

Clinical Policy: Alirocumab (Praluent)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.124

Effective Date: 10.01.15

Last Review Date: 02.24

Line of Business: Commercial, Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)
[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Alirocumab (Praluent[®]) is a proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9 (PCSK9) inhibitor antibody.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Praluent is indicated:

- To reduce the risk of myocardial infarction, stroke, and unstable angina requiring hospitalization in adults with established cardiovascular disease
- As an adjunct to diet, alone or in combination with other low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C)-lowering therapies, in adults with primary hyperlipidemia, including heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HeFH), to reduce LDL-C
- As an adjunct to other LDL-C-lowering therapies in adult patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH) to reduce LDL-C
- As an adjunct to diet and other LDL-C-lowering therapies in pediatric patients aged 8 years and older with HeFH to reduce LDL-C

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

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. Primary Hyperlipidemia (including HeFH) and Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. **HeFH**, and provider's attestation of both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Baseline LDL-C (prior to any lipid-lowering pharmacologic therapy) was one of the following (1 or 2):
 - 1) If age < 20 years: ≥ 160 mg/dL;
 - 2) If age ≥ 20 years: ≥ 190 mg/dL;
 - ii. HeFH diagnosis is confirmed by one of the following (1 or 2):
 - 1) World Health Organization (WHO)/Dutch Lipid Network familial hypercholesterolemia diagnostic criteria score of > 8 as determined by requesting provider (see *Appendix D*);
 - 2) Definite diagnosis per Simon Broome criteria (see *Appendix D*);

- b. **Primary hyperlipidemia that is not HeFH** and both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Provider attestation of one of the following (1 or 2):
 - 1) Presence of a genetically mediated form of primary hyperlipidemia as evidenced by confirmatory genetic testing results;
 - 2) A diagnosis of secondary hyperlipidemia has been ruled out with absence of all of the following potential causes of elevated cholesterol (a - f):
 - a) Poor diet;
 - b) Hypothyroidism;
 - c) Obstructive liver disease;
 - d) Renal disease;
 - e) Nephrosis;
 - f) Medications that have had a clinically relevant contributory effect on the current degree of the member's elevated lipid levels including, but not limited to: glucocorticoids, sex hormones, antipsychotics, antiretrovirals, immunosuppressive agents, retinoic acid derivatives;
 - ii. Provider's attestation that baseline LDL-C (prior to any lipid-lowering pharmacologic therapy) was ≥ 190 mg/dL;
 - c. **Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD)** as evidenced by provider's attestation of a history of any one of the following conditions (i-vii):
 - i. Acute coronary syndromes;
 - ii. Clinically significant coronary heart disease (CHD) diagnosed by invasive or noninvasive testing (such as coronary angiography, stress test using treadmill, stress echocardiography, or nuclear imaging);
 - iii. Coronary or other arterial revascularization;
 - iv. Myocardial infarction;
 - v. Peripheral arterial disease presumed to be of atherosclerotic origin;
 - vi. Stable or unstable angina;
 - vii. Stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA);
- 2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a cardiologist, endocrinologist, or lipid specialist;
 - 3. Age is one of the following (a or b):
 - a. If diagnosis is primary hyperlipidemia (not including HeFH) or ASCVD: ≥ 18 years;
 - b. If diagnosis is HeFH: ≥ 8 years;
 - 4. For members ≥ 18 years old on statin therapy, both of the following (a and b):
 - a. Praluent is prescribed in conjunction with a statin at the maximally tolerated dose;
 - b. Member has been adherent for at least the last 8 weeks to maximally tolerated doses of one of the following statin regimens (i or ii):
 - i. A high intensity statin (*see Appendix E*);
 - ii. A moderate or low intensity statin (*see Appendix E*), and member has one of the following (1 or 2):
 - 1) Previous use of one high-intensity statin (i.e., atorvastatin ≥ 40 mg daily; rosuvastatin ≥ 20 mg daily [as a single-entity or as a combination product]) for a minimum of 8 weeks continuously and LDL-C remained ≥ 70 mg/dL;

- 2) Member has tried both rosuvastatin and atorvastatin and has experienced skeletal-muscle related symptoms on both agents which also resolved upon discontinuation;
5. For members ≥ 18 years old not on statin therapy, provider's attestation that member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Statin therapy is contraindicated per Appendix F;
 - b. For members who are statin intolerant, both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Member has tried at least two statins, one of which must be hydrophilic (pravastatin, fluvastatin, or rosuvastatin);
 - ii. Member meets one of the following (1 or 2):
 - 1) Member has statin risk factors (see *Appendix G*);
 - 2) Member is statin intolerant due to statin-associated muscle symptoms (SAMS) and meets both of the following (a and b):
 - a) Member had intolerable SAMS persisting at least two weeks, which disappeared with discontinuing the statin therapy and recurred with a statin re-challenge;
 - b) Previous re-challenge with titration from lowest possible dose and/or intermittent dosing frequency (e.g., 1 to 3 times weekly);
6. Provider's attestation of recent (within the last 60 days) LDL-C of one of the following (a or b):
 - a. If member has ASCVD (i or ii):
 - i. ≥ 70 mg/dL;
 - ii. ≥ 55 mg/dL, and member is at very high risk (see *Appendix I*);
 - b. If member has severe primary hyperlipidemia (including HeFH): ≥ 100 mg/dL;
7. Treatment plan does not include coadministration with Leqvio[®], Juxtapid[®], or Repatha[®];
8. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Age ≥ 18 years: 75 mg every 2 weeks or 300 mg per month;
 - b. Age ≥ 8 years to < 18 years and weight ≥ 50 kg: 300 mg every 4 weeks;
 - c. Age ≥ 8 years to < 18 years and weight < 50 kg: 150 mg every 4 weeks.

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 3 months

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

B. Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of HoFH;
2. Provider's attestation that diagnosis is defined as one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Genetic mutation indicating HoFH (e.g., mutations in low density lipoprotein receptor [LDLR] gene, PCSK9 gene, apo B gene, low density lipoprotein receptor adaptor protein 1[LDLRAP1] gene);
 - b. Treated LDL-C ≥ 300 mg/dL or non-HDL-C ≥ 330 mg/dL;
 - c. Untreated LDL-C ≥ 500 mg/dL, and one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Tendinous or cutaneous xanthoma prior to age 10 years;
 - ii. Evidence of HeFH in both parents (e.g., documented history of elevated LDL-C ≥ 190 mg/dL prior to lipid-lowering therapy);

3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a cardiologist, endocrinologist, or lipid specialist;
4. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Age < 18 years;
 - ii. LDL-C \geq 130 mg/dL within the last 60 days despite statin therapy, unless member has a contraindication (*see Appendix F*) or history of intolerance to each such therapy;
 - b. Age \geq 18 years, and recent (within the last 60 days) LDL-C of one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. \geq 70 mg/dL;
 - ii. \geq 55 mg/dL if member has ASCVD and is at very high risk (*see Appendix I*);
5. For members \geq 18 years old and on statin therapy, provider's attestation of both of the following (a and b):
 - a. Praluent is prescribed in conjunction with a statin at the maximally tolerated dose;
 - b. Member has been adherent for at least the last 8 weeks to maximally tolerated doses of one of the following statin regimens (i or ii):
 - i. A high intensity statin (*see Appendix E*);
 - ii. A moderate or low intensity statin (*see Appendix E*) and member has one of the following (1 or 2):
 - 1) Previous use of one high-intensity statin (i.e., atorvastatin \geq 40 mg daily; rosuvastatin \geq 20 mg daily [as a single-entity or as a combination product]) for a minimum of 8 weeks continuously and LDL-C remained \geq 70 mg/dL;
 - 2) Member has tried both rosuvastatin and atorvastatin and has experienced skeletal-muscle related symptoms on both agents which also resolved upon discontinuation;
6. For members \geq 18 years old and not on statin therapy, provier's attestation that member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Statin therapy is contraindicated per Appendix F;
 - b. For members who are statin intolerant, both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Member has tried at least two statins, one of which must be hydrophilic (pravastatin, fluvastatin, or rosuvastatin);
 - ii. Member meets one of the following (1 or 2):
 - 1) Member has statin risk factors (*see Appendix G*);
 - 2) Member is statin intolerant due to statin-associated muscle symptoms (SAMS) and meets both of the following (a and b):
 - a) Member had intolerable SAMS persisting at least two weeks, which disappeared with discontinuing the statin therapy and recurred with a statin re-challenge;
 - b) Previous re-challenge with titration from lowest possible dose and/or intermittent dosing frequency (e.g., 1 to 3 times weekly);
7. Treatment plan does not include coadministration with Juxtapid, Leqvio, or Repatha;
8. Dose does not exceed 150 mg every 2 weeks.

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 3 months

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

C. 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 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 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 and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Primary Hyperlipidemia (including HeFH) and Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (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. If statin tolerant, documentation of adherence to a statin at the maximally tolerated dose;
3. Treatment plan does not include coadministration with Juxtapid, Leqvio, or Repatha;
4. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. For age ≥ 18 years, one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Request is for 75 mg every 2 weeks or 300 mg every month, and lab results within the last 3 months are submitted showing an LDL-C reduction since initiation of Praluent therapy;
 - ii. Request is for 150 mg every 2 weeks, and one of the following (1 or 2):
 - 1) If request represents a new dose increase, member meets both (a and b):
 - a) Demonstrated adherence to Praluent and, if applicable, statin therapies;
 - b) Lab results within the last 3 months are submitted showing an LDL-C > 70 mg/dL after a minimum of 8 weeks of Praluent therapy at 75 mg;
 - 2) If request represents a continuation of Praluent 150 mg, lab results within the last 3 months are submitted showing an LDL-C reduction since initiation of the Praluent dose increase;
 - b. For age ≥ 8 years to < 18 years, one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. For body weight ≥ 50 kg, one of the following (1 or 2):

- 1) Request is for 300 mg every month, and lab results within the last 3 months are submitted showing an LDL-C reduction since initiation of Praluent therapy;
- 2) Request is for 150 mg every 2 weeks, and one of the following (a or b):
 - a) If request represents a new dose increase, member meets both (i and ii):
 - i) Demonstrated adherence to Praluent and, if applicable, statin therapies;
 - ii) Lab results within the last 3 months are submitted showing an LDL-C ≥ 110 mg/dL after a minimum of 8 weeks of Praluent therapy at 300 mg every month;
 - b) If request represents a continuation of Praluent 150 mg every 2 weeks, lab results within the last 3 months are submitted showing an LDL-C reduction since initiation of the Praluent frequency increase;
- ii. For body weight < 50 kg, one of the following (1 or 2):
 - 1) Request is for 150 mg every 4 weeks, and lab results within the last 3 months are submitted showing an LDL-C reduction since initiation of Praluent therapy;
 - 2) Request is for 75 mg every 2 weeks, and one of the following (a or b):
 - a) If request represents a new dose increase, member meets both (i and ii):
 - i) Demonstrated adherence to Praluent and, if applicable, statin therapies;
 - ii) Lab results within the last 3 months are submitted showing an LDL-C ≥ 110 mg/dL after a minimum of 8 weeks of Praluent therapy at 150 mg every 4 weeks;
 - b) If request represents a continuation of Praluent 75 mg every 2 weeks, lab results within the last 3 months are submitted showing an LDL-C reduction since initiation of the Praluent frequency increase.

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 12 months (*3 months if request is for dose increase*)

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

B. Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia (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. If statin tolerant, documentation of adherence to a statin at the maximally tolerated dose;
3. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by lab results within the last 3 months showing an LDL-C reduction since initiation of Praluent therapy;
4. Treatment plan does not include coadministration with Juxtapid, Leqvio, or Repatha;
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 150 mg every 2 weeks.

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 12 months

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

C. Other diagnoses/indications (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 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 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 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 and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

ALT: Alanine transaminase	LDL-C: low density lipoprotein cholesterol
apo B: apolipoprotein B	LDLR: low density lipoprotein receptor
ASCVD: atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	PCSK9: proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin 9
CHD: coronary heart disease	SAMS: statin-associated muscle symptoms
FDA: Food and Drug Administration	TIA: transient ischemic attack
FH: familial hypercholesterolemia	WHO: World Health Organization
HeFH: heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia	
HoFH: homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia	

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
ezetimibe/simvastatin (Vytorin [®])	10/40 mg PO QD	10 mg-40 mg/day

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
		(Use of the 10/80 mg dose is restricted to patients who have been taking simvastatin 80 mg for 12 months or more without evidence of muscle toxicity)
ezetimibe (Zetia [®])	10 mg PO QD	10 mg/day
atorvastatin (Lipitor [®])	40 mg PO QD	80 mg/day
rosuvastatin (Crestor [®])	5 to 40 mg PO QD	40 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): history of serious hypersensitivity reaction to Praluent
- Boxed warning(s): none

Appendix D: Criteria for Diagnosis of HeFH

- Dutch Lipid Clinic Network criteria for Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH)

FH Criteria	Points	Member's Score†
Family History		
First-degree relative with known premature* coronary and vascular disease	1	Place highest score here (0, 1 or 2)
First-degree relative with known LDL-C level above the 95 th percentile	1	
First-degree relative with tendinous xanthomata and/or arcus cornealis	2	
Children aged < 18 years with LDL-C level above the 95 th percentile	2	
Clinical History		
Patient with premature* coronary artery disease	2	Place highest score here (0, 1 or 2)
Patient with premature* cerebral or peripheral vascular disease	1	
Physical Examination		
Tendinous xanthomata	6	Place highest score here (0, 4 or 6)
Arcus cornealis prior to age 45 years	4	
Cholesterol Levels - mg/dL (mmol/liter)		
LDL-C ≥ 330 mg/dL (≥ 8.5)	8	Place highest score here (0, 1, 3, 5 or 8)
LDL-C 250 – 329 mg/dL (6.5 – 8.4)	5	
LDL-C 190 – 249 mg/dL (5.0 – 6.4)	3	
LDL-C 155 – 189 mg/dL (4.0 – 4.9)	1	
DNA Analysis		
Functional mutation in the low density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR), apo B or PCSK9 gene	8	Place highest score here (0 or 8)

FH Criteria	Points	Member's Score†
TOTAL SCORE	Definite FH: > 8	Place score total here ___

*Premature – men < 55 years or women < 60 years

†Choose the highest score from each of the five categories and then add together for a total score. The five categories are 1) Family History, 2) Clinical History, 3) Physical Examination, 4) Cholesterol Levels, and 5) DNA Analysis.

- Simon Broome Register Group Definition of Definite FH (meets 1 and 2):
 1. One of the following (a or b):
 - a. Total cholesterol level above 7.5 mmol/l (290 mg/dl) in adults or a total cholesterol level above 6.7 mmol/l (260 mg/dl) for children under 16;
 - b. LDL levels above 4.9 mmol/l (190 mg/dl) in adults (4.0 mmol/l in children) (either pre-treatment or highest on treatment);
 2. One of the following (a or b):
 - a. Tendinous xanthomas in patient or relative (parent, child, sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle);
 - b. DNA-based evidence of an LDL receptor mutation or familial defective apo B-100;
- High and Moderate Risk of ASCVD:
 - Patients with high risk of ASCVD include the following:
 - History of clinical atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (as defined in section II)
 - Diabetes with an estimated 10-year ASCVD risk $\geq 7.5\%$ for adults 40-75 years of age
 - Untreated LDL ≥ 190 mg/dL
 - Patients with moderate risk of ASCVD include the following:
 - Diabetes with an estimated 10-year ASCVD risk $< 7.5\%$ for adults 40-75 years of age
 - Estimated 10-year ASCVD risk $\geq 5\%$ for adults 40-75 years of age
 - The calculator for the 10-year ASCVD risk estimator can be found here: <http://tools.cardiosource.org/ASCVD-Risk-Estimator>. Information needed to complete the ASCVD Risk Estimator include: gender, race (white, African American, other), systolic blood pressure, diabetes, age, total cholesterol, HDL-Cholesterol, treatment for hypertension, current smoker.

Appendix E: High and Moderate Intensity Daily Statin Therapy for Adults

High Intensity Statin Therapy <i>Daily dose shown to lower LDL-C, on average, by approximately $\geq 50\%$</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atorvastatin 40-80 mg • Rosuvastatin 20-40 mg
Moderate Intensity Statin Therapy <i>Daily dose shown to lower LDL-C, on average, by approximately 30% to 50%</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atorvastatin 10-20 mg • Fluvastatin XL 80 mg • Fluvastatin 40 mg BID • Lovastatin 40 mg

<p>Moderate Intensity Statin Therapy <i>Daily dose shown to lower LDL-C, on average, by approximately 30% to 50%</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitavastatin 1-4 mg • Pravastatin 40-80 mg • Rosuvastatin 5-10 mg • Simvastatin 20-40 mg
<p>Low Intensity Statin Therapy <i>Daily dose shown to lower LDL-C, on average, by < 30%</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simvastatin 10 mg • Pravastatin 10-20 mg • Lovastatin 20 mg • Fluvastatin 20-40 mg

Appendix F: Statin Contraindications

<p>Statins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decompensated liver disease (development of jaundice, ascites, variceal bleeding, encephalopathy) • Laboratory-confirmed acute liver injury or rhabdomyolysis resulting from statin treatment • Pregnancy*, actively trying to become pregnant, or nursing • Immune-mediated hypersensitivity to the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor drug class (statins) as evidenced by an allergic reaction occurring with at least TWO different statins

**In July 2021, the FDA requested removal of the contraindication against use of statins in pregnant women. Because the benefits of statins may include prevention of serious or potentially fatal events in a small group of very high-risk pregnant patients, contraindicating these drugs in all pregnant women is not appropriate. <https://www.fda.gov/safety/medical-product-safety-information/statins-drug-safety-communication-fda-requests-removal-strongest-warning-against-using-cholesterol>*

Appendix G: Statin Risk Factors

<p>Statin Risk Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple or serious comorbidities, including impaired renal or hepatic function • Unexplained alanine transaminase (ALT) elevations > 3 times upper limit of normal, or active liver disease • Concomitant use of drugs adversely affecting statin metabolism • Age > 75 years, or history of hemorrhagic stroke • Asian ancestry

Appendix H: General Information

- FDA Endocrinologic and Metabolic Drugs Advisory Committee briefing documents for Praluent discuss the questionable determination of statin intolerance, stating: “many patients who are not able to take statins are not truly intolerant of the pharmacological class.”
- Patients should remain on concomitant therapy with a statin if tolerated due to the established long term cardiovascular benefits.

- Examples of genetically mediated primary hyperlipidemia include but are not limited to the following:
 - Familial hypercholesterolemia
 - Familial combined hyperlipidemia (FCHL)
 - Polygenic hypercholesterolemia
 - Familial dysbetalipoproteinemia
- The diagnosis of SAMS is often on the basis of clinical criteria. Typical SAMS include muscle pain and aching (myalgia), cramps, and weakness. Symptoms are usually bilateral and involve large muscle groups, including the thigh, buttock, back, and shoulder girdle musculature. In contrast, cramping is usually unilateral and may involve small muscles of the hands and feet. Symptoms may be more frequent in physically active patients. Symptoms often appear early after starting statin therapy or after an increase in dose and usually resolve or start to dissipate within weeks after cessation of therapy, although it may take several months for symptoms to totally resolve. Persistence of symptoms for more than 2 months after drug cessation should prompt a search for other causes or for underlying muscle disease possibly provoked by statin therapy. The reappearance of symptoms with statin rechallenge and their disappearance with drug cessation offers the best evidence that the symptoms are truly SAMS.
- Pravastatin, fluvastatin, and rosuvastatin are hydrophilic statins which have been reported to confer fewer adverse drug reactions than lipophilic statins.

Appendix I: Criteria for Defining Patients at Very High Risk of Future ASCVD Events^{3, 16, 18}

Very high risk is defined as having either a history of multiple major ASCVD events **OR** 1 major ASCVD event and multiple high-risk conditions:

- Major ASCVD events:
 - Recent acute coronary syndrome (within the past 12 months)
 - History of myocardial infarction (other than recent acute coronary syndrome event listed above)
 - History of ischemic stroke
 - Symptomatic peripheral artery disease (history of claudication with ankle-brachial index < 0.85 or previous revascularization or amputation)
- High-risk conditions:
 - Age ≥ 65 years
 - FH
 - History of prior coronary artery bypass surgery or percutaneous coronary intervention outside of the major ASCVD event(s)
 - Diabetes
 - Hypertension
 - Chronic kidney disease (estimated glomerular filtration rate [eGFR] 15-59 mL/min/1.73 m²)
 - Current tobacco smoking
 - Persistently elevated LDL-C (LDL-C ≥ 100 mg/dL [≥ 2.6 mmol/L]) despite maximally tolerated statin therapy and ezetimibe
 - History of congestive heart failure

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Hypercholesterolemia with ASCVD	75 mg SC once every 2 weeks or 300 mg SC once every 4 weeks If response to 75 mg every 2 weeks or 300 mg every 4 weeks is inadequate, dose may be adjusted to 150 mg once every 2 weeks	300 mg/month
Primary hyperlipidemia (including HeFH)	<u>Adult:</u> 75 mg SC once every 2 weeks or 300 mg SC once every 4 weeks If response to 75 mg every 2 weeks or 300 mg every 4 weeks is inadequate, dose may be adjusted to 150 mg once every 2 weeks <u>Pediatrics:</u> Body weight < 50 kg: 150 mg SC every 4 weeks If response is inadequate, dose may be adjusted to 75 mg every 2 weeks Body weight ≥ 50 kg: 300 mg SC every 4 weeks If response is inadequate, dose may be adjusted to 150 mg every 2 weeks	300 mg/month
HoFH, HeFH undergoing LDL apheresis	150 mg SC every 2 weeks	300 mg/month

VI. Product Availability

Single-use pre-filled pens: 75 mg/mL, 150 mg/mL

VII. References

1. Praluent Prescribing Information. Tarrytown, NY: Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc; March 2024. Available at: https://www.regeneron.com/downloads/praluent_pi.pdf. Accessed March 22, 2024.
2. Lloyd-Jones DM, Morris PB, Minissian MB, et al. 2017 Focused update of the 2016 ACC expert consensus decision pathway on the role of non-statin therapies for LDL-cholesterol lowering in the management of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk. J Am Coll Cardiol 2017; 70(14):1785-1822. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jacc.2017.07.745>.
3. Grundy SM, Stone NJ, Bailey AL, et al. 2018 AHA/ACC/AACVPR/AAPA/ABC/ACPM/ADA/AGS/APhA/ASPC/NLA/PCNA guideline on the management of blood cholesterol: a report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines. J Am Coll Cardiol 2018;Nov 10:[Epub ahead of print].

4. Jacobson TA, et al. National Lipid Association recommendations for patient-centered management of dyslipidemia: part 1 – full report. *Journal of Clinical Lipidology*. March-April 2015; 9(2): 129-169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jacl.2015.02.003>.
5. Goldberg AC, Hopkins PN, Toth PP, et al. Familial hypercholesterolemia: screening, diagnosis and management of pediatric and adult patients: clinical guidance from the National Lipid Association Expert Panel on Familial Hypercholesterolemia. *Journal of Clinical Lipidology*. June 2011; 5(3S): 1-15.
6. Al-Rasadi K, Al-Waili K, Al-Sabti HA, et al. Criteria for diagnosis of familial hypercholesterolemia: A comprehensive analysis of the different guidelines, appraising their suitability in the Omani Arab population. *Oman Medical Journal*. 2014; 29(2): 85–91. <http://doi.org/10.5001/omj.2014.22>
7. Fitchett DH, Hegele RA, Verma S. Statin intolerance. *Circulation* 2015;131:e389-391. <https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.114.013189>
8. Food and Drug Administration Center for Drug Evaluation and Research: The Endocrinology and Metabolic Drugs Advisory Committee Meeting Briefing Document BLA 125559 – Praluent (alirocumab) injection. June 9, 2015. Available at: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2015/125559Orig1s000ODMemo.pdf. Accessed October 18, 2022.
9. Manpuya WM, Cho L, Frid D, et al. Treatment strategies in patients with statin intolerance: the Cleveland Clinic experience. *American Heart Journal* 2013; 166(3):597-603.
10. Zhang H, Plutzky J, Skentzos S, et al. Discontinuation of statins in routine care settings. *Ann of Intern Med* 2013; 158(7):526-534.
11. Clinical Lipidology Resource Center, sponsored by the National Lipid Association and the *Journal of Clinical Lipidology*. Genetic classification of dyslipidemia. Available at: <http://nlaresourcecenter.lipidjournal.com/Content/PDFs/Tables/1.pdf>. Accessed October 18, 2022.
12. Backes JM, Ruisinger JF, Gibson CA, et al. Statin-associated muscle symptoms—managing the highly intolerant. *J Clin Lipidol*. 2017;11:24-33. Available at: <https://www.acc.org/latest-in-cardiology/ten-points-to-remember/2017/05/03/10/43/statin-associated-muscle-symptoms>. Accessed October 18, 2022.
13. Thompson PD, Panza G, Zaleski A, et al. Statin-associated side effects. *JACC* 2016;67(20):2395-2410.
14. Blom DJ, Harada-Shiba M, Rubba P, et al. Efficacy and safety of alirocumab in adults with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia: The ODYSSEY HoFH trial. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2020; 76(2): 131-142.
15. Kleindorfer DO, Towfighi A, Chaturvedi S, et al. 2021 guideline for the prevention of stroke in patients with stroke and transient ischemic attack: A guideline from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. *Stroke*. 2021; 52: e354-e467.
16. Lloyd-Jones DM, Morris PB, Ballntyne CM, et al. 2022 ACC expert consensus decision pathway on the role of nonstatin therapies for LDL-cholesterol lowering in the management of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk: A report of the American College of Cardiology Solution Set Oversight Committee. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2022; 80 (14): 1366-1418.

17. Warden BA, Guyton JR, Kovacs AC, et al. Assessment and management of statin-associated muscle symptoms (SAMS): A clinical perspective from the National Lipid Association. Published September 9, 2022. Available at: <https://www.lipid.org/nla/clinical-perspective-assessment-management-statin-associated-muscle-symptoms-sams>. Accessed October 18, 2022.
18. Virani SS, Newby LK, Arnold SV, et al. 2023 AHA/ACC/ACCP/ASPC/NLA/PCNA Guideline for the Management of Patients With Chronic Coronary Disease: A Report of the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines [published correction appears in Circulation. 2023 Sep 26;148(13):e148]. Circulation. 2023;148(9):e9-e119.
19. ElSayed NA, Aleppo G, Aroda VR, et al. 10. Cardiovascular Disease and Risk Management: Standards of Care in Diabetes-2023 [published correction appears in Diabetes Care. 2023 Jan 26]. Diabetes Care. 2023;46(Suppl 1):S158-S190.

Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
C9399	Unclassified drugs or biologicals
J3590	Unclassified biologics

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
1Q 2020 annual review: removed the requirement for explicit documentation of rule out of secondary causes of hyperlipidemia; clarified the requirement for ruling out lipid-increasing medications as a secondary cause of hyperlipidemia, by specifying that the medication must be ruled out only if it has significantly increased the member’s lipid levels; increased the timeframe for LDL-C lab draws from 30 days to 60 days; for members on a low intensity statin, modified requirement for statin intolerance to one high and one moderate intensity statins (previously required two of each); modified the requirement for four prior statin trials to two prior statin trials; Appendix E updated based on 2018 ACC/AHA guidelines; references reviewed and updated.	11.05.19	02.20
1Q 2021 annual review: removed HoFH from diagnoses not covered based on positive results from ODYSSEY HoFH study; coding implications added; references reviewed and updated.	11.02.20	02.21
RT4: added criteria for HoFH per updated FDA approved indication and prior clinical guidance.	04.08.21	

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
1Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; added legacy WellCare line business (WCG.CP.PHAR.124 to be retired) and shortened legacy WCG initial approval duration from 4 to 3 months; removed references to Kynamro since it has been withdrawn from market; references reviewed and updated.	10.01.21	02.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	09.30.22	
1Q 2023 annual review: per 2022 ACC expert consensus decision pathway and as supported by specialist feedback – added bypass of ezetimibe trial if member requires > 25% additional lowering of LDL, and lowered minimum LDL requirement to 55 mg/dL for members with ASCVD at very high risk with corresponding Appendix I; references reviewed and updated.	10.18.22	02.23
Per guidelines: for primary hypercholesterolemia, modified baseline and recent LDL requirements for non-genetically mediated disease to be the same as genetically mediated disease, and for HeFH, added pathway for baseline LDL of at least 160 mg/dL for age < 20 years.	05.17.23	08.23
1Q 2024 annual review: added Leqvio to list of drugs where coadministration is not allowed; added the following requirement from initial approval criteria to also require for continuation of therapy “Treatment plan does not include coadministration with Juxtapid, Leqvio, or Repatha”; Appendix I clarified that smoking is specific to tobacco and revised HeFH to FH; references reviewed and updated. Reorganized diagnostic criteria in section I.A for improved clarity (no changes to clinical content).	02.09.24	02.24
RT4: updated criteria per pediatric age expansion for HeFH; for HeFH and ASCVD, clarified statin and ezetimibe step therapy criteria apply to members ≥ 18 years old.	03.22.24	
Per SDC, for all indications, revised criteria requires to require provider attestation rather than documentation, reduced statin adherence duration from from 4 months to 8 weeks, simplified statin trial and failure criteria for moderate- and low-intensity statin regimens to require insufficient therapeutic response to one high intensity statin for 8 weeks or reversible muscle-related symptoms associated with both rosuvastatin and atorvastatin, removed ezetimibe trial criteria.	04.24.24	

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.

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.

©2015 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.