

Clinical Policy: Diazepam (Libervant, Valtoco)

Reference Number: CP.PMN.216

Effective Date: 12.01.19

Last Review Date: 11.23

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Diazepam (Libervant[™], Valtoco[®]) is a benzodiazepine.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Libervant and Valtoco are indicated for the acute treatment of intermittent, stereotypic episodes of frequent seizure activity (i.e., seizure clusters, acute repetitive seizures) that are distinct from a patient's usual seizure pattern in patients with epilepsy for the following ages:

- Libervant: 2 to 5 years of age
- Valtoco: 6 years 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 Libervant and Valtoco are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Epilepsy with Seizure Cluster Episodes (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of partial or generalized epilepsy;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist;
3. Age is one of the following (a or b):
 - a. For Libervant: ≥ 2 years and ≤ 5 years;
 - b. For Valtoco: ≥ 6 years;
4. Member is experiencing stereotypic episodes of frequent seizure activity (i.e., seizure clusters, acute repetitive seizures);
5. Currently on a stable regimen of antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) (e.g., lamotrigine, gabapentin, topiramate, oxcarbazepine);
6. Documentation supports inability to use diazepam rectal gel (e.g., request is for use at school where rectal medications cannot be administered);
7. Dose does not exceed 2 doses per single episode (not to exceed 1 episode every 5 days or 5 episodes per month) (*refer to section V for age and weight specific dosing*).

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. Epilepsy with Seizure Cluster Episodes (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Libervant or Valtoco for a covered indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 2 doses per single episode (not to exceed 1 episode every 5 days or 5 episodes per month) (*refer to section V for age and weight specific dosing*).

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

AED: antiepileptic drug

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
diazepam rectal gel (Diastat [®])	Age-based dosing, administered rectally: 2-5 years: 0.5 mg/kg/dose 6-11 years: 0.3 mg/kg/dose 12 years and older: 0.2 mg/kg/dose A second dose, when required, may be given 4-12 hours after the first dose.	0.5 mg/kg/dose
Examples of AEDs for partial seizures	carbamazepine (Tegretol [®]), felbamate (Felbatol [®]), gabapentin (Neurontin [®]), lamotrigine (Lamictal [®]), levetiracetam (Keppra [®]), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal [®]), phenobarbital, phenytoin (Dilantin [®]), pregabalin (Lyrica [®]), tiagabine (Gabitril [®]), topiramate (Topamax [®]), valproic acid (Depakene [®]), divalproex sodium (Depakote [®]), zonisamide (Zonegran [®])	Varies according to the agent used
Examples of AEDs for tonic-clonic seizures	carbamazepine (Tegretol [®]), lamotrigine (Lamictal [®]), levetiracetam (Keppra [®]), phenobarbital, phenytoin (Dilantin [®]), primidone (Mysoline [®]), topiramate (Topamax [®]), valproic acid (Depakene [®]), divalproex sodium (Depakote [®])	Varies according to the agent used

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): acute narrow-angle glaucoma, known hypersensitivity to diazepam
- Boxed warning(s): concomitant use with opioids; abuse, misuse, and addiction; dependence and withdrawal reactions

Appendix D: General Information

- Seizure clusters can be defined as multiple seizures that occur within a short period of time. These seizures will happen in an increased frequency from the patient’s normal seizure activity. Thus, they are distinguishable from a person’s typical seizure pattern. The definition for a specific time period varies. Various studies use the following time frames: two to four seizures per < 48 hours; 3 seizures per 24 hours; or two generalized tonic-clonic or three complex partial seizures in 4 hours. Seizure clusters are also known as acute-repetitive seizures, serial seizures, crescendo seizures, and seizure flurries, which highlight the repetitive nature of the seizures. Seizure clusters are a form of seizure emergency that have potential to evolve into prolonged seizures and status epilepticus.

V. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose																								
Libervant (diazepam)	<p>The recommended dose of Libervant for pediatric patients 2 to 5 years of age is dependent on the patient’s weight. The buccal film is applied on the inside of the mouth on top of the surface of the cheek and allowed to dissolve. A second dose, if needed, may be administered at least 4 hours after the first dose.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="623 926 1024 1119"> <thead> <tr> <th>Weight (kg)</th> <th>Dose (mg)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6-10</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11-15</td> <td>7.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16-20</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21-25</td> <td>12.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26-30</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Weight (kg)	Dose (mg)	6-10	5	11-15	7.5	16-20	10	21-25	12.5	26-30	15	2 doses/single episode; do not treat more than 1 episode every 5 days or more than 5 episodes/month												
Weight (kg)	Dose (mg)																									
6-10	5																									
11-15	7.5																									
16-20	10																									
21-25	12.5																									
26-30	15																									
Valtoco (diazepam)	<p>Spray initial dose* into nostril. If no response 4 hours after the initial dose, a second dose may be given.</p> <p>*The recommended dose of Valtoco nasal spray is 0.2 mg/kg or 0.3 mg/kg, depending on the patient’s age and weight. The following table provides the acceptable weight ranges for each dose and age category, such that patients will receive between 90% and 180% of the calculated recommended dose.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="492 1524 1154 1829"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Dose</th> <th rowspan="2">Dose (mg)</th> <th colspan="2">Administration</th> </tr> <tr> <th>6-11 years (0.3 mg/kg)</th> <th>≥ 12 years (0.2 mg/kg)</th> <th># of Nasal Spray Devices</th> <th># of Sprays</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Weight (kg)</th> <th>Weight (kg)</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10-18</td> <td>14-27</td> <td>5</td> <td>One 5 mg device</td> <td>1 spray in one nostril</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19-37</td> <td>28-50</td> <td>10</td> <td>One 10 mg device</td> <td>1 spray in one nostril</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Dose		Dose (mg)	Administration		6-11 years (0.3 mg/kg)	≥ 12 years (0.2 mg/kg)	# of Nasal Spray Devices	# of Sprays	Weight (kg)	Weight (kg)				10-18	14-27	5	One 5 mg device	1 spray in one nostril	19-37	28-50	10	One 10 mg device	1 spray in one nostril	
Dose		Dose (mg)	Administration																							
6-11 years (0.3 mg/kg)	≥ 12 years (0.2 mg/kg)		# of Nasal Spray Devices	# of Sprays																						
Weight (kg)	Weight (kg)																									
10-18	14-27	5	One 5 mg device	1 spray in one nostril																						
19-37	28-50	10	One 10 mg device	1 spray in one nostril																						

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen					Maximum Dose
	38-55	51-75	15	Two 7.5 mg devices	1 spray in each nostril	
	56-74	≥ 76	20	Two 10 mg devices	1 spray in each nostril	

VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Libervant (diazepam)	Buccal film: 5 mg, 7.5 mg, 10 mg, 12.5 mg, 15 mg
Valtoco (diazepam)	Nasal spray: 5 mg/0.1 mL, 7.5 mg/0.1 mL, 10 mg/0.1 mL

VII. References

1. Libervant Prescribing Information. Warren, NJ: Aquestive Therapeutics; April 2024. Available at: <https://aquestive.com/content/uploads/libervant-2-to-5-years-of-age-pi-clean-pdf.pdf>. Accessed May 8, 2024.
2. Valtoco Prescribing Information. San Diego, CA: Neurelis, Inc.; January 2023. Available at: <https://www.valtoco.com>. Accessed May 8, 2024.
3. Grand mal seizure. (2018, December 07). Retrieved June 4, 2019, from <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/grand-mal-seizure/symptoms-causes/syc-20363458>. Accessed October 3, 2019.
4. Kumar A. Complex partial seizure. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK519030/>. Accessed October 3, 2019.
5. Schachter SC. Seizure clusters. Available at: <https://www.epilepsy.com/learn/professionals/refractory-seizures/potentially-remediable-causes/seizure-clusters>. Accessed October 3, 2019.
6. Epilepsies in children, young people and adults. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE); April 27, 2022. Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng217>. Accessed May 9, 2024.
7. Micromedex[®] Healthcare Series [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colo: Thomson Healthcare. Updated periodically. Accessed May 9, 2024.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	10.22.19	11.19
Policy updated per new FDA approved labeling.	01.13.20	
4Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	08.04.20	11.20
4Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; revised “Medical justification” to “Documentation supports inability to use...” language; revised HIM.PHAR.21 to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	08.22.21	11.21
4Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; added the following example for inability to use Diastat: request is for use at school where rectal medications cannot be administered; references	08.25.22	11.22

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
reviewed and updated. Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications.		
Revised “Diastat” to “diazepam rectal gel”.	12.08.22	
4Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	08.16.23	11.23
RT4: added newly approved Libervant buccal film.	05.08.24	

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.

©2019 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.