

**Clinical Policy: Denosumab (Prolia, Xgeva), Denosumab-bbdz (Jubbonti, Wyost)**

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.58

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Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)[Revision Log](#)

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

**Description**

Denosumab (Prolia<sup>®</sup>, Xgeva<sup>®</sup>) and its biosimilars, denosumab-bbdz (Jubbonti<sup>®</sup>, Wyost<sup>®</sup>), are receptor activators of nuclear factor kappa-B ligand inhibitor.

**FDA Approved Indication(s)**

Prolia and Jubbonti are indicated:

- For the treatment of postmenopausal women with osteoporosis (PMO) at high risk for fracture\*, or patients who have failed or are intolerant to other available osteoporosis therapy. In postmenopausal women with osteoporosis, Prolia and Jubbonti reduce the incidences of vertebral, nonvertebral, and hip fractures.
- For the treatment to increase bone mass in men with osteoporosis at high risk for fracture\*, or patients who have failed or are intolerant to other available osteoporosis therapy.
- For the treatment of glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis (GIO) in men and women at high risk of fracture\* who are either initiating or continuing systemic glucocorticoids in a daily dosage equivalent to  $\geq 7.5$  mg of prednisone and expected to remain on glucocorticoids for  $\geq 6$  months.
- For treatment to increase bone mass in men at high risk for fracture\* receiving androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) for nonmetastatic prostate cancer. In these patients, Prolia and Jubbonti also reduce the incidence of vertebral fractures.
- For treatment to increase bone mass in women at high risk for fracture\* receiving adjuvant aromatase inhibitor therapy for breast cancer.

*\*High risk of fracture is defined as a history of osteoporotic fracture, multiple risk factors for fracture, or patients who have failed or are intolerant to other available osteoporosis therapy.*

Xgeva and Wyost are indicated:

- For the prevention of skeletal-related events in patients with multiple myeloma (MM) and in patients with bone metastases from solid tumors.
- For the treatment of adults and skeletally mature adolescents with giant cell tumor of bone that is unresectable or where surgical resection is likely to result in severe morbidity.
- For the treatment of hypercalcemia of malignancy refractory to bisphosphonate therapy.

**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.*

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It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation<sup>®</sup> that Jubbonti, Prolia, Wyost, and Xgeva are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

### I. Initial Approval Criteria

#### A. Osteoporosis (must meet all):

1. Request is for Prolia or Jubbonti;
2. Diagnosis of PMO, GIO, or male osteoporosis and one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Member is at very high risk for fracture as evidenced by one of the following (i, ii, or iii):
    - i. Recent osteoporotic fracture (within the past 12 months);
    - ii. Bone mineral density (BMD) T-score at hip or spine  $\leq -3.0$  (*see Appendix F*);
    - iii. BMD T-score at hip or spine  $\leq -2.5$  AND major osteoporotic fracture (i.e., hip, spine, forearm, wrist, humerus) (*see Appendix F*);
  - b. Member has completed a 3-year trial of bisphosphonate therapy\* (*see Appendix B; generic alendronate is preferred*) at up to maximally indicated doses unless one of the following (i-v):
    - i. All bisphosphonates are contraindicated;
    - ii. Clinically significant adverse effects are experienced to both IV and PO formulations (*see Appendix D*);
    - iii. Member has experienced a loss of BMD while receiving bisphosphonate therapy;
    - iv. Member has experienced a lack of BMD increase after  $\geq 12$  months of bisphosphonate therapy;
    - v. Member experienced an osteoporotic fracture or fragility fracture while receiving bisphosphonate therapy;
3. Age  $\geq 18$  years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;
4. Prolia or Jubbonti is not prescribed concurrently with Xgeva or Wyost;

\*Prior authorization may be required for bisphosphonates.

5. Dose does not exceed 60 mg every 6 months.

**Approval duration:**

**Medicaid/HIM** – 12 months

**Commercial** – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

**B. Prostate/Breast Cancer - Fracture Prevention** (must meet all):

1. Request is for Prolia or Jubbonti;
2. Diagnosis of one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Prostate cancer, and member is receiving ADT (e.g., leuprolide (Lupron<sup>®</sup>), bicalutamide (Casodex<sup>®</sup>) or nilutamide (Nilandron<sup>®</sup>));
  - b. Breast cancer, and member is receiving adjuvant endocrine therapy (e.g., tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors such as anastrozole (Arimidex<sup>®</sup>), exemestane (Aromasin<sup>®</sup>) or letrozole (Femara<sup>®</sup>));
3. Member does not have bone metastasis;
4. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
5. Age  $\geq$  18 years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;
6. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
  - a. For breast cancer, failure of zoledronic acid\* (Zometa) or pamidronate\*, at up to maximally indicated doses unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated (*see Appendices B and D*);  
*\*Prior authorization may be required.*
  - b. For prostate cancer, failure of zoledronic acid\* (Zometa) at up to maximally indicated doses unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (*see Appendices B and D*);  
*\*Prior authorization may be required.*
  - c. Request is for the treatment associated with cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy in certain oncology settings (*see Appendix E*);
7. Prolia or Jubbonti is not prescribed concurrently with Xgeva or Wyost;
8. Dose does not exceed 60 mg every 6 months.

**Approval duration:**

**Medicaid/HIM** – 12 months

**Commercial** – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

**C. Multiple Myeloma or Solid Tumor** (must meet all):

1. Request is for Xgeva or Wyost;
2. Diagnosis of one of the following (a or b):
  - a. MM, and member is receiving or initiating therapy (e.g., chemotherapy, transplant) for symptomatic disease;
  - b. Bone metastasis secondary to solid tumor (e.g., breast, kidney, lung, prostate, thyroid);
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
4. Age  $\geq$  18 years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;
5. For indications other than prostate or breast cancer, member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Failure of zoledronic acid\* (Zometa) or pamidronate\* at up to maximally indicated doses, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated (*see Appendices B and D*);

*\*Prior authorization may be required.*

- b. Request is for the treatment associated with cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy in certain oncology settings (*see Appendix E*);
6. Xgeva or Wyost are not prescribed concurrently with Prolia or Jubbonti;
7. Dose does not exceed 120 mg every 4 weeks.

**Approval duration:**

**Medicaid/HIM** – 6 months

**Commercial** – 6 months or to the member’s renewal date, whichever is longer

**D. Giant Cell Tumor of Bone (must meet all):**

1. Request is for Xgeva or Wyost;
2. Diagnosis of giant cell tumor of bone that is characterized as one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Metastatic or unresectable disease;
  - b. Localized disease, and Xgeva is prescribed as a single agent or in combination with radiation therapy;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
4. Age  $\geq$  18 years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;
5. Xgeva or Wyost are not prescribed concurrently with Prolia or Jubbonti;
6. Dose does not exceed 120 mg every 4 weeks plus 120 mg on days 8 and 15 of first month of therapy.

**Approval duration:**

**Medicaid/HIM** – 6 months

**Commercial** – 6 months or to the member’s renewal date, whichever is longer

**E. Hypercalcemia of Malignancy (must meet all):**

1. Request is for Xgeva or Wyost;
2. Diagnosis of hypercalcemia of malignancy;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
4. Age  $\geq$  18 years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;
5. Albumin-corrected calcium  $>$  12.5 mg/dL despite IV bisphosphonate therapy in the last 30 days (*see Appendix B*);  
*\*Prior authorization may be required.*
6. Xgeva or Wyost are not prescribed concurrently with Prolia or Jubbonti;
7. Dose does not exceed 120 mg every 4 weeks plus 120 mg on days 8 and 15 of first month of therapy.

**Approval duration:**

**Medicaid/HIM** – 6 months

**Commercial** – 6 months or to the member’s renewal date, whichever is longer

**F. Systemic Mastocytosis (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Request is for Xgeva or Wyost;
2. Diagnosis of systemic mastocytosis;
3. Member has osteopenia or osteoporosis with bone pain;
4. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
5. Age  $\geq$  18 years or documentation of closed epiphyses on x-ray;

6. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Failure of zoledronic acid\* (Zometa) or pamidronate\* at up to maximally indicated doses unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated (*see Appendices B and D*);  
*\*Prior authorization may be required.*
  - b. Request is for the treatment associated with cancer for a State with regulations against step therapy in certain oncology settings (*see Appendix E*);
7. Xgeva or Wyost are not prescribed concurrently with Prolia or Jubbonti;
8. Dose is within FDA maximum limit for any FDA-approved indication or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (prescriber must submit supporting evidence).\*

*\*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN.*

**Approval duration:**

**Medicaid/HIM** – 6 months

**Commercial** – 6 months or to the member’s renewal date, whichever is longer

**G. 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 (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
  - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; 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: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**II. Continued Therapy**

**A. All Indications in Section I** (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
  - 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*);
  - c. Documentation supports that member is currently receiving Prolia, Xgeva, Jubbonti, or Wyost for a covered cancer-related indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;

3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed (a or b):
  - a. Prolia or Jubbonti: 60 mg every 6 months;
  - b. Xgeva or Wyost: 120 mg every 4 weeks or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (prescriber must submit supporting evidence).\*

\*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN.

**Approval duration:**

**Medicaid/HIM** – 12 months

**Commercial** – 6 months or to the member’s renewal date, whichever is longer

**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 (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
  - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; 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: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**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 – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

ADT: androgen deprivation therapy  
BMD: bone mineral density  
CKD-MBD: chronic kidney disease-  
mineral bone disorder

FDA: Food and Drug Administration  
GIO: glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis  
MM: multiple myeloma  
PMO: postmenopausal osteoporosis

*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
<b><i>IV bisphosphonates</i></b>		
ibandronate (Boniva <sup>®</sup> )	Treatment: PMO Hypercalcemia of malignancy ( <i>off-label</i> )	Varies <i>See prescribing information and compendia for dosing.</i>
zoledronic acid (Reclast <sup>®</sup> ; Zometa <sup>®</sup> )	<u>Reclast:</u> Treatment/prevention: PMO, GIO Treatment: male osteoporosis <u>Zometa:</u> MM Bone metastasis from solid tumors Hypercalcemia of malignancy Systemic mastocytosis ( <i>off-label</i> ) Fracture prevention - breast/prostate cancer ( <i>off-label</i> )	
pamidronate	MM Bone metastasis from breast cancer Hypercalcemia of malignancy Systemic mastocytosis ( <i>off-label</i> ) Fracture prevention – breast/prostate cancer ( <i>off-label</i> )	
<b><i>Oral bisphosphonates</i></b>		
alendronate (Fosamax <sup>®</sup> )	Treatment: PMO Treatment: GIO, male osteoporosis	Varies <i>See prescribing information and compendia for dosing.</i>
Fosamax <sup>®</sup> Plus D (alendronate / cholecalciferol)	Treatment: PMO, male osteoporosis	
risedronate (Actonel <sup>®</sup> , Atelvia <sup>®</sup> )	<u>Actonel:</u> Treatment: PMO, GIO Treatment: male osteoporosis <u>Atelvia:</u> Treatment: PMO	
ibandronate (Boniva <sup>®</sup> )	Treatment/prevention: PMO	

*Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name<sup>®</sup> (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name<sup>®</sup>) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.*

**Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings**

- Contraindication(s):
  - Prolia and Jubbonti: hypocalcemia, pregnancy, known hypersensitivity to Prolia or Jubbonti
  - Xgeva and Wyost: hypocalcemia, known clinically significant hypersensitivity to Xgeva or Wyost
- Boxed warning(s):
  - Xgeva and Wyost: none reported
  - Prolia and Jubbonti:

- Patients with advanced chronic kidney disease are at greater risk of severe hypocalcemia following Prolia and Jubbonti administration. Severe hypocalcemia resulting in hospitalization, life-threatening events and fatal cases have been reported.
- The presence of chronic kidney disease-mineral bone disorder (CKD-MBD) markedly increases the risk of hypocalcemia.
- Prior to initiating Prolia and Jubbonti in patients with advanced chronic kidney disease, evaluate for the presence of CKD-MBD. Treatment with Prolia and Jubbonti in these patients should be supervised by a healthcare provider with expertise in the diagnosis and management of CKD-MBD.

*Appendix D: IV/PO Bisphosphonates: Examples of Contraindications and Adverse Effects*

<b>Bisphosphonates</b>	<b>Oral Formulations</b>	<b>IV Formulations</b>
<b><i>Contraindications</i></b>		
Hypocalcemia	X	X
Increased risk of aspiration	X	-
Hypersensitivity to product component	X	X
Inability to stand/sit upright for at least 30 minutes	X	-
Creatinine clearance < 35 mL/min or evidence of acute renal impairment	-	X
Esophagus abnormalities which delay emptying such as stricture or achalasia	X	-
<b><i>Clinically significant warnings or adverse side effects</i></b>		
Pregnancy	X	X
Eye inflammation	X	X
Acute renal failure	X	X
Osteonecrosis of the jaw	X	X
Atypical femoral shaft fracture	X	X
Drug interactions (product-specific)	X	X
Severe or incapacitating musculoskeletal pain	X	X

*Appendix E: States with Regulations against Redirections in Stage III, IV or Metastatic Cancer*

<b>State</b>	<b>Step Therapy Prohibited?</b>	<b>Notes</b>
FL	Yes	For stage 4 metastatic cancer and associated conditions.
GA	Yes	For stage 4 metastatic cancer. Redirection does not refer to review of medical necessity or clinical appropriateness.
IA	Yes	For standard of care stage 4 cancer drug use, supported by peer-reviewed, evidence-based literature, and approved by FDA.
LA	Yes	For stage 4 advanced, metastatic cancer or associated conditions. Exception if “clinically equivalent therapy, contains identical active ingredient(s), and proven to have same efficacy.



State	Step Therapy Prohibited?	Notes
MS	Yes	<i>*Applies to HIM requests only*</i> For advanced metastatic cancer and associated conditions
NV	Yes	Stage 3 and stage 4 cancer patients for a prescription drug to treat the cancer or any symptom thereof of the covered person
OH	Yes	<i>*Applies to Commercial and HIM requests only*</i> For stage 4 metastatic cancer and associated conditions
OK	Yes	<i>*Applies to HIM requests only*</i> For advanced metastatic cancer and associated conditions
PA	Yes	For stage 4 advanced, metastatic cancer
TN	Yes	For advanced metastatic cancer and associated conditions
TX	Yes	For stage 4 advanced, metastatic cancer and associated conditions

*Appendix F: General Information*

- Bone Mineral Density (BMD) T-score was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the operational definition for post-menopausal osteoporosis. The T-score is the standard deviation of an individual's BMD from the mean value for young normal women. A normal T-score is considered -1.0 or above.
- The 2020 American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists/American College of Endocrinology Clinical Practice Guidelines use the T-score to diagnosis postmenopausal women with osteoporosis. When an individual's T-score is -2.5 or below, the individual is considered to have osteoporosis or severe osteoporosis in the presence of a fragility fracture (i.e., a fracture sustained from force similar to a fall from a standing position or less that would not have occurred in healthy bone).

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Denosumab (Prolia, Jubbonti)	Treatment: PMO, GIO, male osteoporosis	60 mg SC once every 6 months	60 mg/dose
	Oncology: fracture prevention - Men at high risk for fracture receiving ADT for nonmetastatic prostate cancer - Women at high risk for fracture receiving adjuvant aromatase inhibitor therapy for breast cancer		
Denosumab (Xgeva, Wyost)	MM Solid tumor - bone metastasis	120 mg SC once every 4 weeks	20 mg/dose
	Giant cell tumor of bone Hypercalcemia of malignancy	120 mg SC every 4 weeks plus 120 mg on Days 8 and 15 of first month of therapy	120 mg/dose

## VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Denosumab (Prolia, Jubbonti)	Injection (single-use prefilled syringe): 60 mg/mL
Denosumab (Xgeva, Wyost)	Injection (single-use vial): 120 mg/1.7 mL (70 mg/mL)

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**Coding Implications**

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J0897	Injection, denosumab, 1 mg
Q5136	Injection, denosumab-bbdz (jubbonti/wyost), biosimilar, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
1Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; references to HIM.PHAR.21 revised to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	10.26.20	02.21
For prostate/breast cancer - fracture prevention, multiple myeloma, or solid tumor, and systemic mastocytosis: allowed bypassing of redirection if state regulations do not allow step therapy in Stage IV or metastatic cancer settings.	06.15.21	
Added Nevada to Appendix E.	08.03.21	
1Q 2022 annual review: updated definition of very high risk for fracture based on 2020 AACE/ACE PMO guidelines; references reviewed and updated.	10.02.21	02.22
For osteoporosis added option (in addition to contraindications or adverse effects) to bypass bisphosphonate trial if member has experienced a loss of BMD, lack of BMD increase, or has had an osteoporotic fracture or fragility fracture while receiving bisphosphonate therapy.	02.07.22	05.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	10.12.22	
1Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes, reference reviewed and updated.	10.28.22	02.23
Updated Appendix E to include Oklahoma.	06.07.23	
1Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; for osteoporosis initial criteria, clarified “failure” of generic alendronate is preferred; references reviewed and updated.	10.23.23	02.24
RT4: added new biosimilars Jubbonti and Wyost to policy; added Appendix F to provide clarity on the interpretation of bone mineral density T-scores.	03.14.24	
Updated Appendix E to include Mississippi.	06.05.24	
Added HCPCS code [Q5136].	08.07.24	
1Q 2025 annual review: per updated prescribing information for Prolia and Jubbonti added boxed warnings for severe hypocalcemia in patients with advanced kidney disease; for prostate and breast cancer added requirement that member does not have bone metastasis; for giant cell tumor of bone localized disease removed option for combination use with interferon alfa per NCCN; references reviewed and updated.	10.22.24	02.25

**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.

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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.

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**Note:**

**For Medicaid members**, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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