

STEP THERAPY POLICY

- POLICY:** Alzheimer's – Namenda/Namenda XR Step Therapy Policy
- Namenda® (memantine tablets and oral solution – Allergan, generic)
 - Namenda XR® (memantine extended-release capsules – Allergan)

REVIEW DATE: 12/07/2022

OVERVIEW

Memantine tablets, memantine oral solution, and Namenda XR, N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonists, are indicated for the **treatment of moderate to severe dementia of the Alzheimer's type**.^{1,2}

Namzaric® (memantine extended-release and donepezil capsules) is a fixed-dose combination containing donepezil and Namenda XR.³ This policy does not include Namzaric; the *Alzheimer's Step Therapy* policy, which addresses the acetylcholinesterase inhibitors (ChIs) [donepezil, rivastigmine, galantamine], includes Namzaric.

POLICY STATEMENT

This program has been developed to encourage the use of a Step 1 Product prior to the use of a Step 2 Product. If the Step Therapy rule is not met for a Step 2 Product at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the Step Therapy criteria below. All approvals are provided for 1 year in duration. Note: Generic memantine extended-release capsules are not included in either Step 1 or Step 2 of this program.

Automation: A patient with a of one Step 1 Product within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy.

Step 1: generic memantine tablets, generic memantine oral solution

Step 2: Namenda tablets, Namenda oral solution, Namenda XR

CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one Step 1 Product, approve a Step 2 Product.
2. No other exceptions are recommended.

REFERENCES

1. Namenda® tablets and oral solution [prescribing information]. Madison, NJ: Allergan; November 2018.
2. Namenda XR® extended-release capsules [prescribing information]. Madison, NJ: Allergan; November 2019.
3. Namzaric® capsules [prescribing information]. Madison, NJ: Allergan; January 2019.

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