



# Louisiana

## Phosphate Binders

**Policy #** 00451

**Original Effective Date:** 01/01/2015

**Current Effective Date:** 10/17/2018

*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 select phosphate binders [including, but not limited to Phoslo<sup>®</sup> (calcium acetate), Phoslyra<sup>®</sup> (calcium acetate), Fosrenol<sup>®</sup> (lanthanum carbonate), Renagel<sup>®</sup> (sevelamer hydrochloride), Renvela<sup>®</sup> (sevelamer carbonate), Auryxia<sup>®</sup> (ferric citrate), Velphoro<sup>®</sup> (sucroferric oxyhydroxide), generic sevelamer, or generic lanthanum carbonate]<sup>†</sup> to be **eligible for coverage** when the patient selection criteria are met.

### Patient Selection Criteria

Coverage eligibility for select phosphate binders mentioned above will be considered when the following patient selection criteria are met:

- For calcium based phosphate binder requests (e.g., Phoslo, Phoslyra) requests:
  - There is clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the use of generically available calcium acetate products will be/was ineffective or will/did cause an adverse reaction to the patient.
- For NON-calcium based phosphate binder requests (e.g., Fosrenol, Renagel, Renvela, Velphoro, Auryxia, generic sevelamer, generic lanthanum carbonate, etc):
  - There is clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the use of generically available calcium acetate products will be/was ineffective or will/did cause an adverse reaction to the patient (e.g., hypercalcemia, calcium x phosphate product of  $\geq 55$ mg/dL, history/presence of severe vascular and/or soft tissue calcification and/or adynamic bone disease, normocalcemic chronic kidney disease (CKD) patient receiving active vitamin D or vitamin D analogs).

### **When Services Are Considered Not Medically Necessary**

Based on review of available data, the Company considers the use of select phosphate binder products WITHOUT clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the use of generically available calcium acetate products will be/was ineffective or will/did cause an adverse reaction to the patient to be **not medically necessary**.\*\*

### Background/Overview

Phosphate binders are often used in patients with CKD to control phosphate levels. There are essentially two types of phosphate binders: calcium containing phosphate binders and non-calcium containing phosphate binders. All of the available prescription phosphate binders are effective in lowering phosphate

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levels, and there is currently no consensus about whether any particular type of phosphate binder should be used in patients with CKD. There are currently generic phosphate binders available that contain calcium acetate, sevelamer, or lanthanum carbonate.

### **FDA or Other Governmental Regulatory Approval**

#### **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).**

Examples of FDA approved phosphate binders include, but are not limited to, Phoslo, Phoslyra, Fosrenol, Renagel, Renvela, Auryxia, and Velphoro.

### **Rationale/Source**

The patient selection criterion presented in this policy takes into consideration clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the use of generically available calcium acetate products will be/was ineffective or will/did cause an adverse reaction to the patient. Based on a review of the data, in the absence of the above mentioned caveat, there is no advantage of using select phosphate binders mentioned in this policy over the available generic calcium phosphate binder products.

### **References**

1. National Kidney Foundation. K/DOQI clinical practice guidelines for bone metabolism and disease in chronic kidney disease. Am J Kidney Dis 2003; 42:S1.
2. Phoslo [package insert]. Braintree Laboratories, Inc. Braintree, MA 02185.
3. Phoslyra [package insert]. Lyne Laboratories. Brockton, MA 02301. Updated 04/2011.
4. Fosrenol [package insert]. Shire US, Inc. Wayne, PA 19087. Updated 2012.
5. Renagel [package insert]. Genzyme Corporation. Cambridge, MA 02142. Updated 2011.
6. Renvela [package insert]. Genzyme Corporation. Cambridge, MA 02142. Updated 2011.
7. Velphoro [package insert]. Fresenius Medical Care. Waltham, MA 02451. Updated 2013.
8. Auryxia [package insert]. Keryx Biopharmaceuticals, Inc. Floor Boston, Massachusetts. Updated 2016.

### **Policy History**

Original Effective Date:	01/01/2015
Current Effective Date:	10/17/2018
10/02/2014	Medical Policy Committee review
10/15/2014	Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. New policy.
10/08/2015	Medical Policy Committee review
10/21/2015	Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
10/06/2016	Medical Policy Committee review
10/19/2016	Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Updated the policy to reflect the call tree's intent. When this policy was created, there was a generic non-calcium phosphate binder approved by the FDA. Since then, that generic has been pulled from the market. When it was pulled, the criteria was changed to include use of a generic phosphate binder unless the patient could not use a calcium product.
10/05/2017	Medical Policy Committee review
10/18/2017	Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Changed title to "Phosphate Binders". Added new generics (sevelamer and lanthanum carbonate) to the policy.
10/04/2018	Medical Policy Committee review
10/17/2018	Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.

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Next Scheduled Review Date: 10/2019

\*\*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.

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