

**Linezolid tablets**  
**Linezolid oral suspension**  
**Effective November 26, 2018**

<b>Plan</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MassHealth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Exchange	<b>Program Type</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior Authorization
<b>Benefit</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy Benefit <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Benefit (NLX)		<input type="checkbox"/> Quantity Limit <input type="checkbox"/> Step Therapy
<b>Specialty Limitations</b>	N/A		
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Specialty Medications</b>		
	All Plans	Phone: 866-814-5506	Fax: 866-249-6155
	<b>Non-Specialty Medications</b>		
	MassHealth	Phone: 877-433-7643	Fax: 866-255-7569
	Commercial	Phone: 800-294-5979	Fax: 888-836-0730
	Exchange	Phone: 855-582-2022	Fax: 855-245-2134
	<b>Medical Specialty Medications (NLX)</b>		
	All Plans	Phone: 844-345-2803	Fax: 844-851-0882
<b>Exceptions</b>	N/A		

### Overview

Linezolid is an antibiotic that fights bacteria in the body. Linezolid is also an MAO (monoamine oxidase) inhibitor. Linezolid is used to treat different types of bacterial infections, such as pneumonia, skin infections, and infections that are resistant to other antibiotics.

### Coverage Guidelines

Authorization may be granted for members when ANY of the following criteria are met, and documentation is provided:

1. Member was started on linezolid therapy in the hospital or another inpatient facility.
2. Member has a documented blood, sputum, tissue or urine culture positive for vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE).
3. Member has a documented blood, sputum, tissue or urine culture positive for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus (MRSA) and treatment with vancomycin is not an option (e.g. lack of IV access, etc.).
4. Member currently has a complicated skin or skin structure infection with no concomitant osteomyelitis where a culture cannot be obtained (e.g. closed wound infections, diabetic foot infections, cellulitis infections, etc.) and patient has a history of MRSA infections.
5. Member has hospital-acquired or healthcare-associated pneumonia caused by *S. aureus* (methicillin-susceptible and -resistant isolates), or *S. pneumoniae*.
6. Member has uncomplicated skin and skin structure infections caused by *S. aureus* (methicillin-susceptible isolates) or *S. pyogenes*.

### Limitations

1. Initial approvals will be varied based on treatment.



2. For treatment duration exceeding 2 weeks, weekly monitoring of patient's complete blood count (CBC) is required.
3. The following quantity limits apply:
  - a. Tablets: 56 tablets per 90 days
  - b. Oral suspension: 1800mL (12 bottles) per 90 days

## References

1. Zyvox (linezolid) [prescribing information]. New York, NY: Pharmacia & Upjohn Co; July 2018.
2. Stevens DL, Bisno AL, Chambers HF, Everett ED, Dellinger P, Goldstein EJC, et al. Practice Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Skin and Soft-Tissue Infections. IDSA Guidelines. CID. 2005; 41:1373-406.
3. Lipsky BA, Berendt AR, Cornia PB, Pile JC, Peters EJJ, Armstrong DG, et al. 2012 IDSA Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diabetic Foot Infections. CID. 2012;54(12):132-73.
4. Mandell LA, Wunderink RG, Anzueto A, Bartlett JG, Douglas Campbell G, Dean NC, et al. IDSA/American Thoracic Society Consensus Guidelines on the Management of Community-Acquired Pneumonia in Adults. CID. 2007;44: S27-72.
5. Liu C, Bayer A, Cosgrove SE, Datum RS, Fridkin SK, Gorwitz RJ, et al. Clinical practice guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America for the treatment of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections in adults and children. CID. 2011; 52:1-38.
6. Yue J, Dong BR, Yang M, Chen X, Wu T, Liu GJ. Linezolid versus vancomycin for skin and soft tissue infections. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2016;1:CD008056.[PubMed 26758498]10.1002/14651858.CD008056.pub3
7. Itani KM, Dryden MS, Bhattacharyya H, Kunkel MJ, Baruch AM, Weigelt JA. Efficacy and safety of linezolid versus vancomycin for the treatment of complicated skin and soft-tissue infections proven to be caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Am J Surg*. 2010;199(6):804-816.[PubMed 20227056]
8. Pea F, Cojutti PG, Baraldo M. A 10-year experience of therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) of linezolid in a hospital-wide population of patients receiving conventional dosing: is there enough evidence for suggesting TDM in the majority of patients? *Basic Clin Pharmacol Toxicol*. 2017;121(4):303-308.[PubMed 28419737]10.1111/bcpt.12797

## Review History

12/09/05 – Reviewed  
11/27/06 – Reviewed  
11/26/07 – Reviewed  
11/24/08 – Reviewed  
11/23/09 – Reviewed and revised  
11/22/10 – Reviewed  
11/28/11 – Reviewed and revised  
11/26/12 – Reviewed and revised  
11/25/13 – Reviewed  
11/24/14 – Reviewed  
11/2016 – Reviewed  
11/27/17 – Reviewed in P&T Meeting  
11/26/18 – Reviewed and revised in P&T Meeting

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