RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background
Entresto is a combination of a neprilysin inhibitor (sacubitril) and an angiotensin II receptor blocker (valsartan) used to reduce the risk of hospitalization in people with certain types of long-lasting (chronic) heart failure. Entresto is used with other heart failure therapies other than an angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor or other angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) therapy. Heart failure occurs when the heart is weak and cannot pump enough blood to your lungs and the rest of your body. Heart failure generally worsens over time as the heart's pumping action grows weaker. The leading causes of heart failure are diseases that damage the heart, such as heart attacks and high blood pressure (1).

Regulatory Status
FDA-approved indication: Entresto is a combination of sacubitril, a neprilysin inhibitor, and valsartan, an angiotensin II receptor blocker, indicated to reduce the risk of cardiovascular death and hospitalization for heart failure in patients with chronic heart failure (NYHA Class II-IV) and reduced ejection fraction. Entresto is usually administered in conjunction with other heart failure therapies, in place of an ACE inhibitor or other ARB (2).

Entresto can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Use of drugs that act directly on the renin-angiotensin system during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy reduces fetal renal function. When pregnancy is detected, discontinue Entresto as soon as possible (2).
Entresto is contraindicated in patients with a history of angioedema related to previous ACE inhibitor or ARB therapy. Entresto is also contraindicated with concomitant use of an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor. If switching from an ACE inhibitor to Entresto allow a washout period of 36 hours between administrations of the two drugs (2).

Eligibility requirements in the PARADIGM-HF trial at screening included an age of at least 18 years, New York Heart Association (NYHA) class II, III, or IV symptoms, and an ejection fraction of 40% or less (which was changed to 35% or less by an amendment to the protocol on December 15, 2010) (3).

The safety and efficacy of Entresto has not been established in pediatric patients (2).
Summary
Entresto is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of death and hospitalization in people with certain types of long-lasting (chronic) heart failure. Entresto is usually used with other heart failure therapies, in place of an ACE inhibitor or other ARB therapy. Entresto can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Female patients of childbearing age should be advised about the consequences of exposure to Entresto during pregnancy. Entresto is not recommended in patients with severe hepatic impairment or concomitant use with aliskiren in diabetic patients (1).

Prior approval is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate and cost effective use of Entresto while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References
2. Entresto [package insert]. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Inc; August 2015.