

Clinical Policy: Butorphanol Nasal Spray

Reference Number: HIM.PA.46

Effective Date: 12.01.14

Last Review Date: 05.21

Line of Business: HIM

[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Butorphanol tartrate is a synthetically derived opioid agonist-antagonist analgesic of the phenanthrene series.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Butorphanol tartrate nasal solution is indicated for the management of pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate.

Limitation(s) of use: Because of the risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse, with opioids, even at recommended doses, reserve butorphanol tartrate nasal spray for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options (e.g., non-opioid analgesics)

- Have not been tolerated, or are not expected to be tolerated,
- Have not provided adequate analgesia, or are not expected to provide adequate analgesia.

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 butorphanol nasal spray is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

Please note: for HIM-Arkansas – if a member's covered prescription pain medication requires a prior authorization, then the prior authorization shall not be denied if the member has a terminal illness.

A. Pain Management (must meet all):

1. Prescribed for the management of pain;
2. Age \geq 18 years;
3. Failure of at least 2 non-opioid ancillary treatments (such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or acetaminophen-containing products (*see Appendix B for examples*), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effect are experienced;
4. For pain related to migraine headache, failure of at least 2 anti-migraine agents (*see Appendix B for examples*), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effect are experienced;

5. For chronic pain, failure of an antidepressant or anticonvulsant agent (*see Appendix B for examples*), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effect are experienced;
 6. Member is unable to use oral medications for pain relief.
- Approval duration: 12 months**

B. Other diagnoses/indications:

1. Refer to HIM.PA.154 if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized).

II. Continued Therapy

Please note: for HIM-Arkansas – if a member's covered prescription pain medication requires a prior authorization, then the prior authorization shall not be denied if the member has a terminal illness.

A. Pain Management (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy.

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 12 months (whichever is less); or

2. Refer to HIM.PA.154 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 – HIM.PA.154 or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation Key

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

NSAID: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory disease

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 formulary agents and may require prior authorization.

Drug Class	Commonly Used Examples	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (NSAIDs)	Motrin [®] (ibuprofen), Naprosyn [®] (naproxen), Relafen [®] (nabumetone), Voltaren [®] (diclofenac), Orudis [®] (ketoprofen), Clinoril [®] (sulindac), Toradol [®] (ketorolac)	Varies according to the agent used
Non-opioid analgesics	aspirin, acetaminophen opioid combinations (APAP/codeine, APAP hydrocodone)	Varies according to the agent used
Anti-migraine agents (non-triptans)	Cafergot [®] (ergotamine/caffeine), D.H.E.-45 [®] (dihydroergotamine), Midrin [®] (isometheptene/APAP), Fiorinal [®] (butalbital/aspirin), Fioricet [®] (butalbital/APAP)	Varies according to the agent used
Anti-migraine agents (triptans)	almotriptan (Axert [®]), eletriptan (Relpax [®]), frovatriptan (Frova [®]), naratriptan (Amerge [®]), rizatriptan (Maxalt [®]), sumatriptan (Imitrex [®]), zolmitriptan (Zomig [®])	Varies according to the agent used
Anticonvulsants	Carbamazepine (Tegretol [®]), gabapentin (Neurontin [®]), divalproex (Depakote [®]), topiramate (Topamax [®])	Varies according to the agent used
Antidepressants/ Tricyclic antidepressants	amitriptyline (Elavil [®]), desipramine (Norpramin [®]), imipramine (Tofranil [®]), nortriptyline (Pamelor [®]), duloxetine (Cymbalta [®]), venlafaxine (Effexor [®])	Varies according to the agent used

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): significant respiratory depression; acute or severe bronchial asthma in an unmonitored setting or in absence of resuscitative equipment; known or suspected gastrointestinal obstruction, including paralytic ileus; hypersensitivity to butorphanol tartrate, the preservative benzethonium chloride, or any of the formulation excipients (e.g., anaphylaxis).
- Boxed warning(s): risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse; life-threatening respiratory depression; accidental exposure; neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome; cytochrome P450 3A4 interactions; concomitant use with benzodiazepines or other central nervous system depressants.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Pain	1 mg (1 spray in one nostril)	Not applicable

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
	<p>If adequate pain relief is not achieved within 60 to 90 minutes, an additional 1 mg dose may be given. This initial dose sequence may be repeated in 3 to 4 hours as required after the second dose of the sequence.</p> <p>Depending on the severity of the pain, an initial dose of 2 mg (1 spray in each nostril) may be used in patients who will be able to remain recumbent in the event drowsiness or dizziness occurs. In such patients single additional 2 mg doses should not be given for 3 to 4 hours.</p>	

VI. Product Availability

Bottle: 2.5 mL; 10 mg/mL nasal spray solution (on average, one bottle will deliver 14 to 15 doses if no repriming is necessary)

VII. References

1. Butorphanol Tartrate Nasal Solution Prescribing Information. Eatontown, NJ: West-Ward Pharmaceuticals Corp.; August 2020. Available at: <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/>. Accessed February 24, 2021.
2. Butorphanol Nasal Spray Drug Monograph. Clinical Pharmacology. Available at: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/>. Accessed February 24, 2021.
3. Micromedex[®] Healthcare Series [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colo: Thomson Healthcare. Updated periodically. Accessed February 24, 2021.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Clinical changes made to criteria: Added requirement that butorphanol is prescribed for the management of pain. Non-clinical changes: Converted to new template; Updated references.	01.17	05.17
2Q18 annual review: due to the current concerns around utilization of opioid agents, replaced requirement for prior trials of 2 immediate-release opioids with the requirement for prior trials of at least 2 non-opioid ancillary treatments plus 2 anti-migraine agents (if migraine pain) plus two anticonvulsants or	02.26.18	05.18

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
antidepressants (if chronic pain) plus documentation of an inability to take oral medications; added age limit; references reviewed and updated.		
2Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	02.27.19	05.19
Added HIM-Arkansas disclaimer re: coverage when the member has a terminal illness.	12.09.19	
2Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	02.05.20	05.20
2Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; HIM.PHAR.21 revised to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	02.24.21	05.21

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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