

## PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

**POLICY:** Migraine – Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide Inhibitors – Emgality Prior Authorization Policy

- Emgality® (galcanezumab-gnlm subcutaneous injection – Lilly)

**REVIEW DATE:** 04/10/2024

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### OVERVIEW

Emgality, a calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) antagonist, is indicated in adults for the following uses:<sup>1</sup>

- **Episodic cluster headache treatment.**
- **Migraine headache prevention.**

### Disease Overview

Migraines have been defined as chronic or episodic. Chronic migraine is described by the International Headache Society as headache occurring on  $\geq 15$  days/month for  $> 3$  months and has the features of migraine headache on  $\geq 8$  days/month.<sup>2</sup> Episodic migraine is characterized by headaches that occur  $< 15$  days/month.<sup>3</sup> Episodic migraine is more common than chronic migraine; however, chronic migraine is associated with a markedly greater personal and societal burden.

Cluster headaches are associated with attacks of severe, strictly unilateral pain which is orbital, supraorbital, temporal, or in any combination of these sites, lasting 15 to 180 minutes.<sup>2</sup> The headaches occur from once every other day to eight times a day. Cluster headache is considered among the most severe of the primary headache disorders because of extreme pain, associated autonomic symptoms, and high attack frequency.<sup>5</sup> In addition, a large proportion of patients with cluster headache have chronic cluster headache, which features only brief or no remission periods, and may be particularly refractory to medical therapies.

### Guidelines

An updated assessment of the **preventive and acute treatment of migraine** by the **American Headache Society** (AHS) [2018; update 2021] reaffirms previous migraine guidelines.<sup>6,7</sup> Patients with migraine should be considered for preventive treatment in the following situations: when attacks significantly interfere with patients' daily routines despite acute treatment; frequent attacks ( $\geq 4$  monthly headache days); at least moderate disability (Migraine Disability Assessment [MIDAS] score  $\geq 11$  or six-item Headache Impact Test [HIT-6] score  $> 50$ ); contraindication to, failure, overuse, or adverse events with acute treatments; or patient preference. Before developing a preventive treatment plan, the appropriate use (e.g., drug type, route and timing of administration, frequency) of acute treatments should be initiated and coupled with education and lifestyle modifications. All patients with migraine should be offered a trial of acute treatment. Based on the level of evidence for efficacy and the American Academy of Neurology scheme for classification of evidence, the following oral treatments have established efficacy and should be offered for migraine prevention: antiepileptic drugs (**divalproex sodium, valproate sodium, topiramate** [not for women of childbearing potential without a reliable method of birth control]); beta-blockers (**metoprolol, propranolol, timolol**); and **frovatriptan** (for short-term preventive treatment of menstrual migraine). The following treatments are probably effective and should be considered for migraine prevention: antidepressants (**amitriptyline, venlafaxine**); beta-blockers (**atenolol, nadolol**); and angiotensin receptor blockers (**candesartan**).

The **AHS** issued an update to their position statement (2024) specifically regarding therapies targeting CGRP for the prevention of migraine.<sup>8</sup> The evidence for the efficacy, tolerability, and safety of CGRP-targeting migraine preventive therapies (specifically, the monoclonal antibodies: Aimovig [erenumab-aooe

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subcutaneous {SC} injection], Ajovy® [fremanezumab-vfrm SC injection], Emgality® [galcanezumab-gnlm SC injection], and Vyepti® [eptinezumab-jjmr intravenous infusion], and the gepants: Nurtec® ODT [rimegepant orally disintegrating tablets] and Qulipta® [atogepant tablets]) is substantial and consistent across different individual CGRP-targeting treatments. Extensive “real-world” clinical experience corroborates clinical trials. This data indicates that the efficacy and tolerability of CGRP-targeting therapies are equal to or greater than those of previous first-line therapies. The CGRP-targeting therapies should be considered as a first-line approach for migraine prevention along with previous first-line treatments without a requirement for prior failure of other classes of migraine preventive treatment. Additionally, Botox® (onabotulinumtoxinA SC injection) is considered a first-line therapy for prevention of chronic migraine.

The AHS has published evidence-based guidelines on the **treatment of cluster headache** (2016).<sup>5</sup> The guidelines recommend sumatriptan subcutaneous, zolmitriptan nasal spray, and high flow oxygen for acute treatment. For prophylactic therapy, suboccipital steroid injection has been established as effective for the prophylactic therapy of episodic and chronic cluster headache (Level A). Lithium, verapamil, and melatonin are considered possibly effective for the prophylactic therapy of episodic and chronic cluster headache (Level C). Currently, there is insufficient evidence to make a recommendation for frovatriptan and prednisone (Level U).

## POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Emgality. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. In cases where the approval is authorized in months, 1 month is equal to 30 days.

**Automation:** None.

## RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Emgality is recommended in those who meet the following criteria:

### FDA-Approved Indications

- 1. Episodic Cluster Headache Treatment.** Approve for 6 months if the patient meets ALL of the following (A, B, C, and D):
  - A) Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND
  - B) Patient has between one headache every other day and eight headaches per day; AND
  - C) Patient has tried at least one standard prophylactic (preventive) pharmacologic therapy for cluster headache; AND  
Note: Examples of standard prophylactic (preventive) pharmacologic therapies for cluster headache include lithium, verapamil, melatonin, frovatriptan, prednisone, suboccipital steroid injection, topiramate, and valproate.
  - D) Patient has had inadequate efficacy or has experienced adverse event(s) severe enough to warrant discontinuation of the standard prophylactic (preventive) pharmacologic therapy, according to the prescriber.
- 2. Migraine Headache Prevention.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (A, B, and C):
  - A) Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND
  - B) Patient has  $\geq 4$  migraine headache days per month (prior to initiating a migraine-preventive medication); AND

- C) If the patient is currently taking Emgality, the patient has had a significant clinical benefit from the medication, as determined by the prescriber.

Note: Examples of significant clinical benefit include a reduction in the overall number of migraine days per month or a reduction in number of severe migraine days per month from the time that Emgality was initiated.

### CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Emgality is not recommended in the following situations:

1. **Acute Treatment of Migraine.** Emgality has not been studied for the acute treatment of migraine.
2. **Concurrent use with another calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) inhibitor being prescribed for migraine headache prevention.**  
Note: CGRP inhibitors that are indicated for migraine headache prevention include Aimovig (erenumab-aooe subcutaneous injection), Ajovy (fremanezumab-vfrm subcutaneous injection), Vyepti (eptinezumab-jjmr intravenous infusion), and Qulipta (atogepant tablets). Ajovy, Aimovig, Emgality, and Vyepti are injectable CGRP inhibitors for migraine prevention and have not been studied for use in combination with another agent in the same class.<sup>9-11</sup> Qulipta is an oral CGRP inhibitor for the preventive treatment of migraine in adults.<sup>12</sup>
3. **Concurrent use with Nurtec ODT (rimegepant sulfate orally disintegrating tablet) when used as a preventive treatment of migraine.** Nurtec ODT is an oral CGRP inhibitor for the acute treatment of migraine and for the preventive treatment of episodic migraine in adults.<sup>13</sup>
4. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

### REFERENCES

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11. Vyepti® intravenous infusion [prescribing information]. Bothell, WA: Lundbeck; October 2022.
12. Qulipta® tablets [prescribing information]. Madison, NJ: AbbVie; April 2023.
13. Nurtec® ODT [prescribing information]. New Haven, CT: Biohaven; April 2022.

