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Section:	Prescription Drugs	**Effective Date:**	April 1, 2022
Subsection:	Analgesics and Anesthetics	**Original Policy Date:**	December 7, 2011
Subject:	Sumatriptan	**Page:**	1 of 7

Last Review Date: March 11, 2022

Sumatriptan

Description

Sumatriptan Tablets, Nasal Spray (Imitrex, Tosymra NS), Nasal Powder (Onzetra Xsail), sumatriptan and naproxen sodium (Treximet tablets)

Background
The selective serotonin receptor agonists, or “triptans", are a class of medications that have the ability to stop a migraine. Triptans work by binding to serotonin receptors in the brain. Specifically, per Drug Facts and Comparisons pharmacology of the Serotonin 5-HT1 Receptor Agonists (Triptans), the vascular 5-HT1 receptor subtype is present on the human basilar artery and in the vasculature of isolated human dura mater. Current theories on the etiology of migraine headaches suggest that symptoms are caused by local cranial vasodilation or the release of vasoactive and proinflammatory peptides from sensory nerve endings in an activated trigeminal system. The therapeutic activity of the serotonin 5-HT1 receptor agonists in migraine most likely can be attributed to agonist effects at 5-HT1b/1d receptors on the extracerebral, intracranial blood vessels that become dilated during a migraine attack and on nerve terminals in the trigeminal system. Activation of these receptors results in cranial vessel constriction, inhibition of neuropeptide release, and reduced transmission in trigeminal pain pathways (1).

This class of medications has potentially serious side effects, especially when taken in high doses. Life-threatening disturbances of cardiac rhythm and myocardial infarction have been reported, as well as stroke. Excessive use of triptans can lead to medication overuse headache (MOH) (2-6).

Regulatory Status
FDA-approved indication:

Imitrex & Tosymra & Onzetra Xsail: (2-5)
Nasal Spray, Nasal Powder and Tablets are serotonin 5HT1b/1d receptor agonists (triptans) indicated for the acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura in adults.

Treximet: (6)
Treximet is a combination of sumatriptan, a serotonin 5-HT 1b/1d receptor agonist (triptan), and naproxen sodium, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, indicated for the acute treatment of migraine with or without aura in adults and pediatric patients 12 year of age and older.

Limitations of Use: (2-6)

1. Use only after clear diagnosis of migraine has been established.
2. Not indicated for the prophylactic therapy of migraine.
3. Not indicated for the treatment of cluster headache.

Imitrex tablets, Imitrex nasal spray, Tosymra nasal spray, Onzentra Xsail and Treximet contraindications include history of coronary artery disease or coronary vasospasm, Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome or other cardiac accessory conduction pathway disorder, history of stroke, transient ischemic attack, or hemiplegic or basilar migraine, peripheral vascular disease, ischemic bowel disease, uncontrolled hypertension, recent (within 24 hours) use of another 5-HT1 agonist (e.g., another triptan) or of an ergotamine-containing medication, concurrent or recent (past 2 weeks) use of monoamine oxidase-A inhibitor, and severe hepatic impairment, known hypersensitivity to sumatriptan (angioedema and anaphylaxis seen) (2-6).

Treximet has additional contraindications including use in the setting of CABG surgery, history of asthma, urticaria, other allergic type reactions, rhinitis, or nasal polyps syndrome after taking aspirin or other NSAID/analgesic drugs, known hypersensitivity to sumatriptan, naproxen, or any components of Treximet (angioedema and anaphylaxis seen), and third trimester of pregnancy (6).

A cardiac evaluation in patients with cardiovascular risk factors should be done prior to initiation of treatment with Treximet. Discontinue Treximet if arrhythmias, cerebral hemorrhage, subarachnoid hemorrhage, stroke, gastrointestinal ischemic reactions, peripheral vasospastic reactions, serotonin syndrome, renal papillary necrosis, serious skin necrosis or elevated liver enzymes and severe hepatic reactions occur. Monitor blood pressure in hypertensive patients. Use with caution in patients with fluid retention or heart failure (6).

Off-Label Use:

Some triptans have been found to be safe and effective in the pediatric and adolescent population, although some sumatriptan products (e.g., Tosymra and Onzetra Xsail) lack FDA approval for patients less than 18 years of age (7).

Related policies

Amerge, Axert, Butalbital analgesics, Dihydroergotamine Nasal Sprays, Maxalt, Migraine CGRP Antagonists IV, Migraine CGRP Antagonists SC, Migraine CGRP Antagonists Oral, Migraine Powders, Relpax, Sumatriptan Injection, Zomig

Policy

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

Sumatriptan and sumatriptan/naproxen may be considered **medically necessary** in patients 6 years of age or older for the treatment of migraine (classical, common) and if the conditions indicated below are met.

Sumatriptan and sumatriptan/naproxen may be considered **investigational** for patients less than 6 years of age and for all other indications.

Prior-Approval Requirements

Age 6 years of age or older
Ages 6-11 must be prescribed by a neurologist

Diagnoses

Patient must have **ONE** of the following

1. Migraine, with aura (classic or classical)
2. Migraine, without aura (common)

AND ALL of the following:

a. Patient is currently using migraine prophylactic therapy **OR** the patient has had an inadequate treatment response, intolerance, or contraindication to migraine prophylactic therapy (e.g., divalproex sodium, topiramate, valproate sodium, metoprolol, propranolol, etc.)
b. **NO** hemiplegic migraine
c. **NO** basilar migraine
d. **NO** dual therapy with a calcitonin gene related peptide (CGRP)

antagonist for acute migraine treatment (e.g., Nurtec ODT, Ubrelvy)
e. **NO** dual therapy with Reyvow (lasmiditan)
f. **NO** other PA on file for any triptan agent

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

Age 6 years of age or older
Ages 6-11 must be prescribed by a neurologist

Diagnoses

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

1. Migraine, with aura (classic)
2. Migraine, without aura (common)

AND ALL of the following:

a. **NO** hemiplegic migraine
b. **NO** basilar migraine
c. **NO** dual therapy with a calcitonin gene related peptide (CGRP) antagonist for acute migraine treatment (e.g., Nurtec ODT, Ubrelvy)
d. **NO** dual therapy with Reyvow (lasmiditan)
e. **NO** other PA on file for any triptan agent

Policy Guidelines

Pre - PA Allowance

Age 12 years of age or older
No Pre-PA Allowance for 6-11 years of age

Quantity

Strength	Quantity
5 mg nasal spray	96 units per 90 days **OR**
10 mg nasal spray (Tosymra)	48 units per 90 days **OR**
20 mg nasal spray	24 units per 90 days **OR**
25 mg tablets	99 tablets per 90 days **OR**
50 mg tablets	45 tablets per 90 days **OR**
100 mg tablets	27 tablets per 90 days **OR**
85 mg/ 500 mg Treximet	32 tablets per 90 days **OR**
11mg nasal powder	6 dose kits (48 units) per 90 days

Prior - Approval Limits

Quantity

Strength	Quantity
5 mg nasal spray	144 units per 90 days **OR**
10 mg nasal spray (Tosymra)	72 units per 90 days **OR**
20 mg nasal spray	36 units per 90 days **OR**
25 mg tablets	144 tablets per 90 days **OR**
50 mg tablets	63 tablets per 90 days **OR**
100 mg tablets	36 tablets per 90 days **OR**
85 mg/ 500 mg Treximet	45 tablets per 90 days **OR**
11mg nasal powder	9 dose kits (72 units) per 90 days

Duration 6 months

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Same as above

Rationale

Summary

Triptans are serotonin (5-HT) receptor agonists that interrupt a migraine episode, but do not prevent migraines from happening. This class of medications has potentially serious side effects, especially when taken in high doses. Life-threatening disturbances of cardiac rhythm and myocardial infarction have been reported, as well as stroke. Some triptans have been found to be safe and effective in the pediatric and adolescent population, although some sumatriptan products (e.g., Tosymra and Onzetra Xsail) lack FDA approval for patients less than 18 years of age (1-7).

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

References

1. Serotonin 5-HT1 Receptor Agonists (Triptans). Drug Facts and Comparisons. Facts & Comparisons [database online]. St. Louis, MO: Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc; December 2017.

2. Imitrex nasal spray [package insert]. Research Triangle Park, NC: GlaxoSmithKline; December 2017.
3. Imitrex tablets [package insert]. Research Triangle Park, NC: GlaxoSmithKline; December 2020.
4. Tosymra nasal spray [package insert]. Maple Grove, MN: Upsher-Smith Laboratories, LLC; February 2021.
5. Onzetra Xsail [package insert]. Morristown, NJ: Currax Pharmaceuticals LLC; December 2019.
6. Treximet [package insert]. Morristown, NJ: Currax Pharmaceuticals LLC; April 2021.
7. Oskoui M, Pringsheim T, Holler-Managan Y et al. Practice guideline update summary: Acute treatment of migraine in children and adolescents. Neurology 2019; 93(11):487-499.

Policy History

Date	Action
December 2011	New Policy
December 2012	Changed quantity limit to 1.5 x FDA-approved dosage. Annual review and update
April 2013	Revised quantity limits to allow mail order to fill correctly
September 2014	Revision of age to allow pediatric and adolescent use. Annual editorial review and reference update
February 2016	Addition of Onzetra Xsail
March 2016	Annual editorial review and reference update Policy code changed from 5.02.10 to 5.70.10
October 2016	Addition of Treximet 10 mg/ 60 mg
December 2016	Annual review
March 2017	Annual editorial review
March 2018	Annual editorial review and reference update
November 2018	Annual editorial review and reference update. Addition of no dual therapy with CGRP antagonist requirement and no dual therapy with another PA for any triptan agent
February 2019	Addition of Tosymra nasal spray
March 2019	Annual review
September 2019	Revised quantity limits to quantity per 90 days
November 2019	Addition of no dual therapy with Reyvow
December 2019	Annual review. Updated reference and pediatric statement per SME
March 2020	Annual review and reference update
June 2020	Annual review
April 2021	Added no dual therapy with a CGRP antagonist for acute migraine treatment. Revised no dual therapy requirement after 6 months of a prophylactic CGRP antagonist. Removed Treximet 10mg/60mg due to being discontinued. Added initiation requirement to be on a migraine

	prophylactic therapy or have an inadequate treatment response, intolerance, or contraindication to migraine prophylactic therapy
June 2021	Annual review and reference update
September 2021	Annual review and reference update
March 2022	Annual editorial review and reference update. Per SME, removed requirement of “no dual therapy after 6 months with a prophylactic CGRP antagonist”

Keywords

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on March 11, 2022 and is effective on April 1, 2022.