BlueCross BlueShield
Federal Employee Program
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
750 9th St NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20001
1-800-624-5060
Fax 1-877-378-4727

5.50.040

Section:	Prescription Drugs	**Effective Date:**	July 1, 2026
Subsection:	Gastrointestinal Agents	**Original Policy Date:**	July 5, 2024
Subject:	Iqirvo	**Page:**	1 of 5

Last Review Date: June 11, 2026

Iqirvo

Description

Iqirvo (elafibranor)

Background
Iqirvo (elafibranor) and its main active metabolite GFT1007 are peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor (PPAR) agonists, both of which activate PPAR-alpha, PPAR-gamma, and PPAR-delta in vitro. However, the mechanism by which Iqirvo exerts its therapeutic effects in patients with primary biliary cholangitis (PBC) is not well understood. Pharmacological activity that is potentially relevant to therapeutic effects includes inhibition of bile acid synthesis through activation of PPAR-alpha and PPAR-delta. The signaling pathway for PPAR-delta was reported to include Fibroblast Growth Factor 21 (FGF21)-dependent downregulation of CYP7A1, the key enzyme for the synthesis of bile acids from cholesterol (1).

Regulatory Status
FDA-approved indication: Iqirvo is a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor (PPAR) agonist indicated for the treatment of primary biliary cholangitis (PBC) in combination with ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) in adults who have an inadequate response to UDCA, or as monotherapy in patients unable to tolerate UDCA (1).

Limitations of Use: Use of Iqirvo is not recommended in patients who have or develop decompensated cirrhosis (e.g., ascites, variceal bleeding, hepatic encephalopathy) (1).

Iqirvo has been associated with myalgia, myopathy, and rhabdomyolysis. Patients should be assessed for muscle pain and myopathy prior to Iqirvo initiation. Patients with signs or symptoms of new onset or worsening of muscle pain or myopathy should consider periodic assessment (clinical exam, CPK measurement) (1).

Iqirvo use may result in fractures, drug-induced liver injury, and biliary obstruction. Consider risk of fractures and monitor bone health according to current standards of care. Baseline liver function tests should be obtained at treatment initiation with Iqirvo and monitored thereafter. Treatment should be interrupted if liver tests worsen, or if the patient develops signs and symptoms consistent with clinical hepatitis. Consider discontinuation if liver tests worsen after restarting Iqirvo. Avoid use of Iqirvo in patients with complete biliary obstruction. If biliary obstruction is suspected, interrupt Iqirvo and treat as clinically indicated (1).

Iqirvo may cause fetal harm when administered during pregnancy. Advise females of reproductive potential to use effective non-hormonal contraceptives or add a barrier method when using hormonal contraceptives during treatment with Iqirvo and for 3 weeks following the last dose of Igirvo (1).

The safety and effectiveness of Iqirvo 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.

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

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

Prior-Approval Requirements

Age 18 years of age or older

Diagnosis

Patient must have the following:

1. Primary biliary cholangitis (PBC)

AND ONE of the following:

a. Inadequate response
   i. History of a minimum of a 1 year trial of ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA)
b. Intolerance
   i. An intolerance which is unable to be resolved with attempts to minimize the adverse effects where appropriate (e.g., dose reduction) with a history of a trial of ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA)

AND ALL of the following:

a. Iqirvo must be used in combination with UDCA in patients who are tolerant or used as monotherapy in patients who are unable to tolerate UDCA
b. Confirmation of diagnosis with elevated serum alkaline phosphatase level **AND ONE** of the following tests:
   i. Positive antimitochondrial antibody test
   ii. Liver biopsy
   iii. Ultrasound scan of liver
c. **NO** decompensated cirrhosis
d. **NO** preliminary biliary obstruction prior to initiation of therapy and agreement to discontinue therapy if complete biliary obstruction develops
e. Physician agrees to frequently monitor patient during treatment for elevations in liver biochemical tests, development of liver-related adverse reactions, and for changes in serum lipid levels

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

Age 18 years of age or older

Diagnosis

Patient must have the following:

1. Primary biliary cholangitis (PBC)

AND ALL of the following:

a. Confirmation of patient improvement with **ALL** of the following:
   i. Serum alkaline phosphatase (ALP) decrease of at least 15%
   ii. Total bilirubin level of ≤ 1.1 mg/dL for females and ≤ 1.5 mg/dL for males

b. The physician has weighed the potential risks against the benefits of continuing treatment in patients experiencing clinically significant liver-related adverse reactions
c. **NO** decompensated cirrhosis
d. **NO** evidence of complete biliary obstruction
e. Physician agrees to frequently monitor patient during treatment for elevations in liver biochemical tests, development of liver-related adverse reactions, and for changes in serum lipid levels

Policy Guidelines

Pre - PA Allowance
None

Prior - Approval Limits

Quantity 90 tablets per 90 days

Duration 6 months

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Quantity 90 tablets per 90 days

Duration 12 months

Rationale

Summary
Iqirvo (elafibranor) is a PPAR agonist indicated for the treatment of PBC. Iqirvo is not recommended in patients who have or develop decompensated cirrhosis. Iqirvo has been associated with myalgia, myopathy, rhabdomyolysis, fractures, potential risk to a fetus, drug-induced liver injury, and biliary obstruction. The safety and effectiveness of Iqirvo in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1).

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

References

1. Iqirvo [package insert]. Cambridge, MA: Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals, Inc.; June 2024.

Policy History

Date	Action
July 2024	Addition to PA
September 2024	Annual review. Per FEP, added managed PA verbiage to requirements
December 2024	Annual review. Per SME, updated UCDA t/f requirements and added liver monitoring requirements to match Ocaliva
June 2025	Annual review
December 2025	Annual review. Removed from managed PA
June 2026	Annual review

Keywords

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on June 11, 2026 and is effective on July 1, 2026.