

## **Clinical Policy: Itraconazole (Sporanox, Tolsura)**

Reference Number: CP.PMN.124

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Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

### **Description**

Itraconazole (Sporanox<sup>®</sup>, Tolsura<sup>®</sup>) is an azole antifungal agent.

### **FDA Approved Indication(s)**

Sporanox and Tolsura capsules are indicated in:

- Immunocompromised and non-immunocompromised patients for the treatment of:
  - Blastomycosis, pulmonary and extrapulmonary
  - Histoplasmosis, including chronic cavitary pulmonary disease and disseminated, nonmeningeal histoplasmosis
  - Aspergillosis, pulmonary and extrapulmonary, in patients who are intolerant of or who are refractory to amphotericin B therapy

Sporanox capsules are additionally indicated in:

- Non-immunocompromised patients for the treatment of:
  - Onychomycosis of the toenail, with or without fingernail involvement, due to dermatophytes (tinea unguium)
  - Onychomycosis of the fingernail due to dermatophytes (tinea unguium)

Sporanox oral solution is indicated for the treatment of oropharyngeal and esophageal candidiasis.

Limitation(s) of use: Tolsura is not indicated for the treatment of onychomycosis. Tolsura is not interchangeable or substitutable with other itraconazole products.

### **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 Sporanox and Tolsura are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### **I. Initial Approval Criteria**

##### **A. Onychomycosis (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of onychomycosis;
2. Request is for Sporanox or itraconazole capsules;
3. If request is for brand Sporanox, member must use generic itraconazole capsules, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;

4. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. For fingernail disease: Failure of a 6-week trial of oral terbinafine at 250 mg per day, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
  - b. For toenail disease: Failure of a 12-week trial of oral terbinafine at 250 mg per day, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Dose does not exceed 400 mg (4 capsules) per day.

**Approval duration: Fingernail disease: 2 months; toenail disease: 3 months**

**B. Oropharyngeal Candidiasis (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of oropharyngeal candidiasis;
2. Request is for Sporanox or itraconazole oral solution;
3. If request is for brand Sporanox, member must use generic itraconazole oral solution, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. Failure of a 7-day trial of nystatin suspension or clotrimazole troches/lozenges, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;
5. Failure of a 7-day trial of fluconazole, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Dose does not exceed 200 mg (20 mL) per day.

**Approval duration: 4 weeks**

**C. Esophageal Candidiasis (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of esophageal candidiasis;
2. Request is for Sporanox or itraconazole oral solution;
3. If request is for brand Sporanox, member must use generic itraconazole oral solution, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. Failure of a 14-day trial of fluconazole at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Dose does not exceed 200 mg (20 mL) per day.

**Approval duration: 4 weeks**

**D. Aspergillosis (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of aspergillosis;
2. Request is for Sporanox, Tolsura, or itraconazole capsules;
3. If request is for brand Sporanox or Tolsura, member must use generic itraconazole capsules, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. Failure of a 3-month trial of voriconazole at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;  
*\*Prior authorization may be required for voriconazole*
5. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Itraconazole or Sporanox capsules: 400 mg (4 capsules) per day;
  - b. Tolsura capsules: 260 mg (4 capsules) per day.

**Approval duration: 3 months**

**E. Blastomycosis or Histoplasmosis (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of blastomycosis or histoplasmosis;
2. Request is for Sporanox, Tolsura, or itraconazole capsules;
3. If request is for brand Sporanox or Tolsura, member must use generic itraconazole capsules, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Itraconazole or Sporanox capsules: 400 mg (4 capsules) per day;
  - b. Tolsura capsules: 260 mg (4 capsules) per day.

**Approval duration: Blastomycosis: 6 months; Histoplasmosis: 6 weeks**

**F. Hematologic Malignancy (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of hematologic malignancy;
2. Member must use generic itraconazole capsules or oral solution, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
3. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Request is for prophylaxis of aspergillosis;
  - b. Request is for prophylaxis of candidiasis, and member has failed fluconazole at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, or c):
  - a. Itraconazole or Sporanox capsules: 400 mg (4 capsules) per day;
  - b. Itraconazole or Sporanox oral solution: 200 mg (20 mL) per day;
  - c. Tolsura capsules: 260 mg (4 capsules) per day.

**Approval duration: 3 months**

**G. Coccidioidomycosis (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of coccidioidomycosis infection, and member is infected with one of the following (a, b, or c):
  - a. HIV-1, and member has peripheral blood CD4 < 250 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>;
  - b. Focal pulmonary disease;
  - c. Disseminated extrathoracic nonmeningeal or meningeal coccidioidomycosis;
2. Request is for Sporanox or itraconazole capsules or oral solution;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an infectious disease specialist, pulmonologist, or HIV specialist;
4. If request is for brand Sporanox, member must use generic itraconazole capsules or oral solution, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Failure of fluconazole at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, or c):
  - a. For disseminated extrathoracic nonmeningeal or meningeal coccidioidomycosis (i or ii):
    - i. Capsules: 600 mg (6 capsules) per day;
    - ii. Oral solution: 600 mg (60 mL) per day;

- b. For coccidioidomycosis with HIV-1 co-infection (i or ii):
  - i. Capsules: 600 mg (6 capsules) per day for the first three days, then 400 mg (4 capsules) per day thereafter;
  - ii. Oral solution: 600 mg (60 mL) per day for the first three days, then 400 mg (40 mL) per day thereafter;
- c. For all other coccidioidomycosis infections (i or ii):
  - i. Capsules: 400 mg (4 capsules) per day;
  - ii. Oral solution: 400 mg (40 mL) per day.

**Approval duration: 6 months**

**H. Sporotrichosis (off-label) (must meet all):**

- 1. Diagnosis of sporotrichosis infection, and member is infected with one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Lymphocutaneous, cutaneous, non-severe pulmonary or osteoarticular sporotrichosis;
  - b. Severe pulmonary, meningeal, or disseminated systemic sporotrichosis;
- 2. Request is for Sporanox or itraconazole capsules or oral solution;
- 3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an infectious disease specialist or pulmonologist;
- 4. If request is for brand Sporanox, member must use generic itraconazole capsules or oral solution, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
- 5. For severe pulmonary, meningeal, or disseminated systemic sporotrichosis: Previous use of amphotericin B, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
- 6. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Capsules: 400 mg (4 capsules) per day;
  - b. Oral solution: 400 mg (40 mL) per day.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

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

- 1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
  - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
  - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
- 2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line

of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

## II. Continued Therapy

### A. Onychomycosis (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
  - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Request is for Sporanox or itraconazole capsules;
4. If request is for brand Sporanox, member must use generic itraconazole capsules, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Member has not received more than 90 days of treatment;
6. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 400 mg (4 capsules) per day.

**Approval duration: Fingernail disease: up to 2 months total; toenail disease: up to 3 months total**

### B. Oropharyngeal/Esophageal Candidiasis (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
  - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Request is for Sporanox or itraconazole oral solution;
4. If request is for brand Sporanox, member must use generic itraconazole oral solution, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 200 mg (20 mL) per day.

**Approval duration: 2 weeks**

### C. Blastomycosis, Histoplasmosis, or Aspergillosis (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
  - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Request is for Sporanox, Tolsura, or itraconazole capsules;
4. If request is for brand Sporanox, member must use generic itraconazole capsules, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;

5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Itraconazole or Sporanox capsules: 400 mg (4 capsules) per day;
  - b. Tolsura capsules: 260 mg (4 capsules) per day.

**Approval duration: Blastomycosis: 6 months; Histoplasmosis: 6 weeks;  
Aspergillosis: 3 months**

**D. Hematologic Malignancy (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
  - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member must use generic itraconazole capsules or oral solution, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
3. Member is responding positively to therapy;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, or c):
  - a. Itraconazole or Sporanox capsules: 400 mg (4 capsules) per day;
  - b. Itraconazole or Sporanox oral solution: 200 mg (20 mL) per day;
  - c. Tolsura capsules: 260 mg (4 capsules) per day.

**Approval duration: 6 months**

**E. Coccidioidomycosis (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
  - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Request is for Sporanox or itraconazole capsules or oral solution;
3. If request is for brand Sporanox, member must use generic itraconazole capsules or oral solution, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If HIV-1 positive, member has peripheral blood CD4 < 250 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>;
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
  - a. For disseminated extrathoracic nonmeningeal or meningeal coccidioidomycosis (i or ii):
    - i. Capsules: 600 mg (6 capsules) per day;
    - ii. Oral solution: 600 mg (60 mL) per day;
  - b. For all other coccidioidomycosis infections (i or ii):
    - i. Capsules: 400 mg (4 capsules) per day;
    - ii. Oral solution: 400 mg (40 mL) per day.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

**F. Sporotrichosis (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
  - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Request is for Sporanox or itraconazole capsules or oral solution;
3. If request is for brand Sporanox, member must use generic itraconazole capsules or oral solution, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Capsules: 400 mg (4 capsules) per day;
  - b. Oral solution: 400 mg (40 mL) per day.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

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

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
  - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
  - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**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 policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid, or evidence of coverage documents.

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

CHF: congestive heart failure

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

*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>
terbinafine (Lamisil <sup>®</sup> )	250 mg PO QD	500 mg per day
nystatin suspension	400,000 to 600,000 units (4 to 6 mL) per dose swished in the mouth QID	2.4 million units per day
clotrimazole troches/ lozenges (Mycelex <sup>®</sup> )	10 mg troche PO 5 times daily for 14 days	Varies
fluconazole (Diflucan <sup>®</sup> )	400 mg PO per day	800 mg per day
voriconazole (Vfend <sup>®</sup> )	Weight ≥ 40 kg: 200 mg PO every 12 hours Weight < 40 kg: 100 mg PO every 12 hours	Weight ≥ 40 kg: 800 mg per day Weight < 40 kg: 400 mg per day
amphotericin B	Adults: 0.7 to 1 mg/kg/dose IV every 24 hours until favorable response. Continue step-down therapy with itraconazole to complete a total of at least 12 months of therapy	1 – 1.5 mg/kg/day IV

*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):
  - Itraconazole should not be administered for the treatment of onychomycosis in patients with evidence of ventricular dysfunction such as congestive heart failure (CHF) or a history of CHF.
  - Concomitant coadministration of itraconazole with the following drugs: methadone, dofetilide, quinidine, ergot alkaloids (such as dihydroergotamine, ergometrine (ergonovine), ergotamine, methylergometrine (methylergonovine)), felodipine, pimozide, oral midazolam, triazolam, nisoldipine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin.
  - Additional product-specific drug-drug interactions include:
    - Sporanox (capsules and oral solution), Tolsura: disopyramide, dronedarone, irinotecan, lurasidone, ivabradine, ranolazine, eplerenone, ticagrelor and, in subjects with varying degrees of renal or hepatic impairment, colchicine, fesoterodine, and solifenacin.
    - Sporanox capsules: telithromycin
    - Sporanox oral solution, Tolsura: isavuconazole, naloxegol, lomitapide, avanafil
  - Treatment of onychomycosis in women who are pregnant or contemplating pregnancy
  - Hypersensitivity and anaphylaxis to itraconazole



- Boxed warning(s):
  - CHF or history of CHF (see contraindications)
  - Drug-drug interactions (see contraindications)

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Itraconazole (Sporanox) capsule	Blastomycosis	200 mg PO QD	400 mg/day
	Histoplasmosis	200 mg PO QD	400 mg/day
	Aspergillosis	200 to 400 mg PO QD	400 mg/day
	Onychomycosis	200 mg PO QD for 12 weeks (toenails with or without fingernail involvement)  200 mg PO BID for 1 week, followed by no drug for 3 weeks, then another week of 200 mg PO BID or 200 mg PO QD for 6 weeks (fingernails only)	400 mg/day
	Coccidioidomycosis	200 mg PO BID or 200 mg BID-TID for nonmeningeal or meningeal coccidioidomycosis  In patients co-infected with HIV: Adults: 200 mg PO TID for the first 3 days, then 200 mg PO BID Pediatrics: 5-10 mg/kg PO BID for the first 3 days, then 2-5 mg/kg PO BID	600 mg/day
	Lymphocutaneous or cutaneous sporotrichosis	200 mg PO QD for 3-6 months. If no response then increase to 200 mg PO BID.	400 mg/day
	Osteoarticular, pulmonary, meningeal, or disseminated systemic sporotrichosis	200 mg PO BID for at least 12 months	400 mg/day
In life-threatening situations	Loading dose of 200 mg PO TID given for the first 3 days of treatment	600 mg/day	
Itraconazole (Sporanox) oral solution	Oropharyngeal candidiasis	200 mg (20 mL) PO daily for 1 to 2 weeks; swish in the mouth (10 mL at a time) for several seconds and swallow	200 mg (20 mL)/day









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