

Radicava (edaravone)

PRODUCTS AFFECTED

Radicava (edaravone), Radicava ORS (edaravone)

COVERAGE POLICY

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any. This Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide Molina Healthcare complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

Documentation Requirements:

Molina Healthcare reserves the right to require that additional documentation be made available as part of its coverage determination; quality improvement; and fraud; waste and abuse prevention processes. Documentation required may include, but is not limited to, patient records, test results and credentials of the provider ordering or performing a drug or service. Molina Healthcare may deny reimbursement or take additional appropriate action if the documentation provided does not support the initial determination that the drugs or services were medically necessary, not investigational or experimental, and otherwise within the scope of benefits afforded to the member, and/or the documentation demonstrates a pattern of billing or other practice that is inappropriate or excessive.

DIAGNOSIS:

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

REQUIRED MEDICAL INFORMATION:

This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. If a drug within this policy receives an updated FDA label within the last 180 days, medical necessity for the member will be reviewed using the updated FDA label information along with state and federal requirements, benefit being administered and formulary preferencing. Coverage will be determined on a case-by-case basis until the criteria can be updated through Molina Healthcare, Inc. clinical governance. Additional information may be required on a case-by-case basis to allow for adequate review. When the requested drug product for coverage is dosed by weight, body surface area or other member specific measurement, this data element is required as part of the medical necessity review. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee has determined that the drug benefit shall be a mandatory generic and that generic drugs will be dispensed whenever available.

A. AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS):

 Documentation supporting the clinical diagnosis of 'definite ALS' or 'probable ALS' per the revised EL Escorial (Airlie House) diagnostic criteria (See appendix) AND

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- Documentation of baseline ALS Functional Rating Scale-Revised (ALSFRS-R) score of 2 or greater on each individual item of the scale (12 items; minimum 0 points, maximum 48 points) [DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED] AND
- 3. Documentation of duration of disease from the first symptom (any ALS symptom) ≤ 2 years AND
- 4. Documentation member has retained normal respiratory function as evidenced by a Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) >80% OR decline in respiratory function is better explained by a pulmonary disease process (e.g., COPD, asthma, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis). In patients with reduced baseline FVC, records may be requested documenting diagnosis of the pulmonary disease process leading to reduced FVC. AND
- 5. Documentation of concomitant use of riluzole (Rilutek) [up to maximally indicated doses (50 mg twice daily)], unless member has a labeled contraindication or clinically significant adverse effects AND
- 6. Prescriber attests to (or the clinical reviewer has found that) the member not having any FDA labeled contraindications that haven't been addressed by the prescriber within the documentation submitted for review [Contraindications to edaravone include: Hypersensitivity to edaravone or any of the inactive ingredients in Radicava and/or Radicava ORS]

CONTINUATION OF THERAPY:

A. AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS):

- Adherence to therapy at least 85% of the time as verified by Prescriber and member's medication fill history (review Rx history for compliance) AND
- Documentation of disease stability or mild progression indicating a slowing of decline [i.e., member continues to have a score of 2 or greater on each item of the ALSFRS-R; AND ALSFRS-R score has not decreased more than 6 points total from previous baseline 6 months ago] MOLINA REVIEWER NOTE: For Ohio Medicaid, please see Appendix. AND
- 3. Prescriber attests to or clinical reviewer has found no evidence of intolerable adverse effects or drug toxicity

DURATION OF APPROVAL:

Initial authorization: 6 months; 6 cycles (64 doses over 168 days), Continuation of therapy: 6 months; 6 cycles (60 doses over 168 days)

MOLINA REVIEWER NOTE: For Illinois Marketplace, Kentucky Marketplace, Ohio Marketplace, and Kentucky Medicaid, please see Appendix.

PRESCRIBER REQUIREMENTS:

Prescribed by, or in consultation with, a board-certified neurologist, neuromuscular specialist, or physician experienced in the management/treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). [If prescribed in consultation, consultation notes must be submitted with initial request and reauthorization requests]

AGE RESTRICTIONS:

18 years of age and older

QUANTITY:

60 mg/day IV or 105 mg/day (5 mL) oral suspension Initial treatment cycle: daily dosing for 14 days followed by a 14-day drug-free period Subsequent treatment cycles: daily dosing for 10 days out of 14-day periods, followed by 14-day drugfree periods

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Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria PLACE OF ADMINISTRATION:

The recommendation is that oral medications in this policy will be for pharmacy benefit coverage and patient self-administered.

The recommendation is that infused medications in this policy will be for pharmacy or medical benefit coverage administered in a place of service that is a non-hospital facility-based location as per the Molina Health Care Site of Care program.

Note: Site of Care Utilization Management Policy applies for Radicava, intravenous infusion. For information on site of care, <u>Specialty Medication Administration Site of Care Coverage Criteria (molinamarketplace.com)</u>

DRUG INFORMATION

ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION:

Intravenous, Oral

DRUG CLASS:

ALS Agents - Miscellaneous

FDA-APPROVED USES:

Indicated for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

COMPENDIAL APPROVED OFF-LABELED USES:

None

APPENDIX

APPENDIX:

Reserved for State specific information. Information includes, but is not limited to, State contract language, Medicaid criteria and other mandated criteria.

State Specific Information State Marketplace

Illinois (Source: Illinois General Assembly)

"(215 ILCS 200/60) Sec. 60. Length of prior authorization approval. A prior authorization approval shall be valid for the lesser of 6 months after the date the health care professional or health care provider receives the prior authorization approval or the length of treatment as determined by the patient's health care professional or the renewal of the plan, and the approval period shall be effective regardless of any changes, including any changes in dosage for a prescription drug prescribed by the health care professional. All dosage increases must be based on established evidentiary standards and nothing in this Section shall prohibit a health insurance issuer from having safety edits in place. This Section shall not apply to the prescription of benzodiazepines or Schedule II narcotic drugs, such as opioids. Except to the extent required by medical exceptions processes for prescription drugs set forth in Section 45.1 of the Managed Care Reform and Patient Rights Act, nothing in this Section shall require a policy to cover any care, treatment, or services for any health condition that the terms of coverage otherwise completely exclude from the policy's covered benefits without regard for whether the care, treatment, or services are medically necessary. (Source: P.A. 102-409, eff. 1-1-22.)"

"(215 ILCS 200/65) Sec. 65. Length of prior authorization approval for *treatment for chronic or long-term conditions*. If a health insurance issuer requires a prior authorization for a recurring health care service or maintenance medication for the treatment of a chronic or long-term condition, the approval shall remain valid for the lesser of 12 months from the date the health care professional or health care provider receives the prior authorization approval or the length of the treatment as determined by the patient's health care professional. This Section shall not apply to the prescription of benzodiazepines or Schedule II narcotic drugs, such as opioids. Except to the extent required by medical exceptions processes for prescription drugs set forth in Section 45.1 of the Managed Care Reform and Patient Rights Act, nothing in this Section shall require a policy to cover any care, treatment, or services for any health condition that the terms of coverage otherwise completely exclude from the policy's covered benefits without regard for whether the care, treatment, or

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Kentucky (Source: Kentucky Revised Statutes)

KY304.17A-167 Time span of authorizations

(Subsection 2) "Unless otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section or prohibited by state or federal law, if a provider receives a prior authorization for a drug prescribed to a covered person with a condition that requires ongoing medication therapy, and the provider continues to prescribe the drug, and the drug is used for a condition that is within the scope of use approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration or has been proven to be a safe and effective form of treatment for the patient's specific underlying condition based on clinical practice guidelines that are developed from peer-reviewed publications, the prior authorization received shall: (a) Be valid for the lesser of: 1. One (1) year from the date the provider receives the prior authorization; or 2. Until the last day of coverage under the covered person's health benefit plan during a single plan year; and (b) Cover any change in dosage prescribed by the provider during the period of authorization." (Subsection 3) "Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to: 1. Medications that are prescribed for a non-maintenance condition; 2. Medications that have a typical treatment period of less than twelve (12) months; 3. Medications where there is medical or scientific evidence that does not support a twelve (12) month approval; or 4. Medications that are opioid analgesics or benzodiazepines. (b) Paragraph (a) of this subsection shall not apply to any medication that is prescribed to a patient in a community-based palliative care program."

Re-authorization (approved authorization previously issued by Molina Healthcare) for maintenance medications within this policy shall be approved for a 12 month duration when request meets policy requirements, unless exceptions noted above have been met.

Ohio (Source: Ohio Revised Code)

Chapter 3923 Sickness And Accident Insurance Section 3923.041 Policies with prior authorization requirement provisions "(B)(6)(a) For policies issued on or after January 1, 2017, *for a prior approval related to a chronic condition*, the insurer or plan shall honor a prior authorization *approval for an approved drug for the lesser of the following from the date of the approval: (i) Twelve months*; (ii) The last day of the covered person's eligibility under the policy or plan. (b) The duration of all other prior authorization approvals shall be dictated by the policy or plan."

State Medicaid

Kentucky (Source: Kentucky Revised Statutes)

KY304.17A-167 Time span of authorizations

(Subsection 2) "Unless otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section or prohibited by state or federal law, if a provider receives a prior authorization for a drug prescribed to a covered person with a condition that requires ongoing medication therapy, and the provider continues to prescribe the drug, and the drug is used for a condition that is within the scope of use approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration or has been proven to be a safe and effective form of treatment for the patient's specific underlying condition based on clinical practice guidelines that are developed from peer-reviewed publications, the prior authorization received shall: (a) Be valid for the lesser of: 1. One (1) year from the date the provider receives the prior authorization; or 2. Until the last day of coverage under the covered person's health benefit plan during a single plan year; and (b) Cover any change in dosage prescribed by the provider during the period of authorization." (Subsection 3) "Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to: 1. Medications that are prescribed for a non-maintenance condition; 2. Medications that have a typical treatment period of less than twelve (12) months; 3. Medications where there is medical or scientific evidence that does not support a twelve (12) month approval; or 4. Medications that are opioid analgesics or benzodiazepines. (b) Paragraph (a) of this subsection shall not apply to any medication that is prescribed to a patient in a community-based palliative care program."

Re-authorization (approved authorization previously issued by Molina Healthcare) for maintenance medications within this policy shall be approved for a 12 month duration when request meets policy requirements, unless exceptions noted above have been met.

Ohio

Section: Continuation of Therapy: A. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) #2, "Documentation of disease Molina Healthcare, Inc. confidential and proprietary © 2024

Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

stability or mild progression indicating a slowing of decline [i.e., member continues to have a score of 2 or greater on each item of the ALSFRS-R; AND ALSFRSR score has not decreased more than 6 points total from previous baseline 6 months ago]" does NOT apply.

Diagnostic criteria

The clinical standard for the diagnosis of ALS is the revised El Escorial World Federation of Neurology criteria, also known as the Airlie House criteria. These criteria were designed for research purposes to ensure appropriate inclusion of patients into clinical trials and allow assignment of diagnostic certainty. They have been further adapted (the Awaji criteria) to better incorporate and electromyography information and improve diagnostic sensitivity.

The El Escorial revised Airlie House diagnostic criteria grades the certainty of the diagnosis based upon 4 clinical grades:

- Clinically "Definite ALS" is defined on clinical evidence alone by the presence of upper motor neuron (UMN), as well as lower motor neuron (LMN) signs, in the bulbar region and at least 2 spinal regions or the presence of UMN and LMN signs in 3 spinal regions.
- Clinically "Probable ALS" is defined on clinical evidence alone by UMN and LMN signs in at least 2 regions with some UMN signs necessarily rostral to (above) the LMN signs.
- Clinically "Probable ALS Laboratory supported" is defined when clinical signs of UMN and LMN dysfunction are in only 1 region, or when UMN signs alone are present in 1 region, and LMN signs defined by electromyography criteria are present in at least 2 regions, with proper application of neuroimaging and clinical laboratory protocols to exclude other causes.
- Clinically "Possible ALS" is defined when clinical signs of UMN and LMN dysfunction are found together in only 1 region or UMN signs are found alone in 2 or more regions; or LMN signs are found rostral to UMN signs and the diagnosis of Clinically Probable ALS Laboratory supported cannot be proven by evidence on clinical grounds in conjunction with electrodiagnostic, neurophysiologic, neuroimaging, or clinical laboratory studies. Other diagnoses must have been excluded to accept a diagnosis of Clinically Possible ALS.

Note: "Suspected ALS" is deleted from the revised El Escorial Criteria By the revised El Escorial criteria, diagnosis of ALS requires:

- Presence of evidence of lower motor neuron (LMN) degeneration by clinical, electrophysiologic, or neuropathologic exam evidence of upper motor neuron (UMN) degeneration by clinical exam progressive spread of symptoms or signs within a region or to other regions, determined by history or exam
- Absence of: electrophysiologic or pathologic evidence of other disease processes that might explain signs of LMN and/or UMN degeneration neuroimaging evidence of other disease processes that might explain observed clinical and electrophysiologic signs

ALS FUNCTIONAL RATING SCALE-REVISED (ALSFRS-R)

ALSFRS-R has been the most widely used composite measure of function in ALS over the last 15 years (Cedarbaum 1999) The ALSFRS-R scale consists of 12 questions that evaluate the fine motor, gross motor, bulbar, and respiratory function of patients with ALS (speech, salivation, swallowing, handwriting, cutting food, dressing/hygiene, turning in bed, walking, climbing stairs, dyspnea, orthopnea, and respiratory insufficiency). Each item is scored from 0 to 4, with higher scores representing greater functional ability.

The ALSFRS-R includes 12 items measuring multiple aspects of daily functioning.

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Bulbar	Fine Motor	Gross Motor	Breathing
 Speech Normal speech processes Detectable speech disturbance Intelligible with repeating Speech combined with nonvocal communication Loss of useful speech Salivation Loss of useful speech Salight but definite excess of saliva in mouth; may have nighttime drooling Moderately excessive saliva; may have minimal drooling Marked excess of saliva with some drooling Marked drooling: requires constant tissue or handkerchief Swallowing Normal eating habits Early eating problems-occasional choking Dietary consistency changes Needs supplemental tube feeding 		 7. Turning in bed 4. Normal 3. Somewhat skow and clumsy, but no help needed 4. Can turn alone or adjust sheets, but with great difficulty 1. Can initiate, but not turn or adjust sheets alone 0. Helpless 8. Walking 4. Normal 3. Early ambulation difficulties 2. Walks with assistance 1. Non-ambulatory functional movement only 0. No purposeful leg movement 9. Climbing stairs 4. Normal 3. Slow 2. Mild unsteadiness or fatigue 1. Needs assistance 	
O. NPO (exclusively parenteral or enteral feeding) 4. Handwriting 4. Normal 3. Slow or sloppy; all words are legible 2. Not all words are legible 1. Able to grip pen but unable to write 0. Unable to grip pen 5a. Cutting Food / Handling Utensils 4. Normal 3. Somewhat slow and clumsy, but no help needed 2. Can cut most foods, although dumsy and slow; some help needed 1. Food must be cut by someone, but can still feed slowly 0. Needs to be fed 5b. Cutting Food / Handling Utensils (Alt. for patients with Gastrostomy)		 10. Dyspnea None Occurs when walking Occurs with one or more of the following: eating, bathing, dressing (ADL) Occurs at rest, difficulty breathing when either sitting or lying Significant difficulty, considering using mechanical respiratory support 11. Orthopnea None Some difficulty sleeping at night due to shortness of breath. Does not routinely use more than two pillows Needs extra pillow in order to sleep (more than two) Can only sleep sitting up Unable to sleep 	
 Normal Clumsy but able to perform all manipulations independently Some help needed with closures and fasteners Provides minimal assistance to caregiver 		12. Respiratory insufficiency 4. None 3. Intermittent use of BIPAP	

- 1. Provides minimal assistance to caregiver
- 0. Unable to perform any aspect of task

6. Dressing and hygiene

- 4. Normal function
- Independent and complete self-care with effort or decreased efficiency
- 2. Intermittent assistance or substitute methods
- 1. Needs attendant for self-care
- 0. Total dependence

- 2. Continuous use of BiPAP
- 1. Continuous use of BiPAP during the night and day
- 0. Invasive mechanical ventilation by intubation or tracheostomy

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BACKGROUND AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

BACKGROUND:

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

• Also known as Charcot's disease and Lou Gehrig's disease, is a disease of unknown cause characterized by slowly progressive degeneration of upper motor neurons (UMNs) and lower motor neurons (LMNs).

An adult-onset, neurodegenerative disease characterized by loss of motor neurons in the spinal cord, brainstem, and motor cortex. ALS primarily affects the upper and lower motor neurons and is characterized by muscle weakness, disability, and eventual death, usually from respiratory failure.
Cause of the disease is unknown, and there is no cure.

• One of the most common neuromuscular diseases worldwide and affects individuals of all races and ethnic backgrounds (NIND 2017). In 2016 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that between 14,000 - 15,000 Americans have ALS.

• Most common in individuals 40-60 years old, but younger and older people can develop the disease. Men are more likely to develop ALS than women. Studies suggest an overall ratio of about 1.5 men to every woman who develops ALS in Western countries (ALS Association Epidemiology of ALS and Suspected Clusters)

A diagnosis of ALS is based upon evidence of upper and lower motor neuron signs, relentless disease progression, and the absence of an alternative etiology (Kiernan MC; Brooks BR; AAN 2009). ALS, as with other motor neuron diseases, does not have a diagnostic test that can confirm or entirely exclude its diagnosis.

ALS management is primarily managed with symptomatic treatment and palliative care. There is no known cure for ALS at the present time. There are currently two FDA approved therapies for management of ALS as of May 2017 with the approval of Radicava (edaravone):

1) **Riluzole (Rilutek)** was the first drug to receive FDA approval for ALS (December 1995). Riluzole is an oral formulation that acts to slow the progression of ALS symptoms and prolong survival. The exact mechanism in treating ALS is unknown; however, it is believed to block the release of glutamate from nerve cells thereby reducing the rate of glutamate- induced deterioration in nerve cells resulting in the slowing of initial progression of symptoms.

Riluzole has demonstrated a slight increase overall survival (by 2-3 months), however it has not been shown to have an effect on physical functioning (has not been shown to modulate motor or respiratory function). <u>Clinical studies</u> concluded that Rilutek may increase early survival by two to three months, but it does not improve muscle strength and neurological function and has no effect in later stages of ALS.

Compared with placebo, riluzole may prolong median tracheostomy-free survival by 2-3 months in patients younger than 75 years with definite or probable ALS who have had the disease for less than 5 years and who have a forced vital capacity (FVC) of greater than 60%.

2) **Radicava (edaravone)** received FDA approval on May 5, 2017 for the treatment of patients with ALS. Radicava is the second drug to be approved for treatment of ALS after more than two decades from the first FDA approval of riluzole.

Edaravone is a pyrazolone free radical scavenger. The mechanism by which the drug exerts its therapeutic effects in ALS in unknown. It is theorized to decrease effects of oxidative stress, a likely factor in the onset and progression of ALS. Administration is by IV infusion, requiring it to begiven by a healthcare professional and monitoring for infusion-related reactions.

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CONTRAINDICATIONS/EXCLUSIONS/DISCONTINUATION:

All other uses of Radicava (edaravone) and Radicava ORS (edaravone) are considered experimental/investigational and therefore, will follow Molina's Off-Label policy. Contraindications to edaravone include: patients with a history of hypersensitivity to edaravone or any of the inactive ingredients in Radicava and/or Radicava ORS.

OTHER SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None

CODING/BILLING INFORMATION

Note: 1) This list of codes may not be all-inclusive. 2) Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement

HCPCS CODE	DESCRIPTION
J1301	Injection, edaravone,1mg

AVAILABLE DOSAGE FORMS:

Radicava ORS Starter Kit SUSP 105MG/5ML Radicava ORS SUSP 105MG/5ML Radicava SOLN 30MG/100ML (100ml bottle)

REFERENCES

- 1. Radicava (edaravone) [prescribing information]. Jersey City, NJ: MT Pharma America Inc; November 2022.
- Brooks BR. El Escorial World Federation of Neurology criteria for the diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Subcommittee on Motor Neuron Diseases/Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis of the World Federation of Neurology Research Group on Neuromuscular Diseases and the El Escorial "Clinical limits of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis" workshop contributors. J Neurol Sci 1994; 124 Suppl:96.
- 3. Brooks BR, Miller RG, Swash M, et al. World Federation of Neurology Research Group on Motor Neuron Diseases. El Escorial revisited: revised criteria for the diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Amyotroph Lateral Scler Other Motor Neuron Disord. 2000 Dec;1(5):293-9.
- Abe, K., Itoyama, Y., Sobue, G., Tsuji, S., Aoki, M., & Doyu, M. et al. (2014). Confirmatory doubleblind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled study of efficacy and safety of edaravone (MCI- 186) in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis patients. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis And Frontotemporal Degeneration, 15(7-8), 610-617. doi: 10.3109/21678421.2014.959024
- Abe, K., Aoki, M., Tsuji, S., Itoyama, Y., Sobue, G., & Togo, M. et al. (2017). Safety and efficacy of edaravone in well defined patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: a randomised, doubleblind, placebo-controlled trial. The Lancet Neurology, 16(7), 505-512. doi: 10.1016/s1474-4422(17)30115-1

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SUMMARY OF REVIEW/REVISIONS	DATE
REVISION-Notable revisions: Required Medical Information Continuation of Therapy Duration of Approval Prescriber Requirements References	Q2 2024
REVISION-Notable revisions: Products Affected Required Medical Information Continuation of Therapy Quantity Place of Administration Route of Administration Contraindications/Exclusions/Discontinuation Available Dosage Forms References	Q2 2023
REVISION-Notable revisions: Prescriber Requirements Place of Administration	Q2 2022
Q2 2022 Established tracking in new format	Historical changes on file

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