

STEP THERAPY POLICY

- POLICY:** Bile Acid Sequestrants Step Therapy Policy
- Questran[®], Questran[®] Light, Prevalite[®] (cholestyramine oral suspension – Par, Upsher Smith, generic)
 - Colestid[®] (Colestipol oral suspension and micronized tablets – Pfizer, generic)
 - Welchol[®] (colesevelam tablets and oral suspension – Cosette, generic)

REVIEW DATE: 06/14/2023

OVERVIEW

Cholestyramine is indicated for use as adjunctive therapy for the **lowering of serum cholesterol** in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia who have not responded to diet or other measures alone.¹ Colestipol is indicated as adjunctive therapy to diet for the **reduction of elevated serum total and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C)** in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia (elevated LDL-C) who do not respond adequately to diet.^{2,3} Colesevelam is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to **reduce elevated LDL-C** in adults with primary hyperlipidemia.⁴ Colesevelam is also approved to reduce LDL-C levels in boys and postmenarchal girls, aged 10 to 17 years, with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia who are unable to reach LDL-C target levels despite an adequate trial of dietary therapy and lifestyle modification. Colesevelam is also indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with **type 2 diabetes mellitus**.

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.

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

Step 1: cholestyramine oral suspension, colestipol oral suspension, colestipol micronized tablets, colesevelam tablets, colesevelam for oral suspension, and Prevalite oral suspension

Step 2: Welchol tablets, Welchol for oral suspension, Questran oral suspension, Questran light oral suspension, Colestid oral suspension, and Colestid micronized tablets

CRITERIA

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

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REFERENCES

1. WelChol[®] tablets and oral suspension [prescribing information]. South Plainfield, NJ: Cosette; February 2022.
2. Colestid[®], Flavored Colestid[®] oral suspension [prescribing information]. New York, NY: Pfizer; April 2018.
3. Colestid[®] tablets [prescribing information]. New York, NY: Pfizer; May 2017.
4. Cholestyramine (DRUGDEX[®] System Drug Evaluation). In: Klasco RK (Ed): DrugKnowledge[®] System (electronic version). Thomson MICROMEDEX, Greenwood Village, Colorado, USA. Available at: <http://www.thomsonhc.com> Last modified on February 21, 2017. Accessed on June 10, 2023.