

Commercial/Healthcare Exchange Step Criteria

Effective: January 1, 2020

Step Therapy Name: Febuxostat

Step 1 Agent(s): allopurinol tablets

Step 2 Agent(s): Uloric, febuxostat

Medication/Class Description:

Gout is caused initially by an excess of uric acid in the blood, or hyperuricemia. Uric acid is produced in the body during the breakdown of purines – a chemical compound that is found in high amounts in certain foods such as meat, poultry, and seafood. Normally, uric acid is dissolved in the blood and is excreted from the body in urine via the kidneys. If too much uric acid is produced, or not enough is excreted, it can build up and form needle-like crystals that trigger inflammation and pain in the joints and surrounding tissue.

The role of uric acid in gout has been clearly defined and understood. As a result of this and the wide availability of relevant medications, gout is a very controllable form of arthritis. Medications can reduce the production of uric acid (xanthine oxidase inhibitors such as allopurinol and febuxostat). These medications are indicated for the treatment of hyperuricemia and related medical conditions including gout.

Required Medical Information:

1. Diagnosis
2. Previous therapy tried/failed

Age Restrictions: 18 years of age and older

Prescriber Restrictions: N/A

Coverage Duration: 12 Months

Exceptions for Stepped Medications

- A. Patient has had a trial and failure of allopurinol, defined as:
 - a. Failure to decrease/improve symptoms of gout; OR
- B. Patient has an intolerance or contraindication to allopurinol, defined as (but not limited to):
 - a. Allergic reaction
 - b. Adverse drug reactions

References:

1. Product Information: ULORIC(R) oral tablets, febuxostat oral tablets. Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, Inc. (per DailyMed), Deerfield, IL, 2019.
2. Product Information: allopurinol oral tablets, allopurinol oral tablets. Northstar Rx LLC (per DailyMed), Memphis, TN, 2019.

Rev #	Type of Change	Summary of Change	Sections Affected	Date
1	New Policy	New Policy	All	10/21/2019