

Clinical Policy: Dutasteride (Avodart), Dutasteride/Tamsulosin (Jalyn)

Reference Number: CP.PMN.128

Effective Date: 05.01.16

Last Review Date: 05.25

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

The following are benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) agents requiring prior authorization: dutasteride (Avodart[®]) and dutasteride/tamsulosin (Jalyn[®]).

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Avodart is indicated:

- For the treatment of symptomatic BPH in men with an enlarged prostate to improve symptoms, reduce the risk of acute urinary retention, and reduce the risk of the need for BPH-related surgery
- In combination with the alpha-adrenergic antagonist, tamsulosin, for the treatment of symptomatic BPH in men with an enlarged prostate.

Jalyn is indicated:

- For the treatment of symptomatic BPH in men with an enlarged prostate.

Limitation(s) of use: Dutasteride-containing products, including Avodart and Jalyn, are not approved for the prevention of prostate cancer.

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 dutasteride (Avodart) and dutasteride/tamsulosin (Jalyn) are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of BPH;
2. Age \geq 18 years;
3. Failure of 2 formulary agents indicated for BPH (e.g., doxazosin, finasteride, prazosin, tamsulosin, terazosin) at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;*
**For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirements above do not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395.*
4. If request is for brand Avodart or Jalyn, member must use the corresponding generic product, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;

5. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Avodart: 0.5 mg per day (1 capsule per day);
 - b. Jalyn: 0.5 mg dutasteride/0.4 mg tamsulosin (1 capsule per day).

Approval duration:

Medicaid/HIM – 12 months

Commercial – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

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. Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (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;
3. If request is for brand Avodart or Jalyn, member must use the corresponding generic product, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Avodart: 0.5 mg per day (1 capsule per day);
 - b. Jalyn: 0.5 mg dutasteride/0.4 mg tamsulosin (1 capsule per day).

Approval duration:

Medicaid/HIM – 12 months

Commercial – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

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

BPH: benign prostatic hyperplasia

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

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
doxazosin (Cardura [®])	1 to 8 mg PO once daily	8 mg/day
finasteride (Proscar [®])	5 mg PO once daily	5 mg/day
prazosin (Minipress [®])	2 mg PO twice daily	9 mg/day
tamsulosin (Flomax [®])	0.4 mg PO once daily	0.8 mg/day
terazosin (Hytrin [®])	5 to 10 mg PO once daily	20 mg/day

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): pregnancy or women of childbearing potential and clinically significant hypersensitivity

- Boxed warning(s): none reported

V. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Dutasteride (Avodart)	0.5 mg PO QD	0.5 mg/day
Dutasteride/tamsulosin (Jalyn)	1 capsule PO QD	0.5 mg dutasteride and 0.4 mg tamsulosin/day

VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Dutasteride (Avodart)	Capsule: 0.5 mg
Dutasteride/tamsulosin (Jalyn)	Capsule: 0.5/0.4 mg

VII. References

1. Avodart Drug Monograph. Clinical Pharmacology. Available at: <https://www.clinicalkey.com/pharmacology>. Accessed February 24, 2025.
2. Avodart Prescribing Information. Somerset, NJ: GlaxoSmithKline; January 2020. Available at: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2020/021319s0321bl.pdf. Accessed January 21, 2025.
3. Jalyn Prescribing Information. Somerset, NJ: GlaxoSmithKline; December 2020. Available at: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2020/022460Orig1s0111bl.pdf. Accessed January 21, 2025.
4. McVary KT, Roehrborn CG et al. American Urological Association guideline: management of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Published 2010; reviewed and validity confirmed 2014.
5. Lerner LB, McVary, KT, Barry MJ et al: Management of lower urinary tract symptoms attributed to benign prostatic hyperplasia: AUA Guideline part I, initial work-up and medical management. J Urol 2021; 206: 806.
6. Sandhu JS, Bixler BR, Dahm P, et al. Management of lower urinary tract symptoms attributed to benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH): AUA Guideline amendment 2023. J Urol. 2023;10.1097/JU.0000000000003698.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
2Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	01.21.21	05.21
Revised approval duration for Commercial line of business from length of benefit to 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less	09.28.21	02.22
2Q 2022 annual review: added requirement to redirect to generic Avodart or Jalyn; references reviewed and updated.	02.21.22	05.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	10.03.22	
2Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	01.31.23	05.23

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approv al Date
2Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	01.10.24	05.24
2Q 2025 annual review: no significant changes; added reference to generic dutasteride in the Policy/Criteria description as criteria would apply; references reviewed and updated. Added step therapy bypass for IL HIM per IL HB 5395.	01.21.25	05.25

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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