

Questions and Answers

Expanded Limited Use Criteria for Clopidogrel (Plavix)

1. When do the expanded Limited Use (LU) criteria for clopidogrel go into effect?

The expanded LU criteria for clopidogrel are effective May 20, 2009.

2. What are the existing LU criteria for clopidogrel?

Limited Use Code 375:

For patients immediately post-hospitalization* for non-ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndrome (ACS)**

Note: approval for 12 months

LU Authorization Period: 1 year

Limited Use Code 376:

For patients immediately pre- or post-percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)***

Note: approval for 12 months

LU Authorization Period: 1 year

*The first prescription must be written by a physician based at the hospital where the patient was hospitalized.

**ACS, as defined by the CURE study, includes hospitalized patients with unstable angina or non-ST segment elevation myocardial infarction.

***Therapy may be initiated up to 10 days prior to PCI.

NETWORK NOTE: The Special Authorization Number (SAN) that corresponds to the hospital where the patient was hospitalized must be submitted with the first Limited Use claim.

3. What are the expanded LU criteria for clopidogrel?

Limited Use Code 375:

For patients immediately post-hospitalization for Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS), in combination with ASA. ACS is defined as any myocardial infarction (MI) or unstable angina (UA).

LU Authorization Period: Indefinite

Limited Use Code 376:

For patients immediately pre- or post-percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)*.

*Therapy may be initiated up to 10 days prior to PCI.

LU Authorization Period: Indefinite

Limited Use Code 411:

For patients who experience a stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA) while taking Aggrenox (dipyridamole and ASA) or ASA alone; **or**

For patients experiencing ongoing severe symptomatic peripheral vascular disease (PVD (i.e. with Ankle Brachial Index <0.5) after a vascular event while on ASA. ASA should not be used concomitantly; **or**

For patients requiring ASA with documented severe allergy to ASA, such as anaphylactic reaction or bronchospasm. Gastrointestinal events (GI), including GI bleeds, are excluded.

LU Authorization Period: Indefinite

4. What is the LU authorization period for clopidogrel under the expanded LU criteria?

The LU authorization period for all 3 LU codes is indefinite.

5. Are Special Authorization Numbers (SANs) still required when submitting the first LU claim for clopidogrel?

SANs are no longer required when submitting the first LU claim for clopidogrel. Effective May 20, 2009, all new LU claims for clopidogrel must be billed according to usual requirements for LU claims processing.

6. What will happen to Exceptional Access Program (EAP) requests for clopidogrel that have been submitted prior to May 20, 2009?

EAP requests received before May 20, 2009 will be processed through the EAP.

7. How does this change affect patients currently receiving clopidogrel through the EAP?

Patients who have received approval for clopidogrel through EAP prior to May 20, 2009 will maintain this approval indefinitely and will not require provision of a LU code on future prescriptions.

8. What if patients do not meet any of the LU criteria?

Indications for use in patients who do not meet the above LU criteria require a patient-specific funding request and these should continue to be submitted through the EAP by fax at 416-327-7526 or 1-866-811-9908.

9. Where do I go for assistance on submitting claims?

Please contact the ODB Help Desk at 1-800-668-6641 if you require assistance with on-line claims submissions.