SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT

Flolan (epoprost enol for injection)
Veletri (epoprostenol for injection)
epoprostenol for injection (generic)

POLICY

I. INDICATIONS

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered a covered benefit provided that all the approval criteria are met and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

FDA-Approved Indication
Epoprostenol/Flolan/Veletri is indicated for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) (WHO Group I) to improve exercise capacity. Studies establishing effectiveness included predominantly patients with NYHA Functional Class III-IV symptoms and etiologies of idiopathic or heritable PAH or PAH associated with connective tissue diseases.

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and are not a covered benefit.

II. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

Indefinite authorization may be granted for treatment of PAH when ALL of the following criteria are met:
A. Member has PAH defined as WHO Group 1 class of pulmonary hypertension (refer to Appendix).
B. PAH was confirmed by either criterion (1) or criterion (2) below:
   1. Pretreatment right heart catheterization with all of the following results:
      i. mPAP ≥ 25 mmHg
      ii. PCWP ≤ 15 mmHg
      iii. PVR > 3 Wood units
   2. For infants less than one year of age with any of the following conditions, PAH was confirmed by Doppler echocardiogram if right heart catheterization cannot be performed:
      i. Post cardiac surgery
      ii. Chronic heart disease
      iii. Chronic lung disease associated with prematurity
      iv. Congenital diaphragmatic hernia

III. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY

Indefinite authorization may be granted for members with an indication listed in Section II who are currently receiving the requested medication through a paid pharmacy or medical benefit, and who are experiencing benefit from therapy as evidenced by disease stability or disease improvement.

IV. APPENDIX
WHO Classification of Pulmonary Hypertension

1 PAH
1.1 Idiopathic (PAH)
1.2 Heritable PAH
1.3 Drug- and toxin-induced PAH
1.4. PAH associated with:
   1.4.1 Connective tissue diseases
   1.4.2 HIV infection
   1.4.3 Portal hypertension
   1.4.4 Congenital heart diseases
   1.4.5 Schistosomiasis
1.5 PAH long-term responders to calcium channel blockers
1.6 PAH with overt features of venous/capillaries (PVOD/PCH) involvement
1.7 Persistent PH of the newborn syndrome

2 PH due to left heart disease
2.1 PH due to heart failure with preserved LVEF
2.2 PH due to heart failure with reduced LVEF
2.3 Valvular heart disease
2.4 Congenital/acquired cardiovascular conditions leading to post-capillary PH

3 PH due to lung diseases and/or hypoxia
3.1 Obstructive lung disease
3.2 Restrictive lung disease
3.3 Other lung disease with mixed restrictive/obstructive pattern
3.4 Hypoxia without lung disease
3.5 Developmental lung disorders

4 PH due to pulmonary artery obstruction
4.1 Chronic thromboembolic PH
4.2 Other pulmonary artery obstructions
   4.2.1 Sarcoma (high or intermediate grade) or angiosarcoma
   4.2.2 Other malignant tumors
      Renal carcinoma
      Uterine carcinoma
      Germ cell tumours of the testis
      Other tumours
   4.2.3 Non-malignant tumours
      Uterine leiomyoma
   4.2.4 Arteritis without connective tissue disease
   4.2.5 Congenital pulmonary artery stenosis
   4.2.6 Parasites
      Hydatidosis

5 PH with unclear and/or multifactorial mechanisms
5.1 Hematologic disorders: Chronic hemolytic anemia, myeloproliferative disorders
5.2 Systemic and metabolic disorders: Pulmonary Langerhans cell histiocytosis, Gaucher disease, glycogen storage disease, neurofibromatosis, sarcoidosis
5.3 Others: chronic renal failure with or without hemodialysis, fibrosing mediastinitis
5.4 Complex congenital heart disease

V. REFERENCES