CareSource

PHARMACY POLICY STATEMENT
North Carolina Marketplace

DRUG NAME	Inhaled Prostacyclins for Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: Tyvaso (treprostinil), Ventavis (iloprost)
BILLING CODE	Must use valid NDC code
BENEFIT TYPE	Pharmacy
SITE OF SERVICE ALLOWED	Home
STATUS	Prior Authorization Required

Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension is a rare but serious condition characterized by elevated pulmonary arterial resistance. Ventavis and Tyvaso are approved for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) World Health Organization (WHO) Group 1. Ventavis is approved to increase exercise tolerance, improve symptoms (NYHA Class), and delay deterioration for PAH. Tyvaso is indicated to improve exercise ability for adults with PAH. It is also indicated for the treatment of pulmonary hypertension associated with interstitial lung disease (PH-ILD; WHO Group 3) to improve exercise ability.

Inhaled Prostacyclins will be considered for coverage when the following criteria are met:

Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension [WHO Group 1]

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is at least eighteen years of age or older;
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with a cardiologist or pulmonologist; AND
3. Member must have a diagnosis of World Health Organization (WHO) Group 1 pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) confirmed by right heart catheterization; AND
4. Member has tried and failed one oral medication from one of the following three categories: phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitor (ie. Sildenafil, Tadalafil), endothelin receptor antagonist (ie. Ambrisentan, Bosentan, Macitentan), or Soluble Guanylate Cyclase Stimulator (ie. Adempas) OR WHO functional class IV symptoms (for Ventavis only – see appendix);
5. For Tyvaso DPI: Member has tried and failed a 90 day trial of Tyvaso nebulizer solution;
6. Member must have documentation pulmonary arterial pressures are not adequately controlled, confirmed by **one** of the following:
   a) Patient had an acute response to vasodilator testing AND has tried a calcium channel blocker (CCB) for at least 3 months; OR
   b) Patient did not have a response to vasodilator testing; OR
   c) Patient cannot undergo vasodilator testing; OR
   d) Patient cannot take CCB therapy
7. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:**
   Tyvaso: Initiate 3 breaths (18 mcg) per treatment session; Titrate to target maintenance dosage of 9 to 12 breaths per treatment session, 4 times daily.
   Tyvaso DPI: Initiate one cartridge (16 mcg) per treatment session; Titrate to target maintenance dosage of 48 mcg to 64 mcg per treatment session, 4 times daily.

Ventavis: Initiate 2.5 mcg per treatment session; Titrate to target maintenance dose of 6 to 9 doses (inhalations) per day (minimum of 2 hours between doses during waking hours).

If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for 6 months.

For **reauthorization**:
Inhaled Prostacyclins will be reauthorized when chart notes show at least one of the following:
1. Member has documentation of improvement in signs and symptoms of disease as evidenced by at least one of the following:
   a) Stabilization or improvement in functional class symptoms or quality of life
   b) Stabilization or improvement in 6MWD [6-minute walk distance]

If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for an additional 12 months.

Pulmonary hypertension associated with interstitial lung disease [WHO Group 3] – TYVASO ONLY

For **initial** authorization:
1. Member is at least eighteen years of age or older;
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with a cardiologist or pulmonologist; AND
3. Member must have a diagnosis of World Health Organization (WHO) Group 3 pulmonary hypertension with interstitial lung disease (PH-ILD) confirmed by right heart catheterization; AND
4. Member has evidence of diffuse parenchymal lung disease on computed tomography (CT) imaging of the chest;
5. For Tyvaso DPI: Member has tried and failed a 90 day trial of Tyvaso nebulizer solution
6. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:**
   Tyvaso: Initiate 3 breaths (18 mcg) per treatment session; Titrate to target maintenance dosage of 9 to 12 breaths per treatment session, 4 times daily.
   Tyvaso DPI: Initiate one cartridge (16 mcg) per treatment session; Titrate to target maintenance dosage of 48 mcg to 64 mcg per treatment session, 4 times daily.

If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for 6 months.

For **reauthorization**:
Tyvaso will be reauthorized when chart notes show at least one of the following:
1. Member has documentation of improvement in signs and symptoms of disease as evidenced by at least one of the following:
   a) Stabilization or improvement in functional class symptoms or quality of life
   b) Stabilization or improvement in 6MWD [6-minute walk distance]

If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for an additional 12 months.

CareSource considers Inhaled Prostacyclins not medically necessary for the treatment of conditions that are not listed in this document. For any other indication, please refer to the Off-Label policy.

Appendix:

New York Heart Association Functional Classification	
Class 1	Cardiac Disease, but no symptoms and no limitation in ordinary physical activity, e.g. shortness of breath when walking, climbing stairs, etc.
Class 2	Mild symptoms (mild shortness of breath and/or angina) and slight limitation during ordinary activity.
Class 3	Marked limitation in activity due to symptoms, even during less-than-ordinary activity, e.g. walking short distances (20-100 m). Comfortable only at rest.
Class 4	Severe limitations. Experiences symptoms even while at rest. Mostly bedbound patients

World Health Organization Functional Assessment Classification	
Class I	Patients with PAH but without resulting limitation of physical activity. Ordinary physical activity does not cause undue dyspnea or fatigue, chest pain or near syncope.
Class II	Patients with PAH resulting in slight limitation of physical activity. They are comfortable at rest. Ordinary physical activity causes undue dyspnea or fatigue, chest pain, or near syncope.
Class III	Patients with PAH resulting in marked limitation of physical activity. They are comfortable at rest. Less than ordinary activity causes undue dyspnea or fatigue, chest pain, or near syncope.
Class IV	Patients with PAH with inability to carry out any physical activity without symptoms. These patients manifest signs of right-heart failure. Dyspnea and/or fatigue may even by present at rest. Discomfort is increased by any physical activity.

DATE	ACTION/DESCRIPTION
06/15/2011	Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension policy creation.
05/13/2014	Combined all PAH agents into one policy
07/09/2015	Revised guidelines for therapy aligning with CMS
08/18/2015	Revised guidelines to include diagnosis criteria
10/13/2021	Separated PAH agents by drug class; Updated guidelines; Added provider specialty; Added PH-ILD; WHO Group 3 indication for Tyvaso
07/08/2022	Added new Tyvaso DPI formulation to dosing instructions; Added a 90 day trial of Tyvaso nebulizer solution prior to Tyvaso DPI; Updated references

References:

1. Tyvaso [package insert]. Research Triangle Park, NC: United Therapeutics Corp; May 2022
2. Ventavis [package insert]. South San Francisco, CA: Actelion Pharmaceuticals US, Inc.; December 2019
3. Coons, J.C., Pogue, K., Kolodziej, A.R. et al. Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: a Pharmacotherapeutic Update. Curr Cardiol Rep. 2019; 21(141)

Qualified Health Plans offered in North Carolina by CareSource North Carolina Co., d/b/a CareSource.

4. Klinger JR, Elliott CG et al. Therapy for Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension in Adults; Chest Journal. March 2019; 155(3): 565-586
5. Galie N, Humbert M, Vachiery JL, Gibbs S, Lang I, Torbicki A, et al. 2015 ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension: The Joint Task Force for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Pulmonary Hypertension of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Respiratory Society (ERS): Endorsed by: Association for European Paediatric and Congenital Cardiology (AEPC), International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT). European heart journal. 2016;37(1):67–119

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