BlueCross BlueShield
Federal Employee Program
Federal Employee Program®
750 9th St NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
202.942.1000
Fax 202.942.1125

5.99.006

Section:	Prescription Drugs	**Effective Date:**	April 1, 2024
Subsection:	Miscellaneous Products	**Original Policy Date:**	December 7, 2011
Subject:	Xiaflex	**Page:**	1 of 6

Last Review Date: March 8, 2024

Xiaflex

Description

Xiaflex (collagenase clostridium histolyticum)

Background
Xiaflex (collagenase clostridium histolyticum) is a biologic drug made from a mixture of proteins derived from *Clostridium histolyticum* bacteria. It works by breaking down excessive buildup of collagen, a structural protein in connective tissue. Xiaflex is used in the treatment of Dupuytren's contracture and Peyronie's disease (1).

Dupuytren's contracture affects the connective tissue found beneath the skin in the palm of the hand. Too much collagen can build up, forming thick, rope-like cords of tissue that can prevent the fingers from being able to relax and straighten properly. Peyronie's disease is caused by scar tissue that develops under the skin of the penis. This scar tissue causes an abnormal bend of at least 30 degrees upon erection (2).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications: Xiaflex is a combination of bacterial collagenases indicated for the treatment of adult patients with Dupuytren's contracture with a palpable cord and in the treatment of adult men with Peyronie's disease with a palpable plaque and curvature deformity of at least 30 degrees at the start of therapy (1).

Xiaflex has a boxed warning regarding corporal rupture (penile fracture) or other serious penile injury such as severe penile hematoma in the treatment of Peyronie's disease. Because of this

risk Xiaflex is only available for treatment of Peyronie's disease through a restricted program under a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) called the Xiaflex REMS program (1).

Xiaflex is contraindicated in the treatment of Peyronie's plaques that involves the penile urethra due potential risk to this structure (1).

Injections of Xiaflex into tendons, nerves, blood vessels, or other collagen-containing structure of the hand should be avoided due to the risk of possible permanent injury, such as tendon rupture or ligament damage (1).

In the treatment of Dupuytren's contracture, Xiaflex is injected directly into the collagen cord of the hand and should only be administered by a healthcare professional experienced with injections of the hand, due to the risk of tendon rupture. Recommended dosing for Dupuytren's contracture is 0.58 mg per injection, with a max dose of up to three injections per cord with a four week interval between injections (1).

Xiaflex for the treatment of Peyronie's disease should be administered by a healthcare professional who is experienced in the treatment of male urological diseases. A treatment course for Peyronie's disease consists of a maximum of four treatment cycles. Each treatment cycle consists of two Xiaflex injection procedures (in which Xiaflex is injected directly into the collagen-containing structure of the penis) and one penile modeling procedure performed by the healthcare professional. The interval between treatment cycles is approximately six weeks. The treatment course therefore, consists of a maximum of eight injection procedures and four modeling procedures. If the curvature deformity is less than 15 degrees after the first, second or third treatment cycle, or if the healthcare provider determines that further treatment is not clinically indicated, the subsequent treatment cycles (second or third cycle) should not be administered. The safety of more than one treatment course of Xiaflex for Peyronie's disease is not known (1).

The safety and efficacy of Xiaflex in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1).

Related policies

Policy

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

Xiaflex may be considered **medically necessary** if the conditions indicated below are met.

Xiaflex may be considered **investigational** for all other indications.

Prior-Approval Requirements

Age 18 years of age or older

Diagnoses

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

1. Dupuytren's contracture
    a. With a palpable cord

2. Peyronie's disease
    a. A palpable plaque and curvature deformity of at least 30 degrees at the start of therapy
    b. Plaques **DO NOT** involve penile urethra
    c. **NOT** being used exclusively to treat erectile dysfunction
    d. Physician must complete Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

Age 18 years of age or older

Diagnosis

Patient must have the following:

1. Dupuytren's contracture
    a. With a palpable cord

NO renewal for Peyronie's disease

Policy Guidelines

Pre – PA Allowance

None

Prior - Approval Limits

Dupuytren's contracture

Quantity 1 injection per involved cord at 4 week intervals (maximum 3 injections per involved cord over 12 weeks)

Duration 12 weeks

Peyronie's disease

Quantity 2 injections at 6 week intervals up to 4 times

Duration 28 weeks

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Dupuytren's contracture

Quantity 1 injection per involved cord at 4 week intervals (maximum 3 injections per involved cord over 12 weeks)

Duration 12 weeks

Peyronie's disease

NO renewal

Rationale

Summary

Xiaflex is a combination of bacterial collagenases indicated for the treatment of adult patients with Dupuytren's contracture with a palpable cord and in the treatment of adult men with Peyronie's disease with a palpable plaque and curvature deformity of at least 30 degrees at the start of therapy. The Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program for Xiaflex is required by the FDA for the treatment of Peyronie's disease and is intended to help manage

known or potential serious risks associated with Xiaflex as well as ensure the benefits outweigh the risks for each patient. The safety and effectiveness of Xiaflex in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1-2).

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

References

1. Xiaflex [package insert]. Malvern, PA: Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; August 2022.
2. Dupuytren's contracture and Peyronie's disease: Diagnosis and medical management. UpToDate. Accessed on January 30, 2024.

Policy History

Date	Action
December 2010	Criteria revised to add a per cord limit to the quantity.
December 2012	Annual editorial review and reference update
December 2013	Editorial and reference update. Addition of new FDA indication of Peyronie's Disease.
March 2014	Annual editorial review
March 2015	Annual editorial review and reference update
December 2016	Annual editorial review and reference update Policy code changed from 5.11.06 to 5.99.06
June 2017	Annual editorial review and reference update Removal of significant pain from criteria Addition of exclusively to the erectile dysfunction diagnosis
June 2018	Annual editorial review and reference update
June 2019	Annual review and reference update
May 2020	Revised renewal limits to state that no renewal is allowed for Peyronie's disease
June 2020	Annual review and reference update
November 2021	Removal of REMS requirement for Dupuytren's contracture per FEP
December 2021	Annual review
December 2022	Annual review and reference update. Changed policy number to 5.99.006
December 2023	Annual review and reference update
March 2024	Annual review and reference update

Keywords

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on March 8, 2024 and is effective on April 1, 2024.