Clinical Policy: Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir (Epclusa)

Reference Number: CP.PCH.21
Effective Date: 11.01.16
Last Review Date: 02.20
Line of Business: Commercial, HIM

Revision Log

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

Description

Sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa®) is a fixed-dose combination of sofosbuvir, a hepatitis C virus (HCV) nucleotide analog NS5B polymerase inhibitor, and velpatasvir, an HCV NS5A inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Epclusa is indicated for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients 6 years of age and older or weighing at least 17 kg with chronic HCV genotype 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 infection:

- Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis
- With decompensated cirrhosis for use in combination with ribavirin (RBV)

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® that Epclusa is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Chronic Hepatitis C Infection (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of chronic HCV infection as evidenced by detectable serum HCV RNA levels by quantitative assay in the last 6 months;
2. Confirmed HCV genotype is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;
   **Chart note documentation and copies of lab results are required*
3. Authorized generic version of Epclusa is prescribed, unless medical justification supports inability to use the authorized generic (e.g., contraindications to excipients in the authorized generic);
4. Documentation of the treatment status of the patient (treatment-naive or treatment-experienced);
5. Documentation of cirrhosis status of the patient (no cirrhosis, compensated cirrhosis, or decompensated cirrhosis);
6. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease specialist, or provider who has expertise in treating HCV based on a certified training program (*see Appendix F*);
7. Age ≥ 6 years or weight ≥ 17 kg;
8. Life expectancy ≥ 12 months with HCV treatment;
9. Member agrees to participate in a medication adherence program meeting both of the following components (a and b):

a. Medication adherence monitored by pharmacy claims data or member report;
b. Member's risk for non-adherence identified by adherence program or member/prescribing physician follow-up at least every 4 weeks;

10. Prescribed regimen is consistent with an FDA or AASLD-IDSA recommended regimen (*see Section V Dosage and Administration for reference)*;
11. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
    a. Adult and pediatric members with body weight ≥ 30 kg: sofosbuvir/velpatasvir 400 mg/100 mg (1 tablet) per day;
    b. Pediatric members with body weight 17 to 29 kg: sofosbuvir/velpatasvir 200 mg/50 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: up to a total of 24 weeks*
*(*Approved duration should be consistent with a regimen in Section V Dosage and Administration)*

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.CPA.09 for commercial and HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Chronic Hepatitis C Infection (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. Documentation supports that member is currently receiving Epclusa for chronic HCV infection and has recently completed at least 60 days of treatment with Epclusa;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
    a. Adult and pediatric members with body weight ≥ 30 kg: sofosbuvir/velpatasvir 400 mg/100 mg (1 tablet) per day;
    b. Pediatric members with body weight 17 to 29 kg: sofosbuvir/velpatasvir 200 mg/50 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: up to a total of 24 weeks*
*(*Approved duration should be consistent with a regimen in Section V Dosage and Administration)*

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.CPA.09 for commercial and HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace.

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 – CP.CPA.09 for commercial and HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

AASLD: American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
HBV: hepatitis B virus
HCV: hepatitis C virus
HIV: human immunodeficiency virus
IDSA: Infectious Diseases Society of America
NS3/4A, NS5A/B: nonstructural protein
PegIFN: pegylated interferon
RBV: ribavirin
RNA: ribonucleic acid

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): Epclusa and RBV combination regimen is contraindicated in patients for whom RBV is contraindicated in patients for whom RBV is contraindicated. Refer to the RBV prescribing information for a list of contraindications for RBV.
- Boxed warning(s): risk of hepatitis B virus reactivation in patients coinfected with HCV and HBV

Appendix D: Direct-Acting Antivirals for Treatment of HCV Infection

Brand Name	Drug Class				
	NS5A Inhibitor	Nucleotide Analog NS5B Polymerase Inhibitor	Non-Nucleoside NS5B Palm Polymerase Inhibitor	NS3/4A Protease Inhibitor (PI)	CYP3A Inhibitor
Daklinza	Daclatasvir				
Epclusa*	Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir			
Harvoni*	Ledipasvir	Sofosbuvir			
Mavyret*	Pibrentasvir			Glecaprevir	
Olysio				Simeprevir	
Sovaldi		Sofosbuvir			
Technivie*	Ombitasvir			Paritaprevir	Ritonavir
Viekira XR/PAK*	Ombitasvir		Dasabuvir	Paritaprevir	Ritonavir
Vosevi*	Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir		Voxilaprevir	
Zepatier*	Elbasvir			Grazoprevir	

*Combination drugs

Appendix E: General Information

- Hepatitis B Virus Reactivation (HBV) is a Black Box Warning for all direct-acting antiviral drugs for the treatment of HCV. HBV reactivation has been reported when treating HCV for patients co-infected with HBV, leading to fulminant hepatitis, hepatic failure, and death, in some cases. Patients should be monitored for HBV reactivation and hepatitis flare during HCV treatment and post-treatment follow-up, with treatment of HBV infection as clinically indicated.

- Child-Pugh Score:

	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points
Bilirubin	Less than 2 mg/dL Less than 34 umol/L	2-3 mg/dL 34-50 umol/L	Over 3 mg/dL Over 50 umol/L
Albumin	Over 3.5 g/dL Over 35 g/L	2.8-3.5 g/dL 28-35 g/L	Less than 2.8 g/dL Less than 28 g/L
INR	Less than 1.7	1.7 - 2.2	Over 2.2
Ascites	None	Mild / medically controlled	Moderate-severe / poorly controlled
Encephalopathy	None	Mild / medically controlled Grade I-II	Moderate-severe / poorly controlled. Grade III-IV

Child-Pugh class is determined by the total number of points: A = 5-6 points; B = 7-9 points; C = 10-15 points.

Appendix F: Healthcare Provider HCV Training
Acceptable HCV training programs and/or online courses include, but are not limited to the following:

- Hepatitis C online course (https://www.hepatitisc.uw.edu/): University of Washington is funded by the Division of Viral Hepatitis to develop a comprehensive, online self-study course for medical providers on diagnosis, monitoring, and management of hepatitis C virus infection. Free CME and CNE credit available.
- Fundamentals of Liver Disease (https://liverlearning.aasld.org/fundamentals-of-liver-disease): The AASLD, in collaboration with ECHO, the American College of Physicians (ACP), CDC, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, has developed Fundamentals of Liver Disease, a free, online CME course to improve providers' knowledge and clinical skills in hepatology.
- Clinical Care Options: http://www.clinicaloptions.com/hepatitis.aspx
- CDC training resources: https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/resources/professionals/trainingresources.htm

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose	Reference
Genotype 1-6: Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis, treatment-naïve or pegIFN/ RBV-experienced patient	One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks (GT 3 with compensated cirrhosis for pegIFN/RBV-experienced patient may use: one tablet PO QD with weight-based RBV for 12 weeks) ǂ	One tablet (Adult/Peds ≥ 30 kg: sofosbuvir 400 mg /velpatasvir 100 mg; Peds 17 to 29 kg: sofosbuvir 200 mg /velpatasvir 50 mg) per day	1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated May 2018)

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose	Reference
Genotype 1-6: With decompensated cirrhosis treatment-naïve or treatment-experienced* patient	One tablet PO QD with weight-based RBV for 12 weeks (GT 1, 4, 5, or 6 with decompensated cirrhosis and RBV-ineligible may use: one tablet PO QD for 24 weeks) ǂ	One tablet (Adult/Peds ≥ 30 kg: sofosbuvir 400 mg /velpatasvir 100 mg; Peds 17 to 29 kg: sofosbuvir 200 mg /velpatasvir 50 mg) per day	1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated May 2018)
Genotype 1-6: With decompensated cirrhosis in whom prior sofosbuvir- or NS5A-based treatment experienced failed	One tablet PO QD with weight-based RBV for 24 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400mg /velpatasvir 100 mg) per day	AASLD-IDSA (updated May 2018)
Genotype 1b: With compensated cirrhosis or without cirrhosis and non-NS5A inhibitor, sofosbuvir-containing regimen-experienced	One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400mg /velpatasvir 100 mg) per day	AASLD-IDSA (updated May 2018)
Genotype 2: With or without compensated cirrhosis, sofosbuvir + RBV-experienced	One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400mg /velpatasvir 100 mg) per day	AASLD-IDSA (updated May 2018)
Genotype 2 or 3: Treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced patients, post-liver transplant with compensated cirrhosis or decompensated cirrhosis	One tablet PO QD with weight-based RBV for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400mg /velpatasvir 100 mg) per day	AASLD-IDSA (updated May 2018)
Genotype 3 with NS5A Y93H polymorphism:	One tablet PO QD with weight-based RBV for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400mg /velpatasvir	AASLD-IDSA (updated May 2018)

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose	Reference
Treatment-naïve with cirrhosis or treatment-experienced* patient		100 mg) per day	

AASLD/IDSA treatment guidelines for chronic hepatitis C infection are updated at irregular intervals; refer to the most updated AASLD/IDSA guideline for most accurate treatment regimen.
**Treatment-experienced refers to previous treatment with NS3 protease inhibitor (telaprevir, boceprevir, or simeprevir) and/or peginterferon/RBV unless otherwise stated*
ǂ *Off-label, AASLD-IDSA guideline-supported dosing regimen*

VI. Product Availability

Tablet: sofosbuvir 400 mg with velpatasvir 100 mg, sofosbuvir 200 mg with velpatasvir 50 mg

VII. References

1. Epclusa Prescribing Information. Foster City, CA: Gilead Sciences, Inc.; March 2020. Available at http://www.gilead.com/~/media/files/pdfs/medicines/liver-disease/epclusa/epclusa_pi.pdf?la=en. Accessed April 2, 2020.
2. American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases/ Infectious Disease Society of America (AASLD-IDSA). HCV guidance: recommendations for testing, managing, and treating hepatitis C. Last updated May 24, 2018. Available at: https://www.hcvguidelines.org/. Accessed April 30, 2019.
3. Wolitski R. When it comes to curing hepatitis c, your health care provider may not need to be a specialist. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Last updated September 20, 2017. Available at: https://www.hhs.gov/hepatitis/blog/2017/09/20/study-calls-for-expansion-of-hepatitis-c-treatment.html. Accessed October 30, 2019.
4. CDC. Viral hepatitis: Q&As for health professionals. Last updated July 2, 2019. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/hcvfaq.htm. Accessed October 30, 2019.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created; per SDC and prior clinical guidance added HIM line of business to the existing Commercial policy (modified policy number to CP.PCH.21, retired HIM.PA.SP1 and CP.CPA.286); added requirement that life expectancy ≥ 12 months with HCV treatment and participation in a medication adherence program.	12.03.19	02.20
Added new prescriber requirement to include a "provider who has expertise in treating HCV based on a certified training program"; Appendix F (Healthcare Provider HCV Training) added.	11.07.19	02.20
RT4: updated FDA indication and dosing for pediatric extension to age 6 years or weight ≥ 17 kg.	04.02.20	

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.

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.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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