



Louisiana

Insulins (Non-Long Acting Products)

Policy # 00395

Original Effective Date: 01/01/2014

Current Effective Date: 01/11/2021

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 non-long acting insulin products other than the Novolog[®]‡, Novolin[®]‡, or Fiasp[®]‡ family of products (including, but not limited to Humulin[®], Humalog[®], Insulin Lispro [Authorized {branded} Generic], Insulin Aspart [Authorized {branded} Generic], Apidra[®], Afrezza[®], Lyumjev[™], and Admelog[®] products)‡ to be **eligible for coverage**** when the below patient selection criterion is met:

Note that Humulin U-500 is not subject to this policy

Patient Selection Criterion

Coverage eligibility will be considered for non-long acting insulin products other than the Novolog, Novolin, or Fiasp family of products when the following criterion is met:

- There is clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the use of the Novolin, Novolog, or Fiasp family of 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 non-long acting insulin products other than the Novolin, Novolog, or Fiasp family of products when the patient selection criterion is not met or for usage not included in the above patient selection criterion to be **not medically necessary.****

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Background/Overview

Insulin is indicated for patients with either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes mellitus. There are various forms of insulin including regular, Neutral Protamine Hagedorn (NPH), rapid acting, mixes, and long acting insulin.

Rationale/Source

The patient selection criterion presented in this policy takes into consideration clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the use of the Novolin, Novolog, or Fiasp family of products will be ineffective or 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 a non-long acting insulin product other than the Novolin, Novolog, or Fiasp family of products (such as Humalog, Humulin, Insulin Lispro [Authorized {branded} Generic], Insulin Aspart [Authorized {branded} Generic], Apidra, Afrezza, Lyumjev, or Admelog) over the Novolin, Novolog, or Fiasp family of products. This policy does not pertain to the long acting insulin products such as Lantus^{®†} or Levemir^{®†}.

References

1. Dipiro JT, Talbert RL, Yee GC, et al. Pharmacotherapy: A Pathophysiologic Approach, 8th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2011
2. Eli Lilly Products webpage.
3. NovoNordisk Products webpage.
4. Afrezza product webpage.
5. Admelog products webpage.

Policy History

Original Effective Date: 01/01/2014

Current Effective Date: 01/11/2021

10/10/2013 Medical Policy Committee review

10/16/2013 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. New policy.

10/02/2014 Medical Policy Committee review

10/15/2014 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.

06/04/2015 Medical Policy Committee review

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- 06/17/2015 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added Afrezza to the insulin policy.
- 06/02/2016 Medical Policy Committee review
- 06/20/2016 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
- 06/01/2017 Medical Policy Committee review
- 06/21/2017 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
- 01/04/2018 Medical Policy Committee review
- 01/17/2018 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added Fiasp to the first-line products.
- 06/07/2018 Medical Policy Committee review
- 06/20/2018 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added Admelog to the policy.
- 06/06/2019 Medical Policy Committee review
- 06/19/2019 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added the Insulin Lispro branded generic to the policy.
- 08/06/2020 Medical Policy Committee review
- 08/12/2020 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
- 10/01/2020 Medical Policy Committee review
- 10/07/2020 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Discussion involving preferred insulin products and Authorized Generic placement. Final decision dependent on P&T.
- 12/03/2020 Medical Policy Committee review
- 12/09/2020 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Authorized Generics decision finalized by P&T. Added the Authorized Generic, Insulin Aspart, and a new product, Lyumjev, to the list of non-preferred products.

Next Scheduled Review Date: 12/2021

****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:

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- 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 discourages any particular treatment, procedure, or service, or any particular course of treatment, procedure, or service.

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