Symdeko (tezacaftor and ivacaftor)

Background
Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is caused by mutations to the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene, which encode for proteins called CFTR proteins. The CFTR proteins function as channels for chloride ions to go in and out of epithelial cells, which can be found on various parts of the body including the lungs and pancreas. Because these CFTR protein channels are mutated in CF patients, chloride (and therefore fluids) cannot be transported appropriately across cell membranes, causing a build-up of abnormally thick mucus in the lungs, pancreas, and other organs with the CFTR channels. Symdeko is a combination medication of CFTR potentiators (tezacaftor and ivacaftor) that works within cells to increase the quantity and function of the CFTR protein at the cell surface, resulting in increased chloride transport, in CF patients with certain CFTR gene mutations (1-2).

Regulatory Status
FDA approved indication: Symdeko is a combination of tezacaftor and ivacaftor, indicated for the treatment of patients with cystic fibrosis (CF) age 6 years and older who are homozygous for the F508del mutation or who have at least one mutation in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene that is responsive to tezacaftor/ivacaftor based on in vitro data and/or clinical evidence (1).
If the patient’s genotype is unknown, an FDA-cleared CF mutation test should be used to detect the presence of a CFTR mutation followed by verification with bi-directional sequencing when recommended by the mutation test instructions for use (1).

**List of CFTR Gene Mutations that are Responsive to Symdeko**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gene Mutation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E56K</td>
<td>R117C</td>
<td>A455E</td>
<td>S945L</td>
<td>R1070W</td>
<td>3272-26A-G</td>
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<td>P67L</td>
<td>E193K</td>
<td>F508del*</td>
<td>S977F</td>
<td>F1074L</td>
<td>3849+10kbC-T</td>
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<td>R74W</td>
<td>L206W</td>
<td>D579G</td>
<td>F1052V</td>
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<td>D110H</td>
<td>R352Q</td>
<td>E831X</td>
<td>A1067T</td>
<td>2789+5G-A</td>
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</table>

*A patient must have two copies of the *F508del* mutation or at least one copy of a responsive mutation presented in Table 4 to be indicated.

Elevated transaminases have been observed in patients with CF treated with Symdeko, as well as with ivacaftor monotherapy. Assessments of transaminases (ALT and AST) are recommended for all patients prior to initiating Symdeko, every 3 months during the first year of treatment, and annually thereafter. For patients with a history of transaminase elevations more frequent monitoring should be considered. In the event of significant elevations of transaminases, e.g., patients with ALT or AST >5 x upper limit of normal (ULN), or ALT or AST >3 x ULN with bilirubin >2 x ULN, dosing should be interrupted and laboratory tests closely followed until the abnormalities resolve. Following the resolution of transaminase elevations consider the benefits and risks of resuming treatment (1).

Additionally, participants were excluded if they had 2 or more abnormal liver function tests at screening (ALT, AST, AP, GGT ≥3 x ULN or total bilirubin ≥2 x ULN) or AST or ALT ≥5 x ULN. The primary efficacy endpoint was change in lung function determined by absolute change from baseline in ppFEV₁ (1).

The safety and efficacy of Symdeko in patients with CF younger than 6 years of age have not been studied (1).

**Related policies**
Kalydeco, Orkambi, Pulmozyme

**Policy**

*This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.*
Symdeko may be considered **medically necessary** for patients 6 years of age or older with cystic fibrosis and if all of the conditions indicated below are met.

Symdeko may be considered **investigational** in patients less than 6 years of age and for all other indications.

### Prior-Approval Requirements

**Age**

6 years of age or older

**Diagnosis**

Patient must have the following:

Cystic fibrosis (CF)

**AND ONE** of the following

1. Homozygous for the F508del mutation in the CFTR gene
2. Heterozygous for the F508del mutation in the CFTR gene and one of the following mutations:

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<tr>
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<td>D110E</td>
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<tr>
<td>D110H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AND ALL** of the following:

1. Pretreatment percent predicted forced expiratory volume (ppFEV₁) must be provided
2. Baseline ALT, AST, and bilirubin must be obtained at baseline and tested every 3 months for the first year
3. Must be prescribed by a pulmonologist or gastroenterologist
4. **NO** dual therapy with another cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) potentiator

**Prior – Approval Renewal Requirements**

**Age**

6 years of age or older

**Diagnosis**

Patient must have the following:

Cystic Fibrosis (CF)

AND **ALL** of the following:

1. Stable or improvement of ppFEV₁ from baseline
2. Annual testing of ALT, AST, and bilirubin levels after the first year of therapy
3. **NO** dual therapy with another cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) potentiator

**Policy Guidelines**

**Pre - PA Allowance**

None

**Prior - Approval Limits**

**Quantity**

168 tablets for 84 days

**Duration**

6 months

**Prior – Approval Renewal Limits**

**Quantity**

168 tablets for 84 days

**Duration**

12 months
Rationale

Summary
Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is caused by mutations to the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene, which encode for proteins called CFTR proteins. Mutations in these regulators lead to a build-up of sticky mucus in the lungs, pancreas, and other organs of the body. Symdeko is a combination of tezacaftor and ivacaftor, indicated for the treatment of patients with cystic fibrosis (CF) age 6 years and older who are homozygous for the F508del mutation or who have at least one mutation in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene that is responsive to tezacaftor/ivacaftor based on in vitro data and/or clinical evidence. The use of this medication can improve the quantity and quality of the CFTR channels on the cell membranes and can help decrease the build-up of mucus in CF patients (1-2).

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

References

Policy History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>March 2018</td>
<td>Addition to PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>Annual editorial review</td>
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<td>Removal of requirement: patient has had 2 negative respiratory cultures for any of the following organisms: burkholeria cenocepacia, burkholderia dolosa, or mycobacterium abscessus in the past 12 months per SME</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2019</td>
<td>Annual review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2019</td>
<td>Decreased age requirement to 6 years or older</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2019</td>
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Keywords
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<td>Respiratory Agents</td>
<td>Original Policy Date:</td>
<td>March 9, 2018</td>
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This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on September 13, 2019 and is effective on October 1, 2019.