

## PREFERRED STEP THERAPY POLICY

- POLICY:** Diabetes – Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 Inhibitors Preferred Step Therapy Policy
- Janumet<sup>®</sup> (sitagliptin/metformin tablets – Merck)
  - Janumet<sup>®</sup> XR (sitagliptin/metformin extended-release tablets – Merck)
  - Januvia<sup>®</sup> (sitagliptin tablets – Merck)
  - Jentadueto<sup>®</sup> (linagliptin/metformin tablets – Boehringer Ingelheim/Eli Lilly)
  - Jentadueto<sup>®</sup> XR (linagliptin/metformin extended-release tablets – Boehringer Ingelheim/Eli Lilly)
  - Kazano<sup>™</sup> (alogliptin/metformin tablets – Takeda, generic)
  - Kombiglyze<sup>™</sup> XR (saxagliptin/metformin extended-release tablets – Bristol-Meyers Squibb)
  - Nesina<sup>®</sup> (alogliptin tablets – Takeda, generic)
  - Onglyza<sup>®</sup> (saxagliptin tablets – Bristol-Meyers Squibb)
  - Tradjenta<sup>®</sup> (linagliptin tablets – Boehringer Ingelheim/Eli Lilly)

**REVIEW DATE:** 11/09/2022

---

### OVERVIEW

The dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors alogliptin, Januvia, Onglyza, Tradjenta as well as their various combinations alogliptin/metformin, Janumet, Janumet XR, Jentadueto, Jentadueto XR, and Kombiglyze XR are indicated as adjuncts to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus.<sup>1-10</sup>

### Guidelines

The DPP-4 inhibitors are regarded as having intermediate efficacy for reduction in glycosylated hemoglobin, being weight neutral, and having a low risk of hypoglycemia.<sup>11,12</sup> In most cases, metformin is regarded as first-line therapy in patients with type 2 diabetes.<sup>11,12</sup> When glycemic control is not achieved with metformin, other agents may be added. The sequencing of add-on therapies varies between the algorithms and is based on individual patient characteristics, including glycemic control and comorbid medical conditions. The DPP-4 inhibitors are generally regarded as add-on therapy when glycemic control is not achieved with metformin. If metformin is not a first-line option, DPP-4 inhibitors may be considered. There is no preference for one DPP-4 inhibitor over the others.

### 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 Preferred Step Therapy rule is not met for the Step 2 Product at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the Preferred 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:** Januvia, Janumet, Janumet XR

**Step 2:** alogliptin (Nesina, generic), alogliptin/metformin (Kazano, generic), Jentadueto, Jentadueto XR, Kombiglyze XR, Onglyza, Tradjenta

## CRITERIA

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

## REFERENCES

1. Janumet<sup>®</sup> tablets [prescribing information]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck; June 2022.
2. Janumet<sup>®</sup> XR tablets [prescribing information]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck; June 2022.
3. Januvia<sup>®</sup> tablets [prescribing information]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck; June 2022.
4. Jentadueto<sup>®</sup> tablets [prescribing information]. Ridgefield, CT: Boehringer Ingelheim; April 2022.
5. Jentadueto<sup>®</sup> XR tablets [prescribing information]. Ridgefield, CT: Boehringer Ingelheim; October 2021.
6. Kazano<sup>™</sup> tablets [prescribing information]. Deerfield, IL: Takeda; March 2022.
7. Kombiglyze<sup>™</sup> XR tablets [prescribing information]. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca; June 2019.
8. Nesina<sup>®</sup> tablets [prescribing information]. Deerfield, IL: Takeda; March 2022.
9. Onglyza<sup>®</sup> tablets [prescribing information]. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca; June 2019.
10. Tradjenta<sup>®</sup> tablets [prescribing information]. Ridgefield, CT: Boehringer Ingelheim; April 2022.
11. Blonde L, Umpierrez GE, Reddy SS, et al. American Association of Clinical Endocrinology Clinical Practice Guideline: Developing a Diabetes Mellitus Comprehensive Care Plan-2022 Update. *Endocr Pract.* 2022 Oct;28(10):923-1049.
12. American Diabetes Association. Standards of medical care in diabetes – 2022. *Diabetes Care.* 2022;45(Suppl 1):S1-S258.