judgment, would provide to a patient for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that are:

A. In accordance with nationally accepted standards of medical practice;
B. Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, level of care, site and duration, and considered effective for the patient's illness, injury or disease; and
C. Not primarily for the personal comfort or convenience of the patient, physician or other health care provider, and not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of that patient's illness, injury or disease.

For these purposes, “nationally accepted standards of medical practice” means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, Physician Specialty Society recommendations and the views of Physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas and any other relevant factors.

‡ Indicated trademarks are the registered trademarks of their respective owners.

**NOTICE:** If the Patient’s health insurance contract contains language that differs from the BCBSLA Medical Policy definition noted above, the definition in the health insurance contract will be relied upon for specific coverage determinations.

**NOTICE:** Medical Policies are scientific based opinions, provided solely for coverage and informational purposes. Medical Policies should not be construed to suggest that the Company recommends, advocates, requires, encourages, or discourses any particular treatment, procedure, or service, or any particular course of treatment, procedure, or service.