



SmartPA Criteria Proposal

Drug/Drug Class:	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI) Step Therapy Edit
First Implementation Date:	October 26, 2005
Revised Date:	February 18, 2021
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 7-1-2019 to 6-30-2020			
Drug Description	Claims	Spend	Avg spend per claim
CITALOPRAM HCL	79,926	\$1,505,502.17	\$18.83
ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE	76,119	\$1,634,090.13	\$21.46
FLUOXETINE HCL	118,592	\$2,955,216.45	\$24.92
FLUVOXAMINE MALEATE	4,797	\$272,813.08	\$56.80
PAROXETINE HCL	26,797	\$617,589.33	\$23.04
PAROXETINE MESYLATE	78	\$14,938.79	\$194.17
SERTRALINE HCL	154,108	\$3,227,861.09	\$20.94
VILAZODONE HCL	6,718	\$1,848,127.72	\$275.04
VORTIOXETINE HYDROBROMIDE	14,878	\$5,610,491.98	\$377.43
Total	482,013	\$17,686,630.74	\$112.51

Type of Criteria: Increased risk of ADE Preferred Drug List
 Appropriate Indications Clinical Edit

Data Sources: Only Administrative Databases Databases + Prescriber-Supplied

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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

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 SOLN/TAB
- ESCITALOPRAM SOLN/TAB
- FLUOXETINE CAP/SOLN
- FLUOXETINE TAB 10 MG AND 20 MG
- FLUVOXAMINE TAB
- PAROXETINE TAB
- SERTRALINE SOLN/TAB

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Appendix B – Maximum Daily Dosage Limits

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

References

- Facts & Comparisons. Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors. Accessed August 6, 2020.