VELTASSA
(patiromer)

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background
Veltassa (patiromer for oral suspension) is used to treat hyperkalemia, a serious condition in which the amount of potassium in the blood is too high. The kidneys remove potassium from the blood to maintain a proper balance of potassium in the body. But when the kidneys are not able to remove enough potassium from the blood, the level of potassium can get too high. Hyperkalemia typically occurs in patients with acute or chronic kidney disease or heart failure, particularly in those who are taking drugs that inhibit the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS), which regulates blood pressure and fluid balance in the body. Veltassa works by binding potassium in the gastrointestinal tract, decreasing its absorption. Veltassa should not be used as an emergency treatment for life-threatening hyperkalemia because of its delayed onset of action (1).

Regulatory Status
FDA-approved indication: Veltassa is a potassium binder indicated for the treatment of hyperkalemia (1).

Limitation of Use:
Veltassa should not be used as an emergency treatment for life-threatening hyperkalemia because of its delayed onset of action (1).

Veltassa has a boxed warning because it binds to many orally administered medications, which could decrease their absorption and reduce their effectiveness. Administer other oral medications at least 6 hours before or 6 hours after Veltassa (1).

The recommended starting dose of Veltassa is 8.4 grams once daily. Monitor serum potassium and adjust the dose of Veltassa based on the serum potassium level and the desired target range. The dose may be increased or decreased, as necessary, to reach the desired serum potassium concentration, up to a maximum dose of 25.2 grams once daily. The dose can be up-titrated based on serum potassium level at 1-week or longer intervals, in increments of 8.4 grams (1).

Safety and efficacy in pediatric patients have not been established (1).

Summary
Veltassa is used to treat high levels of potassium in blood (hyperkalemia). Monitor serum
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potassium and adjust the dose of Veltassa based on the serum potassium level and the desired target range. Veltassa should not be used as an emergency treatment for life threatening hyperkalemia because of its delayed onset of action. Veltassa may affect other medicines taken by mouth if they are taken too close together. Safety and efficacy in pediatric patients have not been established (1).

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

References