Clinical Policy: Budesonide (Tarpeyo)

Reference Number: ERX.SPA.467
Effective Date: 03.01.22
Last Review Date: 02.22
Line of Business: Commercial, Medicaid

Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description
Budesonide (Tarpeyo™) is a corticosteroid.

FDA Approved Indication(s)
Tarpeyo is indicated to reduce proteinuria in adults with primary immunoglobulin A nephropathy (IgAN) at risk of rapid disease progression, generally a urine protein-to-creatinine ratio (UPCR) ≥ 1.5 g/g.

This indication is approved under accelerated approval based on a reduction in proteinuria. It has not been established whether Tarpeyo slows kidney function decline in patients with IgAN. Continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in a confirmatory clinical trial.

Policy/Criteria
Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

Health plan approved formularies should be reviewed for all coverage determinations. Requirements to use preferred alternative agents apply only when such requirements align with the health plan approved formulary.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Envolve Pharmacy Solutions™ that Tarpeyo is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of primary IgAN confirmed by biopsy;
2. Provider attestation that secondary causes of IgAN have been ruled out (e.g., IgA vasculitis, liver cirrhosis, viral (hepatitis, human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]) and bacterial infection, inflammatory bowel disease, autoimmune disease such as lupus);
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a nephrologist;
4. Age ≥ 18 years;
5. Member is currently receiving therapy with an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor (ACEi) or angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) (at up to maximally indicated doses) for at least 90 days;
6. Confirmation of proteinuria as evidenced by either a UPCR ≥ 1 g/day or ≥ 0.8 g/g despite ACEi or ARB therapy (at up to maximally indicated doses);
7. Tarpeyo is prescribed in combination with an ACEi or ARB;
8. Failure of two alternative systemic corticosteroids (e.g., methylprednisolone, prednisone), each used for at least 2 months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
9. Dose does not exceed 16 mg (4 capsules) per day for 9 months, followed by 8 mg (2 capsules) per day for two weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to ERX.PA.01 if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized).

II. Continued Therapy

A. Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via a health plan affiliated with Envolve Pharmacy Solutions or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by a reduction in UPCR from baseline;
3. Member has not received more than 38 weeks of treatment with Tarpeyo;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 16 mg (4 capsules) per day for 9 months, followed by 8 mg (2 capsules) per day for two weeks.

Approval duration: 6 months (total treatment duration 38 weeks*)

** Treatment consists of 9 months of therapy followed by a 2-week dose taper (see Section V below)*

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via a health plan affiliated with Envolve Pharmacy Solutions and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
   Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or
2. Refer to ERX.PA.01 if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized).

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off-label use policy – ERX.PA.01 or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

ACEi: angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor
ARB: angiotensin receptor blocker
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
IgAN: immunoglobulin A nephropathy
UPCR: urine protein-to-creatinine ratio

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
methylprednisolone	0.6 to 0.8 mg/kg PO QD	48 mg/day
prednisone	0.8 to 1 mg/kg PO QD	75 mg/day
methylprednisolone (IV) + prednisolone/prednisone (oral)	methylprednisolone 1 g IV for 3 days at the start of months 1, 3, and 5 + prednisolone or prednisone 0.5 mg/kg PO every other day on remaining days	See dosing regimen

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): hypersensitivity to budesonide or any ingredients in Tarpeyo
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
IgAN	16 mg PO QD for 9 months. When discontinuing therapy, reduce dose to 8 mg PO QD for the last 2 weeks of therapy.	See dosing regimen

VI. Product Availability

Delayed release capsule: 4 mg

VII. References

1. Tarpeyo Prescribing Information. Calliditas Therapeutics AB; Stockholm, Sweden: December 2021. Available at: www.tarpeyo.com. Accessed January 5, 2022.
2. Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Glomerular Diseases Work Group. KDIGO 2021 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Glomerular Diseases. Kidney Int. 2021 Oct;100(4S):S1-S276. Available at: https://kdigo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/KDIGO-Glomerular-Diseases-Guideline-2021-English.pdf. Accessed January 5, 2022.
3. ClinicalTrials.gov [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US). Identifier NCT03643965, Efficacy and Safety of Nefecon in Patients With Primary IgA (Immunoglobulin A) Nephropathy (Nefigard); 2021 December 13. Available at: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03643965. Accessed January 5, 2022.
4. Fellström BC, Barratt J, Cook H, et al. NEFIGAN Trial Investigators. Targeted-release budesonide versus placebo in patients with IgA nephropathy (NEFIGAN): a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled phase 2b trial. Lancet. 2017 May 27;389(10084):2117-2127.
5. Lv J, Zhang H, Wong MG, et al. Effect of oral methylprednisolone on clinical outcomes in patients with iga nephropathy: The TESTING randomized clinical trial. JAMA 2017; 318:432.
6. Manno C, Torres DD, Rossini M, et al. Randomized controlled clinical trial of corticosteroids plus ACE-inhibitors with long-term follow-up in proteinuric IgA nephropathy. Nephrol Dial Transplant 2009; 24:3694.
7. Lv J, Zhang H, Chen Y, et al. Combination therapy of prednisone and ACE inhibitor versus ACE-inhibitor therapy alone in patients with IgA nephropathy: A randomized controlled trial. Am J Kidney Dis 2009; 53:26.
8. Rauen T, Eitner F, Fitzner C, et al. Intensive supportive care plus immunosuppression in IgA nephropathy. N Engl J Med 2s015; 373:2225.
9. Pozzi C, Bolasco PG, Fogazzi GB, et al. Corticosteroids in IgA nephropathy: A randomised controlled trial. Lancet 1999; 353:883.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	01.18.21	02.22

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information.

This Clinical Policy is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine, nor does it constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members.