

## Clinical Policy: Doxylamine/Pyridoxine (Bonjesta)

Reference Number: CP.CPA.339

Effective Date: 07.10.18

Last Review Date: 11.19

Line of Business: Commercial

[Revision Log](#)

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

### Description

Doxylamine/pyridoxine (Bonjesta™) is a fixed-dose combination drug product of doxylamine succinate, an antihistamine, and pyridoxine hydrochloride, a vitamin B6 analog.

### FDA Approved Indication(s)

Bonjesta is indicated for the treatment of nausea and vomiting of pregnancy in women who do not respond to conservative management.

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

#### I. Initial Approval Criteria

##### A. Nausea and Vomiting of Pregnancy (must meet all):

1. Member is pregnant and experiencing nausea and vomiting;
2. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
3. Documentation supports inability to use doxylamine-pyridoxine delayed-release tablet (generic Diclegis®) (e.g., contraindications to the excipients);
4. Dose does not exceed 2 tablets per day.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

##### 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.

#### II. Continued Therapy

##### A. Nausea and Vomiting of Pregnancy (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. Member is pregnant;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 2 tablets per day.

**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 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.

**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 or evidence of coverage documents.

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

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
doxylamine/ pyridoxine (Diclegis)	2 tablets PO QHS on Day 1 and 2. If symptoms persist, take 1 tablet in the morning and 2 tablets at bedtime on day 3. If symptoms persist, may increase to 1 tablet morning, 1 tablet mid-afternoon, and 2 tablets at bedtime on Day 4.	4 tablets/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): hypersensitivity to doxylamine succinate, other ethanolamine derivative antihistamines, pyridoxine hydrochloride, or any inactive ingredient in the formulation; monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors intensify and prolong the adverse central nervous system effects of Bonjesta
- Boxed warning(s): none

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Nausea and vomiting of pregnancy	1 tablet PO QHS. If symptoms are controlled the next day, continue same dose. If symptoms persist on Day 2, increase to 1 tablet PO in the morning and at bedtime.	2 tablets/day

**VI. Product Availability**

Extended-release tablet: 20 mg doxylamine and 20 mg pyridoxine

**VII. References**

1. Bonjesta Prescribing Information. Bryn Mawr, PA: Duchesnay Inc.; June 2018. Available at: [www.bonjesta.com](http://www.bonjesta.com). Accessed August 13, 2019.
2. Micromedex® Healthcare Series [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colo: Thomson Healthcare. Updated periodically. Accessed August 13, 2019.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	07.10.18	11.18
4Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	08.13.19	11.19

**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.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members 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.

©2018 Centene Corporation. All rights reserved. All materials are exclusively owned by Centene Corporation and are protected by United States copyright law and international copyright law. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, modified, distributed, displayed, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means, or otherwise published without the prior written permission of Centene Corporation. You may not alter or remove any trademark, copyright or other notice contained herein. Centene® and Centene Corporation® are registered trademarks exclusively owned by Centene Corporation.