



Proposal

Drug/Drug Class:	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI) Step Therapy Edit
First Implementation Date:	October 26, 2005
Revised Date:	October 20, 2022
Prepared for:	MO HealthNet
Prepared by:	MO HealthNet/Conduent
Criteria Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of Existing Criteria <input type="checkbox"/> New Criteria

Executive Summary

Purpose: Ensure appropriate use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) agents

Why Issue Selected: MO HealthNet will assess the usage of SSRI agents in the pharmacy program with a primary goal of patient safety. Participants may have multiple prescribers and/or multiple pharmacies caring for them and without a clinical edit it is almost impossible to prevent duplication within a drug class, dangerous drug interactions, or overmedication. By using medical evidence guidelines, this clinical edit can flag potentially dangerous duplicate and high dose therapy for SSRI agents. The edit helps to provide an "early warning alert" to the pharmacist filling the prescription and the prescribing physician. As always, if a provider wishes to override a denial for medically necessary reasons, a claim can be approved with further medical input through direct communication with the MHD Hotline.

Program-Specific Information:

Date Range FFS 4-1-2021 to 3-31-2022				
Generic Equivalent	Drug Description	Claims	Spend	Avg Spend per Claim
CITALOPRAM HBR	CELEXA 10 MG TAB	15,371	\$168,738.34	\$10.96
	CELEXA 10 MG/5 ML SOL	397	\$19,814.20	\$50.30
	CELEXA 20 MG TAB	35,407	\$386,125.99	\$10.89
	CELEXA 20 MG/10 ML SOL	0	-	-
	CELEXA 40 MG TAB	29,236	\$329,413.96	\$11.25
	CITALOPRAM 30 MG CAP	0	-	-
ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE	LEXAPRO 5 MG TAB	13,001	\$175,965.26	\$13.54
	LEXAPRO 5 MG/5 ML SOL	388	\$49,184.88	\$126.04
	LEXAPRO 10 MG TAB	49,751	\$679,149.42	\$13.66
	LEXAPRO 10 MG/10 ML SOL	0	-	-
	LEXAPRO 20 MG TAB	45,503	\$664,804.69	\$14.62
FLUOXETINE HCL	FLUOXETINE 60 MG TAB	3,850	\$149,488.91	\$38.99
	PROZAC 10 MG CAP	23,715	\$306,319.69	\$12.91
	PROZAC 20 MG CAP	55,727	\$632,096.66	\$11.33
	PROZAC 20 MG/5 ML SOL	2,591	\$144,802.22	\$55.81
	PROZAC 40 MG CAP	40,221	\$511,626.86	\$12.72
	PROZAC WEEKLY 90 MG	285	\$31,653.05	\$111.09
	SARAFEM 10 MG TAB	7,011	\$115,062.00	\$16.40

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	SARAFEM 20 MG TAB	8,479	\$192,220.77	\$22.66
FLUVOXAMINE MALEATE	LUVOX 25 MG TAB	600	\$13,643.26	\$22.87
	LUVOX 50 MG TAB	1,800	\$43,040.39	\$23.91
	LUVOX 100 MG TAB	2,620	\$71,656.90	\$27.52
	LUVOX CR 100 MG CAP	262	\$59,120.42	\$227.67
	LUVOX CR 150 MG CAP	295	\$79,665.96	\$271.75
PAROXETINE HCL	PAXIL 10 MG TAB	5,184	\$71,706.90	\$13.83
	PAXIL 10 MG/5 ML SUSP	63	\$24,583.90	\$380.23
	PAXIL 20 MG TAB	10,260	\$124,946.65	\$12.17
	PAXIL 30 MG TAB	4,271	\$59,751.90	\$13.97
	PAXIL 40 MG TAB	7,931	\$114,478.14	\$14.42
	PAXIL CR 12.5 MG TAB	146	\$6,275.94	\$42.93
	PAXIL CR 25 MG TAB	316	\$16,698.05	\$53.05
	PAXIL CR 37.5 MG TAB	170	\$8,009.66	\$46.79
PAROXETINE MESYLATE	BRISDELLE 7.5 MG CAP	52	\$5,807.48	\$110.77
	PEXEVA 10 MG TAB	0	-	-
	PEXEVA 20 MG TAB	0	-	-
	PEXEVA 30 MG TAB	2	\$880.92	\$440.46
	PEXEVA 40 MG TAB	12	\$5,503.05	\$458.92
SERTRALINE HCL	SERTRALINE 150 MG CAP	0	-	-
	SERTRALINE 200 MG CAP	0	-	-
	ZOLOFT 20 MG/ML CONC	1,227	\$67,370.59	\$55.06
	ZOLOFT 25 MG TAB	33,921	\$435,403.90	\$12.82
	ZOLOFT 50 MG TAB	76,842	\$1,029,853.86	\$13.39
	ZOLOFT 100 MG TAB	80,919	\$1,103,229.39	\$13.63
VILAZODONE HCL	VIIBRYD 10 MG-20 MG PK	47	\$13,795.25	\$265.37
	VIIBRYD 10 MG TAB	711	\$226,648.60	\$318.07
	VIIBRYD 20 MG TAB	2,234	\$665,610.88	\$298.31
	VIIBRYD 40 MG TAB	3,788	\$1,088,629.28	\$288.06
VORTIOXETINE HBR	TRINTELLIX 5 MG TAB	1,436	\$561,624.35	\$392.29
	TRINTELLIX 10 MG TAB	4,414	\$1,775,190.64	\$402.51
	TRINTELLIX 20 MG TAB	6,709	\$2,662,419.74	\$397.25
Total		577,165	\$14,892,012.90	\$25.80

Type of Criteria: ☐ Increased risk of ADE
☒ Appropriate Indications

☐ Preferred Drug List
☒ Clinical Edit

Data Sources: ☐ Only Administrative Databases ☒ Databases + Prescriber-Supplied

Setting & Population

- Drug class for review: Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) agents
- Age range: All appropriate MO HealthNet participants aged 5 years and older

Approval Criteria

- Participant aged 5 years or older **AND**
- Documented compliance to current SSRI therapy regimen (90 days in the past 120 days) **OR**
- Documented adequate initial therapeutic intervention with 1 or more reference products (see Appendix A) **OR**
- Documented ADE/ADR to reference products
- Documented appropriate diagnosis required for:
 - Participants < 18 years of age **OR**
 - Participants < 26 years of age who are also enrolled in foster care

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- **Claim for Citalopram HBR 30 mg capsule, Sertraline 150 mg capsule, or Sertraline 200 mg capsule: Clinical Consultant review required for why generic tablet alternatives cannot be utilized**

Denial Criteria

- Therapy will be denied if all approval criteria are not met
- Claim exceeds maximum dosage limits (see Appendix B)
- Participants < 18 years of age: history of > 2 SSRI agents for more than 30 days in the past 90 days
- Participants ≥ 18 years of age: history of > 2 SSRI agents for more than 60 days in the past 90 days
- Participant is on more than one SSRI agent and one SNRI agent concurrently for more than 30 days

Required Documentation

Laboratory Results: ☐
MedWatch Form: ☐

Progress Notes: ☐
Other: ☒

Disposition of Edit

Denial: Exception code "0681" (Step Therapy)
Rule Type: CE

Appendix A – SSRI reference products

- CITALOPRAM HBR SOLN/TAB
- ESCITALOPRAM TAB
- FLUOXETINE HCL CAP/SOLN
- FLUOXETINE HCL TAB 10 MG AND 20 MG
- FLUVOXAMINE MALEATE TAB
- PAROXETINE HCL TAB
- SERTRALINE HCL SOLN/TAB

Appendix B – Maximum Daily Dosage Limits

Generic Equivalent	Max Daily Dose
CITALOPRAM HBR	60 mg
ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE	20 mg
FLUOXETINE HCL	80 mg
FLUVOXAMINE MALEATE	300 mg
PAROXETINE HCL	80 mg
PAROXETINE MESYLATE	80 mg
SERTRALINE HCL	200 mg
VILAZODONE HCL	40 mg
VORTIOXETINE HBR	20 mg

Drug Description	Generic Equivalent	Dose Optimization Limit
BRISDELLE 7.5 MG CAP	PAROXETINE MESYLATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 1 per day
CELEXA 10 MG TAB	CITALOPRAM HBR	Deny dosing more frequently than 2 per day
CELEXA 20 MG TAB	CITALOPRAM HBR	Deny dosing more frequently than 1.5 per day
CELEXA 40 MG TAB	CITALOPRAM HBR	Deny dosing more frequently than 2 per day
LEXAPRO 5 MG TAB	ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 2 per day

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LEXAPRO 10 MG TAB	ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 1.5 per day
LEXAPRO 20 MG TAB	ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 1.5 per day
LUVOX 25 MG TAB	FLUVOXAMINE MALEATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 3 per day
LUVOX 50 MG TAB	FLUVOXAMINE MALEATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 3 per day
LUVOX 100 MG TAB	FLUVOXAMINE MALEATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 3 per day
LUVOX CR 100 MG CAP	FLUVOXAMINE MALEATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 2 per day
LUVOX CR 150 MG CAP	FLUVOXAMINE MALEATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 2 per day
PAXIL 10 MG TAB	PAROXETINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 1 per day
PAXIL 10 MG/5 ML SUSP	PAROXETINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 30 ml per day
PAXIL 20 MG TAB	PAROXETINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 2 per day
PAXIL 30 MG TAB	PAROXETINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 2 per day
PAXIL 40 MG TAB	PAROXETINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 1.5 per day
PAXIL CR 12.5 MG TAB	PAROXETINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 1 per day
PAXIL CR 25 MG TAB	PAROXETINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 2 per day
PAXIL CR 37.5 MG TAB	PAROXETINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 2 per day
PEXEVA 10 MG TAB	PAROXETINE MESYLATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 1 per day
PEXEVA 20 MG TAB	PAROXETINE MESYLATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 1 per day
PEXEVA 30 MG TAB	PAROXETINE MESYLATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 2 per day
PEXEVA 40 MG TAB	PAROXETINE MESYLATE	Deny dosing more frequently than 1 per day
PROZAC WEEKLY 90 MG	FLUOXETINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 1 per week
ZOLOFT 20 MG/ML CONC	SERTRALINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 10 ml per day
ZOLOFT 25 MG TAB	SERTRALINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 3 per day
ZOLOFT 50 MG TAB	SERTRALINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 3 per day
ZOLOFT 100 MG TAB	SERTRALINE HCL	Deny dosing more frequently than 2 per day

References

- Facts & Comparisons. Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors. Accessed May 6, 2022.