Osteoarthritis is a common chronic joint disorder involving cartilage degradation, bone remodeling, osteophyte formation, and synovial inflammation. These changes lead to pain, stiffness, swelling, and compromised functional capacity of the affected joint. The goal of treatment is to improve pain and mobility. Viscosupplementation is an intra-articular therapy that leverages the physiology of hyaluronic acid, a major component of normal synovial fluid, to restore viscoelasticity and natural protective properties like shock absorption and lubrication of the joint. A multitude of different hyaluronic acid products are available with a variety of properties. They are indicated for the treatment of pain in osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee in patients who have failed to respond adequately to conservative non-pharmacologic therapy and simple analgesics. They have a slower but more durable response than intra-articular steroid injections. Over the years, treatment guidelines have been incongruent in their recommendations, but overall they are considered a safe and effective option in certain situations. It is important to rule out other causes of joint pain such as rheumatoid arthritis, gout, or malignancy.

Hyaluronic acid viscosupplements will be considered for coverage when the following criteria are met:

**Osteoarthritis (OA) of the Knee**

For **initial** authorization:
1. Member is at least 18 years of age; AND
2. Member has a diagnosis of osteoarthritis of the knee confirmed by radiographic evidence such as joint space narrowing, subchondral sclerosis, osteophytes and subchondral cysts; AND
3. Pain interferes with normal daily activity such as walking, standing, or stair climbing; AND
4. Member has tried and failed **ALL** of the following conservative therapies for at least 3 months:
   a) Non-pharmacologic strategies such as exercise, physical therapy, bracing, weight loss (if overweight or obese)
   b) Simple analgesics such as acetaminophen or NSAIDs (oral or topical)
   c) Intra-articular corticosteroid injection (unless contraindicated); AND
5. Chart notes must indicate if the request is for the treatment of one or both knees; AND
6. Member has not had a total knee replacement (arthroplasty) and knee replacement is not anticipated for at least the next 6 months; AND
7. If the request is for a non-preferred product, trial and failure of at least 1 preferred product is required (see Appendix).
8. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** Intra-articular injection to the affected knee(s) at weekly intervals.
   - Euflexxa: 2 mL weekly for 3 weeks
   - Durolane: 3 mL one time
   - Gel-One: 3 mL one time
   - Gelsyn-3: 2 mL weekly for 3 weeks
   - Gen-Visc: 2.5 mL weekly for 3 to 5 weeks
   - Hyalgan: 2 mL weekly for 3 to 5 weeks
Hymovis: 3 mL weekly for 2 weeks
Monovisc: 4 mL one time
Orthovisc: 2 mL weekly for 3 to 4 weeks
Supartz FX: 2.5 mL weekly for 3 to 5 weeks
Synvisc: 2 mL weekly for 3 weeks
Synvisc-One: 6 mL one time
TriVisc: 2.5 mL weekly for 3 weeks
TriLuron: 2 mL weekly for 3 weeks
Visco-3: 2.5 mL weekly for 3 weeks

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

For reauthorization:
1. Chart notes must show clinically significant improvement of signs and symptoms such as
documentation of improved pain scores, improved functional abilities, and/or reduced use of analgesic
medications as a result of the treatment to the affected knee; AND
2. Symptoms have recurred and at least 6 months have elapsed since completion of the previous course
of viscosupplementation; AND
3. Member has not had a total knee replacement (arthroplasty) and knee replacement is not anticipated
for at least the next 6 months.

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

CareSource considers hyaluronic acid viscosupplements 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTION/DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/20/2022</td>
<td>New policy for hyaluronic acid viscosupplements created; combination and comprehensive update of past individual policies.</td>
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APPENDIX: List of products, codes, and status (Y = preferred; N = non-preferred)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Euflexxa</td>
<td>J7323</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durolane</td>
<td>J7318</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gel-One</td>
<td>J7326</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gelsyn-3</td>
<td>J7328</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GenVisc 850</td>
<td>J7320</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyalgan</td>
<td>J7321</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hymovis</td>
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<td>Monovisc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orthovisc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supartz FX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synvisc</td>
<td>J7325</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synvisc-One</td>
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<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td>TriVisc</td>
<td>J7329</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td>TriLuron</td>
<td>J7332</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visco-3</td>
<td>J7321</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. GenVisc 850 [package insert]. OrthogenRx. N.D.