



IMCIVREE (SETMELANOTIDE) (REQUIRES PREAUTHORIZATION)

X.171

X.171 IMCIVREE (SETMELANOTIDE) (REQUIRES PREAUTHORIZATION)

DESCRIPTION

The intent of the setmelanotide prior authorization is to encourage appropriate use according to clinical trial data and FDA approved labeling.

IMCIVREE is a melanocortin 4 (MC4) receptor agonist indicated for chronic weight management in adult and pediatric patients 6 years of age and older with obesity due to proopiomelanocortin (POMC), proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 1 (PCSK1), or leptin receptor (LEPR) deficiency confirmed by genetic testing demonstrating variants in POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR genes that are interpreted as pathogenic, likely pathogenic, or of uncertain significance (VUS).

Dates

Original Effective

05-26-2021

Last Review

11-06-2024

Next Review

11-10-2025

POLICY

Target Agent(s) will be approved when ALL of the following are met:



- OR
- b. The prescriber has provided information in support of using the requested agent for the patient's age
AND
2. The patient has a diagnosis of obesity and ONE of the following:
 - a. BOTH of the following:
 - i. The patient has proopiomelanocortin (POMC) deficiency
AND
 - ii. Genetic testing has confirmed a mutation in the POMC gene (medical records required)
OR
 - b. BOTH of the following:
 - i. The patient has proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 1 (PCSK1) deficiency
AND
 - ii. Genetic testing has confirmed a mutation in the PCSK1 gene (medical records required)
OR
 - c. BOTH of the following:
 - i. The patient has leptin receptor (LEPR) deficiency
AND
 - ii. Genetic testing has confirmed a mutation in the LEPR gene (medical records required)
AND
 3. ALL of the following:
 - a. The patient's genetic status is bi-allelic, homozygous, or compound heterozygous (NOT double heterozygous)
AND
 - b. The patient's genetic variant is interpreted as pathogenic or likely pathogenic
AND
 - c. The patient's genetic variant is NOT classified as benign or likely benign or of uncertain significance (VUS)
AND
 4. ONE of the following:
 - a. For adult patients, the body mass index (BMI) is $\geq 30 \text{ kg/m}^2$
OR
 - b. For pediatric patients, weight is $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ percentile using growth chart assessments
AND
 5. ONE of the following:
 - a. The patient is newly starting therapy
OR
 - b. The patient is currently being treated and has received less than 16 weeks (4 months) of therapy
OR



initiation of the requested agent;

OR

- ii. For patients with continued growth potential, weight loss of $\geq 5\%$ of baseline BMI (prior to the initiation of the requested agent)

AND

- 6. The prescriber is a specialist in the area of the patient's diagnosis (e.g., geneticist, metabolic disorders) or the prescriber has consulted with a specialist in the area of the patient's diagnosis

AND

- 7. The patient does NOT have any FDA labeled contraindications to the requested agent

AND

- 8. ONE of the following:

- a. The requested quantity (dose) does NOT exceed the program quantity limit

OR

- b. ALL of the following:

- i. The requested quantity (dose) is greater than the program quantity limit

AND

- i. The requested quantity (dose) does NOT exceed the maximum FDA labeled dose for the requested indication

AND

- ii. The requested quantity (dose) cannot be achieved with a lower quantity of a higher strength that does not exceed the program quantity limit

Length of Approval: 4 months

Renewal Evaluation

Target Agent(s) will be approved when ALL of the following are met:

- 1. The patient has been previously approved for the requested agent through the plan's Prior Authorization process

AND



requested agent;

OR

- b. For patients with continued growth potential, weight loss of $\geq 5\%$ of baseline BMI (prior to the initiation of the requested agent)

AND

- 3. The prescriber is a specialist in the area of the patient's diagnosis (e.g., geneticist, metabolic disorders) or the prescriber has consulted with a specialist in the area of the patient's diagnosis

AND

- 4. ONE of the following:

- a. The requested quantity (dose) does NOT exceed the program quantity limit

OR

- b. ALL of the following:

- i. The requested quantity (dose) is greater than the program quantity limit

AND

- i. The requested quantity (dose) does NOT exceed the maximum FDA labeled dose for the requested indication

AND

- ii. The requested quantity (dose) cannot be achieved with a lower quantity of a higher strength that does not exceed the program quantity limit

Length of Approval: 12 months

CLINICAL RATIONALE

There is a strong genetic component to human obesity. Most genes that influence an individual's predisposition to gain weight are not yet known. However, a glimpse into the long-term regulation of body weight has come from studying extreme human obesity caused by single gene defects. These monogenic (single-gene) obesity disorders have confirmed that the hypothalamic leptin-melanocortin system is critical for energy balance in humans because disruption of these pathways causes the most severe obesity phenotypes. Approximately



obesity can be divided into three broad categories; the category further discussed in this program is that which is caused by mutations in genes that have a physiologic role in the hypothalamic Leptin-Melanocortin system of energy balance. Obesity due to leptin receptor mutations, proopiomelanocortin mutations, and proprotein convertase mutations will be addressed further here.^{2,3}

Congenital leptin (LEP) and leptin receptor (LEPR) deficiency are rare, autosomal recessive disorders associated with severe obesity from a very young age (before 2 years). The clinical phenotypes associated with congenital leptin and leptin receptor deficiencies are similar. Patients are born of normal birth weight but exhibit rapid weight gain in the first few months of life resulting in severe obesity. Affected subjects are characterized by intense hyperphagia with food seeking behavior and aggression when food is denied.⁴

Leptin suppresses food intake in part by acting on hypothalamic neurons expressing POMC. People who are homozygous or compound heterozygous for loss of function mutations in the pro-opiomelanocortin gene, POMC, are hyperphagic and develop early-onset obesity due to loss of melanocortin signaling at the MC4R in the hypothalamus. In the pituitary, POMC is the precursor for adrenocorticotrophin (ACTH). As such, POMC deficiency presents in neonatal life with findings of secondary adrenal insufficiency: hypoglycemia, cholestatic jaundice, or other features of adrenal crisis requiring long-term corticosteroid replacement therapy.^{2,4,5,6} Such children have pale skin, and white Caucasians have red hair, due to the lack of melanocortin function at melanocortin 1 receptors in the skin.^{2,4,6} The prevalence of POMC is believed to be fewer than 10 patients worldwide.^{2,3,5}

Prohormone convertase-1 (PCSK1, also known as PC1/3) is an enzyme that acts upon a range of substrates including proinsulin, proglucagon, and POMC. Compound heterozygous or homozygous mutations in



processing of proinsulin to insulin as well as severe, early onset obesity.⁴ The prevalence of PCSK1 deficiency is believed to be fewer than 20 patients worldwide.³

Rhythm Pharmaceuticals has started a registry for patients with certain rare genetic disorders of obesity, and their “Uncovering Rare Obesity Program” offers free genetic testing in the United States for patients of all ages.

Setmelanotide is an MC4 receptor agonist with 20-fold less activity at the melanocortin 3 (MC3) and melanocortin 1 (MC1) receptors. MC4 receptors in the brain are involved in regulation of hunger, satiety, and energy expenditure.^{1,5} In patients with obesity due to POMC, PCSK1, and LEPR deficiency associated with insufficient activation of the MC4 receptor, setmelanotide may re-establish MC4 receptor pathway activity to reduce hunger and promote weight loss through decreased caloric intake and increased energy expenditure.^{1,6}

The safety and efficacy of setmelanotide for chronic weight management in patients with obesity due to POMC, PCSK1, and LEPR deficiency were assessed in 2 identically designed, 1-year, open-label studies, each with an 8-week, double-blind withdrawal period. Study 1 (NCT02896192) enrolled patients aged 6 years and above with obesity and genetically confirmed or suspected POMC or PCSK1 deficiency, and Study 2 (NCT03287960) enrolled patients aged 6 years and above with obesity and genetically confirmed or suspected LEPR deficiency. In Study 1, 80% of patients with obesity due to POMC or PCSK1 deficiency met the primary endpoint, achieving a $\geq 10\%$ weight loss after 1 year of treatment. In Study 2, 46% of patients with obesity due to LEPR deficiency achieved a $\geq 10\%$ weight loss after 1 year of treatment.¹

Safety



Setmelanotide contains the following Black Box Warnings: none

Quick Code Search

Use this feature to find out if a procedure and diagnosis code pair will be approved, denied or held for review. Simply put in the procedure code, then the diagnosis code, then click "Add Code Pair". If the codes are listed in this policy, we will help you by showing a dropdown to help you.

Procedure

Enter at least the first 3 characters of the code

Diagnosis

Enter at least the first 3 characters of the code

CODES

+ HCPCS

REFERENCES

**2008**

Ranadive SA, Vaisse C. Lessons from Extreme Human Obesity: Monogenic Disorders. *Endocrinol Metab Clin North Am*. 2008 Sep;37(3):733-753.

2016

Huvenne H, Dubern B, Clement K, Poitou C. Rare Genetic Forms of Obesity: Clinical Approach and Current Treatments in 2016. *Obes Facts*. 2016 Jun;9(3):158-173.

2017

Farooqi IS, O'Rahilly S. The Genetics of Obesity in Humans. [Updated 2017 Dec 23]. In: Feingold KR, Anawalt B, Boyce A, et al., editors. Endotext [Internet]. South Dartmouth (MA): MDText.com, Inc.; 2000-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK279064/>.

2016

Low MJ. New Hormone Treatment for Obesity Caused by POMC-Deficiency. *Nat Rev Endocrinol*. 2016 Sep;12:627-628.

2016

Kuhnen P, Clement K, Wiegand S, et al. Proopiomelanocortin Deficiency Treated with a Melanocortin-4 Receptor Agonist. *N Engl J Med*. 2016;375:240-246.

REVISIONS

12-05-2023

Policy reviewed at Medical Policy Committee meeting on 11/8/2023
– no changes to policy

HAVE AN IDEA? WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU MANAGE YOUR WORK



[Privacy](#) [Legal](#) [Non-Discrimination and Translation](#) [Site Map](#)

© 2025 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska.

Blue Shield of Nebraska is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. The Blue Cross and Blue

