



# SmartPA Criteria Proposal

<b>Drug/Drug Class:</b>	Zulresso Clinical Edit
<b>First Implementation Date:</b>	July 1, 2020
<b>Revised Date:</b>	July 28, 2022
<b>Prepared for:</b>	MO HealthNet
<b>Prepared by:</b>	MO HealthNet/Conduent
<b>Criteria Status:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of Existing Criteria <input type="checkbox"/> New Criteria

## Executive Summary

**Purpose:** Ensure appropriate utilization and control of Zulresso™ (brexanolone)

**Why Issue Selected:** On March 19, 2019, the FDA approved Zulresso™ (brexanolone) for the treatment of postpartum depression (PPD). Brexanolone is an analog of allopregnanolone, an endogenous steroid hormone metabolite that increases during pregnancy and then declines abruptly after birth; it is thought this decline may trigger depression and anxiety in some women. PPD is the most common postnatal psychiatric complication affecting an estimated 9-12% of postpartum women in the US (approximately 400,000 cases annually). It is well established that PPD can result in adverse short and long term effects on both the mother and the child; treatment focuses on cognitive-behavioral therapy and antidepressant medications. Zulresso, however, can improve symptoms of PPD in as little as 24 hours, while improvement with oral antidepressants may take weeks. Zulresso is a one-time treatment administered by continuous infusion over 60 hours; administration is complex as the product has limited stability (12 hours at room temperature) requiring a minimum of 5 infusion bag changes and recommended dosing requires several changes in infusion rates. There is also a risk of serious harm resulting from excessive sedation and loss of consciousness during the infusion, prompting the FDA to add a Boxed warning to the label and require a REMS program. Sage Therapeutics, the makers of Zulresso, are identifying “Centers of Excellence” that will be able to meet REMS requirements, have the capability to prepare and administer Zulresso, and can provide a positive patient experience. Due to the high cost, possible adverse events, and specific approved indications, MO HealthNet will impose clinical criteria to ensure appropriate utilization of Zulresso.

Program-Specific Information:	Drug	Cost per treatment – 5 vials
	ZULRESSO 100 MG/20 ML VIAL	\$37,250 MAC

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

**Data Sources:**  Only Administrative Databases  Databases + Prescriber-Supplied

## Setting & Population

- Drug class for review: Zulresso™ (brexanolone)
- Age range: All appropriate MO HealthNet participants

## Approval Criteria

- Documented diagnosis of moderate to severe postpartum depression:
  - Participant meets DSM-5 criteria for major depressive disorder (single or recurrent episode) **AND**
  - Participant has a clinical diagnosis, made by a psychiatrist or other specialist in the field of psychiatry, of moderate to severe postpartum depression **AND**
  - Diagnosis and severity of depression is supported by a validated rating scale **AND**
  - Onset of symptoms occurred in the third trimester of pregnancy or within 6 months of delivery **AND**
- Documentation of administration in a facility enrolled in the Zulresso REMS program **AND**
- Quantity limit of 5 vials per treatment – approval for a larger quantity requires documentation of appropriate dosing and participant weight above 90 kg

## Denial Criteria

- Therapy will be denied if all approval criteria are not met
- Previous history of Zulresso therapy in the past 9 months
- Documented history of end-stage renal disease

## Billing Information

- Utilize the following codes so that MO HealthNet will know the billing is for additional hours for the administration of Zulresso under the MO HealthNet FFS Program (You must ensure a Prior Authorization is on file for the medication prior to administering to the participant):
  - First 24 hours of observation
    - Revenue code 762 (Observation Room) **AND**
    - Procedure code G0378 (Hospital Observation per Hour)
  - Subsequent hours of observation
    - Revenue code 769 (Other Treatment/Observation) **AND**
    - Procedure code G0378 (Hospital Observation per Hour)
    - The above combination of billing codes has only been approved for the administration and monitoring of Zulresso.
- Managed Care Participants:
  - Prior to 7/1/2020 the Managed Care Organization is responsible for the payment of the medication and administration of Zulresso for Managed Care enrolled participants.
  - Effective 7/1/2020 MO HealthNet FFS will be responsible for the payment of the medication. The participants Managed Care Organization is responsible for the payment of the administration and observation of Zulresso.
  - Please contact the participants managed care organization for instruction on how to bill properly for the administration of Zulresso.

## Required Documentation

Laboratory Results:   
MedWatch Form:

Progress Notes:   
Other:

*SmartPA Clinical Proposal Form*  
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## Disposition of Edit

Denial: Exception code "0682" (Clinical Edit)  
Rule Type: CE

## Default Approval Period

1 month

## References

- ZULRESSO™ (brexanolone) injection, [package insert]. Cambridge, MA: Sage Therapeutics, Inc.; June 2019.
- US Preventive Services Task Force. Interventions to Prevent Perinatal Depression. JAMA. 2019;321(6):580-587. doi:10.1001/jama.2019.0007
- IPD Analytics. New Drug Approval: Zulresso (brexanolone) injection, for intravenous use. March 2019.
- IPD Analytics. Behavioral Health: Depression. Accessed February 2, 2022.
- Clinical Pharmacology. Brexanolone. Accessed February 2, 2022.
- American Psychiatric Association. Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Major Depressive Disorder. Publication Date: 2010. [PG\\_Depression3e.book\(PG\\_Depression\\_3e00Pre.fm\) \(psychiatryonline.org\)](#)