RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background
The selective serotonin receptor agonists, or “triptans”, are a class of medications that have the ability to stop a migraine headache at its earliest signs. Triptans work by binding to serotonin receptors in the brain. By mimicking the actions of serotonin, triptans cause the blood vessels to constrict and prevent some nerves from transmitting signals to the brain, effectively blocking the pain associated with migraine headaches. Each triptan medication affects a slightly different number of serotonin receptors, but all work in a similar fashion (1).

Regulatory Status
FDA-approved indication: Frova is a serotonin receptor agonist (triptan) indicated for the acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura in adults (2).

Limitations of Use: (2)
1. Use only after clear diagnosis of migraine has been established.
2. Not indicated for the prophylactic therapy of migraine.

This class of medications has potentially serious side effects, especially when taken in high doses. Life-threatening disturbances of cardiac rhythm and myocardial infarction have been reported, as well as stroke. Excessive use of triptans can lead to medication overuse headache (MOH) (2).

Frova is contraindicated in patients who have a history of coronary artery disease or coronary artery vasospasm. It is also contraindicated in Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome or other cardiac accessory conduction pathway disorders, stroke, transient ischemic attack, hemiplegic or basilar migraine, peripheral vascular disease or ischemic bowel disease (2).

Off Label Use:
Triptans have been found to be safe and effective in the pediatric and adolescent population (3).

Summary
Triptans are serotonin (5-HT) receptor agonists that interrupt attacks or episodes of migraine, but do not prevent migraines from happening. This class of medications has potentially serious side
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(frovatriptan)

effects, especially when taken in high doses. Life-threatening disturbances of cardiac rhythm and myocardial infarction have been reported, as well as stroke. Triptans have been found to be safe and effective in the pediatric and adolescent population (3).

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

References