

## 5.50.23

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<b>Section:</b>	Prescription Drugs	<b>Effective Date:</b>	July 1, 2022
<b>Subsection:</b>	Gastrointestinal Agents	<b>Original Policy Date:</b>	December 8, 2017
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**Last Review Date:** June 16, 2022

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## Linzess

### Description

#### Linzess (linaclotide)

#### Background

Linzess (linaclotide) is a guanylate cyclase-C (GC-C) agonist indicated in adults for irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) and chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC). Activation of GC-C results in an increase in both intracellular and extracellular concentrations of cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP). Elevation of intracellular cGMP stimulates secretion of chloride and bicarbonate into the intestinal lumen, mainly through activation of the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) ion channel, resulting in increased intestinal fluid and accelerated transit. In animal models, Linzess has been shown to both accelerate GI transit and reduce intestinal pain (1).

#### Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications: Linzess is a guanylate cyclase-C agonist indicated in adults for treatment of: (1)

1. Irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C)
2. Chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC)

Linzess has a boxed warning regarding the risk of serious dehydration in pediatric patients. Linzess is contraindicated in pediatric patients less than 2 years of age. The safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1).

Linzess is also contraindicated in patients with known or suspected mechanical gastrointestinal obstruction (1).

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Linzess has a warning for severe diarrhea. If severe diarrhea occurs, suspend dosing and rehydrate patient (1).

### Related policies

Amitiza, Motegrity, Opioid Antagonist Drug Class, Trulance, Zelnorm

### Policy

*This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.*

Linzess may be considered **medically necessary** for patients 18 years of age or older with the diagnosis of chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC) or irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C); and if the conditions indicated below are met.

Linzess may be considered **investigational** in patients less than 18 years of age and for all other indications.

## Prior-Approval Requirements

**Age** 18 years of age or older

### Diagnoses

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC)
2. Irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C)

**AND ALL** of the following for **ALL** indications:

- a. Absence of gastrointestinal obstruction
- b. **NO** dual therapy with other legend constipation medications (see Appendix 1)

## Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

**Age** 18 years of age or older

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## Diagnoses

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC)
2. Irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C)

**AND ALL** of the following for **ALL** indications:

- a. Improvement in constipation symptoms
- b. Absence of gastrointestinal obstruction
- c. **NO** dual therapy with other legend constipation medications (see Appendix 1)

## Policy Guidelines

### Pre - PA Allowance

None

### Prior - Approval Limits

#### Quantity

Medication	Quantity Limit
72 mcg	90 capsules per 90 days
145 mcg	
290 mcg	

**Duration**      12 months

### Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Same as above

## Rationale

### Summary

Linzess (linaclotide) is a guanylate cyclase-C (GC-C) agonist indicated in adults for irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) and chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC). Linzess has a boxed warning regarding the risk of serious dehydration in pediatric patients. Linzess is contraindicated in pediatric patients less than 2 years of age. Linzess has a warning for severe

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diarrhea. If severe diarrhea occurs, suspend dosing and rehydrate patient. The safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate and cost-effective use of Linzess while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

## References

1. Linzess [package insert]. Irvine, CA: Allergan USA, Inc.; August 2021.

## Policy History

Date	Action
December 2017	Addition to PA
March 2018	Annual editorial review Change in duration from 3 months to 12 months and an update to the no dual therapy statement with the addition of Appendix 1
March 2019	Annual review
June 2019	Annual review and reference update
December 2019	Annual review
March 2020	Annual review. Added "absence of gastrointestinal obstruction" to renewal requirements
June 2020	Annual review
June 2021	Annual editorial review and reference update. Removed lbsrela from Related Policies and Appendix 1 due to being discontinued
October 2021	Removed "OR" from the quantity limit chart to allow dose changes without the need for separate PAs
December 2021	Annual editorial review and reference update
June 2022	Annual review

## Keywords

**This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on June 16, 2022 and is effective on July 1, 2022.**

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## Appendix 1 - List of Legend Constipation Medications

Generic Name	Brand Name
linaclotide	Linzess
lubiprostone	Amitiza
methylnaltrexone	Relistor
naldemedine	Symproic
naloxegol	Movantik
plecanatide	Trulance
prucalopride	Motegrity
tegaserod	Zelnorm