Ketamine Powder

**Description**

Ketamine Powder

**Background**
Ketamine is a rapid-acting anesthetic that can produce anesthesia while maintaining skeletal muscle tone, laryngeal-pharyngeal reflexes, and cardiovascular and respiratory stimulation (1).

**Regulatory Status**
FDA-approved indication: Ketamine is used as an adjunct in general anesthesia as well as a sedative in minor surgical or diagnostic procedures that do not require skeletal muscle relaxation (1).

There are several off-label uses that have been studied for ketamine including, but not limited to, chronic pain, including chronic neuropathic pain, restless legs syndrome and phantom limb syndrome. Alternative routes of administration, including oral, intranasal, transdermal, rectal and subcutaneous have been studied. However, these routes of administration and uses are investigational and are not supported by the FDA (2).

Common adverse effects of ketamine include hypertension, tachycardia and psychiatric signs and symptoms. Ketamine can also produce a transient respiratory depression therefore its use requires regular monitoring of vital signs (1).

Ketamine injection is commercially available in 10 mg/ml, 50 mg/ml and 100 mg/ml vials (1-2).

**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.

Ketamine powder may be considered **medically necessary** in patients 16 years of age or older for the injection dosage form for the induction of anesthesia or for conscious sedation for minor surgical procedures. The requested dose is not commercially available and the dose does not exceed the FDA approved limit of 100mg/ml.

Ketamine powder may be considered **investigational** in children under 16 years of age and for all other indications.

**Prior-Approval Requirements**

**Age**

16 years of age or older

**Diagnoses**

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

1. Induction of anesthesia prior to the administration of other general anesthetic agents
2. Conscious sedation prior to minor surgical or diagnostic procedures

**AND ALL** of the following:

a. The requested dosage form is for injection
b. The requested dose does not exceed the FDA approved limit of 100 mg/ml
c. The requested dose is not commercially available

**Prior – Approval Renewal Requirements**

Same as above

**Policy Guidelines**

**Pre - PA Allowance**

None
Effective Date: April 1, 2019
Original Policy Date: July 3, 2013

Prior - Approval Limits
Duration 12 months

Prior – Approval Renewal Limits
Duration 12 months

Rationale

Summary
Ketamine powder is a rapid-acting anesthetic that can produce anesthesia while maintaining skeletal muscle tone, laryngeal-pharyngeal reflexes, and cardiovascular and respiratory stimulation. Ketamine is used in patients 16 years of age or older for the induction of anesthesia or for conscious sedation for minor surgical procedures (1).

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

References

Policy History

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Keywords

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