### Xofluza

#### Description

**Xofluza (baloxavir marboxil) tablets**

#### Background

Xofluza (baloxavir marboxil) is a prodrug that is converted by hydrolysis to baloxavir, the active form that exerts anti-influenza virus activity. Baloxavir inhibits the endonuclease activity of the polymerase acidic (PA) protein, an influenza virus-specific enzyme in the viral RNA polymerase complex required for viral gene transcription, resulting in inhibition of influenza virus replication. Efficacy of baloxavir marboxil in patients who begin treatment after 48 hours of symptoms has not been established (1).

#### Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indication: Xofluza is a polymerase acidic (PA) endonuclease inhibitor indicated for the treatment of acute uncomplicated influenza in patients 12 years of age and older who have been symptomatic for no more than 48 hours (1).

#### Limitations of Use: (1)

- Influenza viruses change over time, and factors such as the virus type or subtype, emergence of resistance, or changes in viral virulence could diminish the clinical benefit of antiviral drugs.
- Consider available information on influenza drug susceptibility patterns for circulating influenza virus strains when deciding whether to use Xofluza.

Persons at high risk of complications from influenza should be considered for antiviral therapy. There is data to suggest that the highest risk of both mortality and serious morbidity (e.g.}{
hospitalization) occurs for severely immunocompromised patients (e.g. hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients) and very elderly (age >85 years). Residents of nursing homes and infants aged <24 months also have high hospitalization rates but lower case-fatality rates than do the other 2 groups (2).

Examples of persons at high risk of complications would be (2):
- Unvaccinated infants aged 12-24 months
- Persons with asthma or other chronic pulmonary diseases, such as cystic fibrosis in children or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in adults.
- Persons with hemodynamically significant cardiac disease
- Persons who have immunosuppressive disorders or who are receiving immunosuppressive therapy
- HIV-infected persons
- Persons with sickle cell anemia and other hemoglobinopathies
- Persons with diseases that require long-term aspirin therapy, such as rheumatoid arthritis or Kawasaki disease
- Persons with chronic renal dysfunction
- Persons with cancer
- Persons with chronic metabolic disease, such as diabetes mellitus
- Persons with neuromuscular disorders, seizure disorders, or cognitive dysfunction that may compromise the handling of respiratory secretions
- Adults aged >65 years
- Residents of any age of nursing homes or other long-term care institutions

Safety and effectiveness of Xofluza in pediatric patients less than 12 years of age or weighing less than 40 kg have not been established (1).

**Related policies**
Relenza, Tamiflu

**Policy**

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

Xofluza may be considered **medically necessary** for the treatment of influenza in patients 12 years of age and older or for the treatment of influenza and if the conditions indicated below are met.
Xofluza may be considered **investigational** for all other indications.

### Prior-Approval Requirements

**Age**

12 years of age and older

**Diagnosis**

Patient must have the following:

1. Treatment of influenza
   a. Acute uncomplicated influenza
   b. Onset of symptoms within the previous 48 hours
   c. Patient weight ≥ 40 kg

**AND ONE** of the following:

   a. High risk for complications
   b. Immunocompromised
   c. Resides in an institutional setting (e.g. long term care facilities)

### Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

None

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### Policy Guidelines

#### Pre - PA Allowance

**Age**

12 years of age and older

**Quantity**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 mg</td>
<td>4 tablets OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 mg</td>
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**Duration**

12 months

### Prior - Approval Limits
Treatment of influenza

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<th>Strength</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>4 tablets OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 mg</td>
<td>2 tablets</td>
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Duration 1 month

Prior – Approval *Renewal Limits*
None

Rationale

Summary
Xofluza (baloxavir marboxil) is a prodrug that is converted by hydrolysis to baloxavir, the active form that exerts anti-influenza virus activity. Baloxavir inhibits the endonuclease activity of the polymerase acidic (PA) protein, an influenza virus-specific enzyme in the viral RNA polymerase complex required for viral gene transcription, resulting in inhibition of influenza virus replication.

Efficacy of baloxavir marboxil in patients who begin treatment after 48 hours of symptoms has not been established (1).

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

References

Policy History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>Addition to PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2019</td>
<td>Annual review and reference update</td>
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Keywords

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on March 15, 2019 and is effective on April 1, 2019.