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

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

Disclaimer
AllWays Health Partners complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate or exclude people on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.