

## **Clinical Policy: Apomorphine (Apokyn)**

Reference Number: CP.PCH.14

Effective Date: 11.16.16

Last Review Date: 08.19

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM

[Revision Log](#)

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

### **Description**

Apomorphine (Apokyn<sup>®</sup>) is a non-ergoline dopamine agonist.

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

Apokyn is indicated for acute, intermittent treatment of hypomobility, “off” episodes (“end-of-dose wearing off” and unpredictable “on/off” episodes) associated with advanced Parkinson’s disease.

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

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

##### **A. Parkinson’s Disease** (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease;
2. Patient is experiencing hypomobility episodes at the end of the dosing interval or is experiencing unpredictable hypomobility (“on/off”) episodes;
3. Dose does not exceed 0.6 mL per injection, 5 injections per day, or 2 mL per day.

##### **Approval duration:**

**HIM: 6 months**

**Commercial: 6 months or to the member’s renewal date, whichever is longer**

##### **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. Parkinson’s Disease** (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 0.6 mL per injection, 5 injections per day, or 2 mL per day.

**Approval duration:**

**HIM: 12 months**

**Commercial: 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer**

**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.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 policies – 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*

Not applicable

*Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives*

Not applicable

*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*

- Contraindication(s):
  - Concomitant use of Apokyn with 5HT<sub>3</sub> antagonists, including antiemetics (e.g., ondansetron, granisetron, dolasetron, palonosetron) and alosetron.
  - With hypersensitivity/allergic reaction to apomorphine or to any of the excipients of Apokyn, including a sulfite (i.e., sodium metabisulfite); angioedema or anaphylaxis may occur.
- Boxed warning(s): None reported

*Appendix D: General Information*

- Based on reports of profound hypotension and loss of consciousness when apomorphine was given to patients receiving ondansetron, the concomitant use of apomorphine with drugs of the 5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonist class is contraindicated. These drugs should not be used to prevent or treat apomorphine-induced nausea and vomiting.
- Apomorphine induces nausea and vomiting. Patients should be pretreated with trimethobenzamide 300 mg orally three times a day for three days prior to beginning apomorphine therapy. The manufacturer recommends continuing trimethobenzamide for

the first two months of apomorphine therapy. However, the length of concomitant therapy in trials varied.

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Parkinson's disease	0.2 mL SC initial test dose. If patient tolerates and responds, starting dose should be 0.2 mL used on an as needed basis to treat "off" episodes. If needed, may increase dose by 0.1 mL (1 mg) increments every few days.	0.6 mL per dose, max of 2 mL per day

**VI. Product Availability**

Multi-dose glass cartridge solution for injection: 30 mg/3mL (10 mg/mL) with a multiple-dose pen injector

**VII. References**

1. Apokyn [package insert]. Louisville, KY: US WorldMeds, LLC. March 2017. Available at: [www.apokyn.com](http://www.apokyn.com). Accessed July 30, 2018.
2. Pahwa R, Factor SA, Lyons KE, et al. Practice Parameter: Treatment of Parkinson disease with motor fluctuations and dyskinesia (an evidence-based review). Report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology*. 2006; 66:983-995.
3. DRUGDEX® System [Internet database]. Greenwood Villlage, Colo: Thomson Healthcare. Updated periodically. Accessed July 30, 2018.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
New policy created by adding the HIM line of business to the existing commercial policy; the commercial policy is retired - CPA.225 Apomorphine (Apokyn).	05.21.19	08.19

**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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**For Health Insurance Marketplace members**, when applicable, this policy applies only when the prescribed agent is on your health plan approved formulary. Request for non-formulary drugs must be reviewed using the non-formulary policy; HIM.PA.103.

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