

Clinical Policy: Maralixibat (Livmarli)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.543

Effective Date: 09.29.21

Last Review Date: 08.23

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Maralixibat (Livmarli[™]) is an ileal bile acid transporter inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Livmarli is indicated for the treatment of cholestatic pruritus in patients with Alagille syndrome (ALGS) 3 months of age and older.

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 Livmarli is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. Alagille Syndrome** (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of ALGS-associated pruritus confirmed by one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Genetic confirmation with presence of a mutation in *JAG1* or *NOTCH2*;
 - b. Clinical confirmation of both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Bile duct paucity on liver biopsy;
 - ii. Criteria meeting ≥ 3 of the 5 major classic criteria (see *Appendix D*);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with hepatologist or gastroenterologist;
3. Age ≥ 3 months and ≤ 18 years at therapy initiation;
4. Pruritus requiring at least moderate scratching (e.g., ≥ 2 on 0-4 scale, see *Appendix E*);
5. Evidence of cholestasis that is met by ≥ 1 of the following (a – e):
 - a. Total serum bile acid > 3 times upper limit of normal (ULN) for age;
 - b. Conjugated bilirubin > 1 mg/dL;
 - c. Fat-soluble vitamin deficiency otherwise unexplainable;
 - d. Gamma-glutamyl transferase > 3 times ULN for age;
 - e. Intractable pruritus explainable only by liver disease;
6. Failure of ursodeoxycholic acid, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
**Prior authorization may be required for ursodeoxycholic acid*
7. Failure of an agent used for symptomatic relief of pruritus (e.g., antihistamine, rifampin, cholestyramine), unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;

8. Documentation of member's current body weight in kilograms;
9. Dose does not exceed 380 mcg/kg per day, up to a maximum of 28.5 mg (3 mL) per day.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. 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. Alagille Syndrome (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 as evidenced by an improvement in pruritus;
3. Documentation of member's current body weight in kilograms;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 380 mcg/kg per day, up to a maximum of 28.5 mg (3 mL) per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. 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

ALGS: Alagille syndrome

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

ItchRO: itch reported outcome

ULN: upper limit of normal

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
ursodeoxycholic acid (Ursodiol [®])*	10-30 mg/kg/day PO	N/A
rifampin (Rifadin [®])*	10 mg/kg PO	10 mg/kg/day
cholestyramine*	4-16 g/day PO in 2 divided doses	16 g/day
antihistamine*	Varies	Varies

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.

**Off-label*

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): none reported
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

Appendix D: Classic Criteria, Based on Five Body Systems, for a Diagnosis of ALGS

Classic Criteria	Description
Liver/cholestasis	Usually presenting as jaundice with conjugated hyperbilirubinaemia in the neonatal period, often with pale stools
Dysmorphic facies	Broad forehead, deep-set eyes, sometimes with upslanting palpebral fissures, prominent ears, straight nose with bulbous tip, and pointed chin giving the face a somewhat triangular appearance

Classic Criteria	Description
Heart disease	Most frequently peripheral pulmonary artery stenosis, but also pulmonary atresia, atrial septal defect, ventricular septal defect, and Tetralogy of Fallot
Axial skeleton/vertebral anomalies	Characteristic ‘butterfly’ vertebrae may be seen on an antero-posterior radiograph, and occasionally hemivertebrae, fusion of adjacent vertebrae, and spina bifida occulta
Eye/posterior embryotoxin	Anterior chamber defects, most commonly posterior embryotoxon, which is prominence of Schwalbe’s ring at the junction of the iris and cornea

Appendix E: Itch Reported Outcome (ItchRO) Scale for Pruritus

- Used to measure patients’ scratching as observed by their caregiver twice daily (once in the morning and once in the evening)
- Scratching was assessed on a 5 point scale (0-4):
 - 0: none
 - 1: mild
 - 2: moderate
 - 3: severe
 - 4: very severe

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose		
ALGS	Starting dose: 190 mcg/kg/day Maintenance: 380 mcg/kg/day	380 mcg/kg/day, up to a maximum of 28.5 mg/day (3 mL/day)		
	Individual dose volume by patient weight			
			Days 1-7 (190 mcg/kg QD)	Beginning Day 8 (380 mcg/kg QD)
	Patient Weight (kg)		Volume QD (mL)	Dosing dispenser size (mL)
	5-6		0.1	0.2
	7-9		0.15	0.3
	10-12		0.2	0.45
	13-15		0.3	0.6
	16-19		0.35	0.7
	20-24		0.45	0.9
	25-29		0.5	1
	30-34		0.6	1.25
	35-39		0.7	1.5
	40-49		0.9	1.75
50-59	1	2.25		
60-69	1.25	2.5		

Indication	Dosing Regimen					Maximum Dose
	70 or higher	1.5		3		

VI. Product Availability

Oral solution: 9.5 mg/mL (30 mL bottle)

VII. References

1. Livmarli Prescribing Information. Foster City, CA: Mirum Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; March 2023. Available at: <https://livmarlihcp.com/>. Accessed April 27, 2023.
2. Safety and efficacy study of LUM001 with a drug withdrawal period in participants with Alagille Syndrome (ALGS) (ICONIC). ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02160782. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02160782>. Accessed April 27, 2023.
3. Kamath BM, Baker A, Houwen R, et al. Systematic review: the epidemiology, natural history, and burden of Alagille Syndrome. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2018 Aug;67(2):148-156.
4. Turnpenny PD and Ellard S. Alagille syndrome: pathogenesis, diagnosis and management. *Eur J Hum Genet*. 2012 Mar; 20(3): 251–257.
5. Gonzales E, Hardikar W, Stormon M, et al. Efficacy and safety of maralixibat treatment in patients with Alagille syndrome and cholestatic pruritus (ICONIC): a randomised phase 2 study. *Lancet*. 2021 Oct 30; 398(10311): 1581-1592.
6. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2023. Available at: <https://www.clinicalkey.com/pharmacology/>. Accessed April 27, 2023.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created pre-emptively	06.01.21	08.21
Drug is now FDA approved - criteria updated per FDA labeling: added maximum daily dose per PI; added requirement for documentation of member’s weight in kg; references reviewed and updated.	10.12.21	11.21
3Q 2022 annual review: corrected maximum daily dose from 1 bottle per day to 3 mL per day; modified required pruritis from medium to moderate scratching to align with verbiage from the Itch Reported Outcome score used in the ICONIC trial; references reviewed and updated.	05.04.22	08.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	10.05.22	
3Q 2023 annual review: updated criteria to reflect pediatric extension to age \geq 3 months; added Appendix E containing ItchRO scale since criteria requires at least moderate scratching; references reviewed and updated.	04.27.23	08.23

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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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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