



# Louisiana

## Overactive Bladder Medications (Branded)

**Policy #** 00357

**Original Effective Date:** 07/17/2013

**Current Effective Date:** 08/10/2020

*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 brand name over-active bladder medications (including, but not limited to Detrol LA<sup>®</sup> ([tolterodine], Enablex<sup>®</sup> [darifenacin], Gelnique<sup>®</sup> [oxybutynin], Oxytrol<sup>®</sup> [oxybutynin], Sanctura XR<sup>®</sup> [trospium], Toviaz<sup>®</sup> [fesoterodine], Vesicare<sup>®</sup> [solifenacin], and Myrbetriq<sup>®</sup> [mirabegron])<sup>‡</sup> to be **eligible for coverage**\*\* when one of the below patient selection criteria is met:

#### Patient Selection Criteria

Coverage eligibility will be considered for brand name over-active bladder medications when one of the following criteria is met:

- Requested drug is a brand name overactive bladder medication (including topical over-active bladder medications): Patient has tried and failed one generic prescription over active bladder anti-cholinergic drug (e.g., darifenacin ER, oxybutynin IR, oxybutynin ER, tolterodine, tolterodine ER, trospium, trospium XR); OR
- Requested drug is a topical over active bladder medication (e.g., Oxytrol, Gelnique): Patient is unable to swallow or has difficulty swallowing; OR
- Requested drug is a brand name overactive bladder medication (including topical over-active bladder medications): There is clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the generically available products will be ineffective or cause an adverse reaction to the patient.

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## When Services Are Considered Not Medically Necessary

Based on review of available data, the Company considers the use of brand name overactive bladder medications when patient selection criteria are not met or for usage not included in the above patient selection criteria to be **not medically necessary**.\*\*

## Background/Overview

Overactive bladder medications are typically drugs with anticholinergic actions but can also include drugs that work as beta-3 adrenergic agonists.

## Rationale/Source

The patient selection criteria presented in this policy takes into consideration clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the available generic overactive bladder medications will be ineffective or cause an adverse reaction to the patient. This policy also takes into consideration whether or not a patient is able to swallow. Based on a review of the data, in the absence of the above mentioned caveats, there is no advantage of using a brand name overactive bladder medication over the available generic over-active bladder medications. Generic drugs are considered to have equal bioavailability and efficacy in comparison to brand name drugs.

## References

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## **Policy History**

Original Effective Date: 07/17/2013

Current Effective Date: 08/10/2020

06/27/2013 Medical Policy Committee review

07/17/2013 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. New policy.

07/10/2014 Medical Policy Committee review

07/16/2014 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.

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06/25/2015	Medical Policy Committee review
07/15/2015	Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added tolterodine ER as a generic option.
06/30/2016	Medical Policy Committee review
07/20/2016	Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added new generic darifenacin ER.
07/06/2017	Medical Policy Committee review
07/19/2017	Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
07/05/2018	Medical Policy Committee review
07/18/2018	Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
07/03/2019	Medical Policy Committee review
07/18/2019	Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.
07/02/2020	Medical Policy Committee review
07/08/2020	Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Coverage eligibility unchanged.

Next Scheduled Review Date: 07/2021

\*\*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:

- 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

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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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