Clinical Policy: Peginterferon Beta-1a (Plegridy)
Reference Number: CP.PHAR.271
Effective Date: 08.01.16
Last Review Date: 08.20
Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description
Peginterferon beta-1a (Plegridy®) is an amino acid glycoprotein.

FDA Approved Indication(s)
Plegridy is indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS), to include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing-remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease, in adults.

Policy/Criteria
Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that Plegridy is medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria
   A. Multiple Sclerosis (must meet all):
      1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a, b, or c):
         a. Clinically isolated syndrome;
         b. Relapsing-remitting MS;
         c. Secondary progressive MS;
      2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist;
      3. Age ≥ 18 years;
      4. Plegridy is not prescribed concurrently with other disease modifying therapies for MS (see Appendix D);
      5. Documentation of baseline number of relapses per year and expanded disability status scale (EDSS) score;
      6. Dose does not exceed 125 mcg (1 pen or syringe) every 14 days.

   Approval duration:
   Medicaid/HIM – 6 months
   Commercial – 6 months or to the member’s renewal date, whichever is longer

B. Other diagnoses/indications
   1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.
II. Continued Therapy
   A. Multiple Sclerosis (must meet all):
      1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
      2. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
         a. If member has received < 1 year of total treatment: Member is responding positively to therapy;
         b. If member has received ≥ 1 year of total treatment: Member meets one of the following (i, ii, iii, or iv):
            i. Member has not had an increase in the number of relapses per year compared to baseline;
            ii. Member has not had ≥ 2 new MRI-detected lesions;
            iii. Member has not had an increase in EDSS score from baseline;
            iv. Medical justification supports that member is responding positively to therapy;
      3. Plegridy is not prescribed concurrently with other disease modifying therapies for MS (see Appendix D);
      4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 125 mcg (1 pen or syringe) every 14 days.
   Approval duration:
   Medicaid/HIM – first re-authorization: 6 months; second and subsequent re-authorizations: 12 months
   Commercial – 6 months or to the member’s renewal date, whichever is longer

   B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):
      1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
         Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or
      2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:
   A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents;
   B. Primary progressive MS.

IV. Appendices/General Information
   Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key
   EDSS: expanded disability status scale
   FDA: Food and Drug Administration
   MS: multiple sclerosis
Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives
Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings
- Contraindication(s): history of hypersensitivity to natural or recombinant interferon beta or peginterferon, or any other component of the formulation
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

Appendix D: General Information
- Disease-modifying therapies for MS are: glatiramer acetate (Copaxone®, Glatopa®), interferon beta-1a (Avonex®, Rebif®), interferon beta-1b (Betaseron®, Extavia®), peginterferon beta-1a (Plegridy®), dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera®), diroximel fumarate (Vumirity™), monomethyl fumarate (Bafiertam™), fingolimod (Gilenya™), teriflunomide (Aubagio®), alemtuzumab (Lemtrada®), mitoxantrone (Novantrone®), natalizumab (Tysabri®), ocrelizumab (Ocrevus™), cladribine (Mavenclad®), siponimod (Mayzent®), and ozanimod (Zeposia®).

V. Dosage and Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Dosing Regimen</th>
<th>Maximum Dose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relapsing MS</td>
<td>63 mcg on day 1, 94 mcg on day 15, and 125 mcg on day 29 and every 14 days thereafter</td>
<td>125 mcg/14 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI. Product Availability
Single-dose prefilled pen or syringe: 63 mcg/0.5 mL, 94 mcg/0.5 mL, 125 mcg/0.5 mL

VII. References

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>P&amp;T Approval Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06.16</td>
<td>08.16</td>
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</table>
## Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria: added max dosing, clarified monotherapy restriction, removed re-authorization requirement for documented adherence, modified efficacy criteria from “No increase in neurologic dysfunction/disability as a result of relapses or progressive disease, including a change in diagnostic status from RRMS to SPMS” to “Responding positively to therapy”.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>P&amp;T Approval Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Added age requirement. Removed contraindication and reasons to discontinue. Removed MRI requirement.</td>
<td>07.17</td>
<td>08.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Q 2018 annual review: no significant changes; policies combined for Medicaid and Commercial lines of business; added coverage of clinically isolated syndrome and secondary progressive MS; added age; removed COC statement for reauth for commercial; added requirement for no concurrent use with other MS therapies; references reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>01.05.18</td>
<td>05.18</td>
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<td>2Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>02.06.19</td>
<td>05.19</td>
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<td>RT4: updated FDA Approved Indication(s) section to include CIS and SPMS per updated FDA labeling; SPMS: removed requirement that member has active relapsing disease per current SPMS management approach; references reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>08.02.19</td>
<td>05.20</td>
</tr>
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<td>2Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; added HIM line of business (HIM.PA.SP18 retired); references reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>01.27.20</td>
<td>05.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Added requirements for documentation of baseline relapses/EDSS and objective measures of positive response upon re-authorization; modified Medicaid/HIM continued approval duration to 6 months for the first re-authorization and 12 months for second/subsequent re-authorizations; references reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>05.27.20</td>
<td>08.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Important Reminder
This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering
benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage
decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and
limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy,
contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health
Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting
may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to
applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a
discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or
regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan
retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical
policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is
not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise
professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible
for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to
recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in
connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent
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agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members
and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to
members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

**Note:**
**For Medicaid members,** when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage
provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please
refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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