

## Clinical Policy: Pitolisant (Wakix)

Reference Number: CP.PMN.221

Effective Date: 03.01.20

Last Review Date: 02.20

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

### Description

Wakix<sup>®</sup> (pitolisant) is a selective histamine 3 (H<sub>3</sub>) receptor antagonist/inverse agonist.

### FDA Approved Indication(s)

Wakix is indicated for the treatment of excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS) in adult patients with narcolepsy.

### 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 Wakix is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### I. Initial Approval Criteria

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

1. Diagnosis of narcolepsy;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Failure of a one-month trial of one of the following central nervous system stimulants at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced: amphetamine immediate-release (IR), amphetamine, dextroamphetamine IR, dextroamphetamine, or methylphenidate IR;  
*\*Prior authorization may be required for CNS stimulants*
5. Failure of a one-month trial of armodafinil (Nuvigil<sup>®</sup>) or modafinil (Provigil<sup>®</sup>) at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant side effects are experienced;  
*\*Prior authorization may be required for armodafinil/modafinil*
6. Failure of a one-month trial of Sunosi<sup>™</sup> at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant side effects are experienced;
7. Dose does not exceed 35.6 mg (two 17.8 mg tablets) per day.

##### Approval duration:

**Medicaid/HIM** – 12 months

**Commercial** – Length of Benefit

##### 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, HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**II. Continued Therapy**

**A. Narcolepsy (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;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 35.6 mg (two 17.8 mg tablets) per day.

**Approval duration:**

**Medicaid/HIM** – 12 months

**Commercial** – Length of Benefit

**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 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, HIM.PHAR.21 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.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.**

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

IR: immediate-release

*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.*

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
amphetamine/ dextroamphetamine (Adderall®)	5 to 60 mg PO QD in divided doses	60 mg/day
dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine®, ProCentra®, Zenzedi®)		

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
amphetamine (Evekeo <sup>®</sup> )		
methylphenidate (Ritalin <sup>®</sup> ) (LA, SR), Concerta <sup>®</sup> , Metadate <sup>®</sup> (CD, ER), Methylin <sup>®</sup> (ER), Daytrana <sup>®</sup> )	Dosing varies; 10 to 60 mg PO divided 2 to 3 times daily 30 to 45 min before meals	60 mg/day
armodafinil (Nuvigil <sup>®</sup> )	150 mg PO QD in the morning	250 mg/day
modafinil (Provigil <sup>®</sup> )	200 mg PO QD in the morning	400 mg/day
Sunosi <sup>™</sup> (solriamfetol)	Initiate at 75 mg PO once a day; dose may be doubled at intervals of at least 3 days	150 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): patients with severe hepatic impairment
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Narcolepsy	Dose range is 17.8 to 35.6 mg PO once daily in the morning upon waking. Titrate dosage as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Week 1: Initiate with a dosage of 8.9 mg once daily</li> <li>• Week 2: Increase dosage to 17.8 mg once daily</li> <li>• Week 3: May increase to the maximum recommended dosage of 35.6 mg once daily</li> </ul>	35.6 mg/day

**VI. Product Availability**

Tablets: 4.45 mg, 17.8 mg

**VII. References**

1. Wakix Prescribing Information. Plymouth Meeting, PA: Harmony Biosciences, LLC; August 2019. Available at: [www.wakix.com](http://www.wakix.com). Accessed September 6, 2019.
2. Morgenthaler TI, Kapur VK, Brown T, et al. Practice parameters for the treatment of narcolepsy and other hypersomnias of central origin: an American Academy of Sleep Medicine report. *Sleep*. 2007;30(12):1705-1711.
3. Micromedex<sup>®</sup> Healthcare Series [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colo: Thomson Healthcare. Updated periodically. Accessed September 6, 2019.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	10.08.19	02.20
Added redirection requiring a one-month trial of Sunosi per March SDC and prior clinical guidance.	03.03.20	

**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.

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and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

**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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