

## Clinical Policy: Dimethyl Fumarate (Tecfidera), Diroximel Fumarate (Vumerity), Monomethyl Fumarate (Bafiertam)

Reference Number: IN.PHAR.249

Effective Date: 09.01.16

Last Review Date: 08.21

Line of Business: Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

### Description

The following are nuclear factor-like 2 activators requiring prior authorization: dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera<sup>®</sup>), diroximel fumarate (Vumerity<sup>®</sup>), and monomethyl fumarate (Bafiertam<sup>™</sup>).

### FDA Approved Indication(s)

Tecfidera, Vumerity, and Bafiertam are indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS), to include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing-remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease, in adults.

### 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.*

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation<sup>®</sup> that Tecfidera, Vumerity, and Bafiertam are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### I. Initial Approval Criteria

##### A. Multiple Sclerosis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a, b, or c):
  - a. Clinically isolated syndrome, and:
    - i. If request is for Vumerity or Bafiertam: Member is contraindicated to both, or has experienced clinically significant adverse effects to one, of the following at up to maximally indicated doses: an interferon-beta agent (Avonex<sup>®</sup>, Betaseron<sup>®</sup>, Rebif<sup>®</sup>, or Plegridy<sup>®</sup>), glatiramer (Copaxone<sup>®</sup>, Glatopa<sup>®</sup>);
  - b. Relapsing-remitting MS, and:
    - i. If request is for Vumerity or Bafiertam: Failure of all of the following at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated (1, 2, 3, and 4):\*
      - 1) Dimethyl fumarate (generic Tecfidera<sup>®</sup>);
      - 2) Aubagio<sup>®</sup>;
      - 3) Gilenya<sup>®</sup>;
      - 4) An interferon-beta agent (Avonex, Betaseron, Rebif, or Plegridy) or glatiramer (Copaxone, Glatopa);
- c. Secondary progressive MS;

\*Prior authorization is required for all disease modifying therapies for MS

2. For brand Tecfidera and brand Vumerity requests, member must use generic dimethyl fumarate, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
3. The requested agent, Tecfidera, Vumerity or Batiertam, is not prescribed concurrently with other disease modifying therapies for MS (*see Appendix D*);
4. For Tecfidera, Vumerity or Batiertam, documentation of baseline number of relapses per year and expanded disability status scale (EDSS) score;
5. Dose does not exceed:
  - a. Starting dose: Dimethyl Fumarate 240 mg (2 capsules) or Vumerity 462 mg (2 capsules) or Bafiertam 190 mg (2 capsules) per day for 7 days;
  - b. Maintenance dose: Dimethyl Fumarate 480 mg (2 capsules) or Vumerity 924 mg (4 capsules) or Bafiertam 380 mg (4 capsules) per day.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

**B. Other diagnoses/indications**

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**II. Continued Therapy**

**A. Multiple Sclerosis (must meet all):**

1. For Dimethyl Fumarate member has a history of the requested agent within the past 90 days;
2. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. If member has received < 1 year of total treatment: Member is responding positively to therapy;
  - b. If member has received  $\geq 1$  year of total treatment: Member meets one of the following (i, ii, iii, or iv):
    - i. Member has not had an increase in the number of relapses per year compared to baseline;
    - ii. Member has not had  $\geq 2$  new MRI-detected lesions;
    - iii. Member has not had an increase in EDSS score from baseline;
    - iv. Medical justification supports that member is responding positively to therapy;
3. The requested agent is not prescribed concurrently with other disease modifying therapies for MS (*see Appendix D*);
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed Tecfidera 480 mg (2 capsules) or Vumerity 924 mg (4 capsules) or Bafiertam 380 mg (4 capsules) per day.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

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

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.

**Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or**

2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**III. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*  
 EDSS: expanded disability status scale  
 FDA: Food and Drug Administration  
 MS: multiple sclerosis

*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 for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.*

<b>Drug Name</b>	<b>Dosing Regimen</b>	<b>Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose</b>
Aubagio <sup>®</sup> (teriflunomide)	7 mg or 14 mg PO QD	14 mg/day
Avonex <sup>®</sup> , Rebif <sup>®</sup> (interferon beta-1a)	Avonex: 30 mcg IM Q week Rebif: 22 mcg or 44 mcg SC TIW	Avonex: 30 mcg/week Rebif: 44 mcg TIW
Betaseron <sup>®</sup> (interferon beta-1b)	250 mcg SC QOD	250 mg QOD
Plegridy <sup>®</sup> (peginterferon beta-1a)	125 mcg SC Q2 weeks	125 mcg/2 weeks
glatiramer acetate (Copaxone <sup>®</sup> , Glatopa <sup>®</sup> )	20 mg SC QD or 40 mg SC TIW	20 mg/day or 40 mg TIW
Gilenya <sup>®</sup> (fingolimod)	0.5 mg PO QD	0.5 mg/day
dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera <sup>®</sup> )	120 mg PO BID for 7 days, followed by 240 mg PO BID	480 mg/day

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

*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*

- Contraindication(s): known hypersensitivity to dimethyl fumarate, diroximel fumarate, or any of the excipients of Tecfidera, Vumerity, or Bafiertam; coadministration of Tecfidera, Vumerity, and Bafiertam
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

*Appendix D: General Information*

- Disease-modifying therapies for MS are: glatiramer acetate (Copaxone<sup>®</sup>, Glatopa<sup>®</sup>), interferon beta-1a (Avonex<sup>®</sup>, Rebif<sup>®</sup>), interferon beta-1b (Betaseron<sup>®</sup>, Extavia<sup>®</sup>), peginterferon beta-1a (Plegridy<sup>®</sup>), dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera<sup>®</sup>), diroximel fumarate (Vumerity<sup>®</sup>), monomethyl fumarate (Bafiertam<sup>™</sup>), fingolimod (Gilenya<sup>®</sup>), teriflunomide (Aubagio<sup>®</sup>), alemtuzumab (Lemtrada<sup>®</sup>), mitoxantrone (Novantrone<sup>®</sup>), natalizumab (Tysabri<sup>®</sup>), ocrelizumab (Ocrevus<sup>®</sup>), cladribine (Mavenclad<sup>®</sup>), siponimod (Mayzent<sup>®</sup>), ozanimod (Zeposia<sup>®</sup>), and ofatumumab (Kesimpta<sup>®</sup>).

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- Of the disease-modifying therapies for MS that are FDA-labeled for CIS, only the interferon products, glatiramer, and Aubagio have demonstrated any efficacy in decreasing the risk of conversion to MS compared to placebo. This is supported by the AAN 2018 MS guidelines.
- Tecfidera and Vumerity are both prodrugs of Bafiertam.

### IV. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera)	Starting: 120 mg PO BID for 7 days Maintenance: 240 mg PO BID	480 mg/day
Diroximel fumarate (Vumerity)	Starting: 231 mg PO BID for 7 days Maintenance: 462 mg PO BID	924 mg/day
Monomethyl fumarate (Bafiertam)	Starting: 95 mg PO BID for 7 days Maintenance: 190 mg PO BID	380 mg/day

### V. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera)	Delayed-release capsules: 120 mg, 240 mg
Diroximel fumarate (Vumerity)	Delayed-release capsule: 231 mg
Monomethyl fumarate (Bafiertam)	Delayed-release capsule: 95 mg

### VI. References

1. Tecfidera Prescribing Information. Cambridge, MA: Biogen Inc.; January 2021. Available at <http://www.tecfidera.com>. Accessed February 8, 2021.
2. Vumerity Prescribing Information. Cambridge, MA: Biogen Inc.; January 2021. Available at <http://www.vumerity.com>. Accessed February 8, 2021.
3. Bafiertam Prescribing Information. High Point, NC: Banner Life Sciences LLC; April 2020. Available at: <https://bafiertam.com/prescribing-information>. Accessed February 8, 2021.
4. Rae-Grant A, Day GS, Marrie RA, et al. Practice guideline recommendations summary: disease-modifying therapies for adults with multiple sclerosis: report of the Guideline Development, Dissemination, and Implementation Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology*. 2018; 90(17): 777-788. Full guideline available at: <https://www.aan.com/Guidelines/home/GetGuidelineContent/904>.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Added age requirement. Removed MRI requirement. Removed contraindication as it constitutes a hypersensitivity reaction. Removed reasons to discontinue.	07.17	08.17
2Q 2018 annual review: no significant changes from previously approved corporate policy; policies combined for Medicaid, HIM and Commercial lines of business; age added; HIM: removed MRI requirement; Commercial: removed COC statement for reauth; added requirement for no concurrent use with other MS therapies; references reviewed and updated.	01.05.18	05.18

<b>Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>P&amp;T Approval Date</b>
2Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	02.04.19	05.19
RT4: added coverage for CIS and SPMS per updated FDA labeling; references reviewed and updated.	08.02.19	
RT4: added newly approved agent Vumerity.	12.03.19	
2Q 2020 annual review: modified CIS re-direction for Vumerity to include glatiramer per SDC; modified Commercial approval durations from Length of Benefit to 6/12 months; references reviewed and updated.	01.27.20	05.20
Added requirements for documentation of baseline relapses/EDSS and objective measures of positive response upon re-authorization; modified all continued approval duration to 6 months for the first re-authorization and 12 months for second/subsequent re-authorizations; references reviewed and updated.	05.27.20	08.20
Per September (for Medicaid) SDC and prior clinical guidance, added generic dimethyl fumarate redirection for Tecfidera and Vumerity requests; Commercial/HIM line of business removed from policy with separate CP.PCH.34 policy created.	09.22.20	
Per October (for Commercial/HIM) SDC and prior clinical guidance, added Commercial/HIM line of business to policy (retire CP.PCH.34).	10.06.20	
Per November and December SDC and prior clinical guidance, removed redirection to Mayzent; for RRMS modified redirection for Vumerity requests to require generic dimethyl fumarate, Aubagio, Gilenya, and either an interferon-beta agent or glatiramer; removed Commercial and HIM line of business from policy.	01.11.21	
2Q 2021 annual review: added Bafiertam (CP.PHAR.460 retired); revised medical justification language to require use of the generic product; references reviewed and updated.	02.08.21	05.21
PA Criteria Alignment with IN Medicaid FFS	08/21	OMPP Approved

**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. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

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The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. 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. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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**Note:**

**For Medicaid members,** when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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