

Clinical Policy: Brinzolamide/Brimonidine (Simbrinza)

Reference Number: HIM.PA.15

Effective Date: 09.04.18

Last Review Date: 11.24

Line of Business: HIM

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Brinzolamide/brimonidine tartrate ophthalmic suspension 1%/0.2% (Simbrinza[®]) is a fixed combination of a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and an alpha₂ adrenergic receptor agonist.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Simbrinza is indicated for the reduction of elevated intraocular pressure in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation[®] that Simbrinza is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Ocular Hypertension or Open-Angle Glaucoma (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension;
2. Age \geq 2 years;
3. Failure of a prostaglandin analog (e.g., latanoprost, travoprost, bimatoprost, tafluprost) in combination with a beta blocker (e.g., timolol), unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;
4. Dose does not exceed 1 bottle per 25 days.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (health insurance marketplace), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (health insurance marketplace), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND

criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Ocular Hypertension or Open-Angle Glaucoma (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 1 bottle per 25 days.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (health insurance marketplace), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (health insurance marketplace), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
prostaglandin analogs (e.g., latanoprost, travoprost, bimatoprost, tafluprost)	Refer to prescribing information	Refer to prescribing information
timolol 0.25% or 0.5%	Instill 1 drop in the affected eye(s) BID	2 drops/day/eye

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name[®] (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name[®]) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): hypersensitivity to any component of this product, use in neonates and infants under the age of 2 years
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension	Instill 1 drop in the affected eye(s) TID	3 drops/day per affected eye

VI. Product Availability

Ophthalmic suspension (8 mL bottle): 1% (10 mg/mL) brinzolamide with 0.2% (2 mg/mL) brimonidine tartrate

VII. References

1. Simbrinza Prescribing Information. Fort Worth, TX: Alcon Laboratories, Inc.; May 2023. Available at: <https://alcon.widen.net/s/wkqsprvww5/2109p1508-us-smb-2100049-smb-non-branded-promotional-pi>. Accessed August 1, 2024.
2. American Academy of Ophthalmology Retina/Vitreous Panel. Preferred Practice Pattern[®] Guidelines. Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma. San Francisco, CA: American Academy of Ophthalmology; 2020. Available at: <https://www.aao.org/education/preferred-practice-pattern/primary-open-angle-glaucoma-ppp>. Accessed August 1, 2024.
3. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2024. Available at: <https://www.clinicalkey.com/pharmacology/>. Accessed August 1, 2024.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
4Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	07.07.20	11.20
4Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; updated reference for HIM off-label use to HIM.PA.154 (replaces HIM.PHAR.21); references reviewed and updated.	07.22.20	11.21
4Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated. Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	07.18.22	11.22

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
4Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	07.31.23	11.23
4Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	08.01.24	11.24

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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