Medical Policy:

Barhemsys® (amisulpride)

POLICY NUMBER	LAST REVIEW	ORIGIN DATE
MG.MM.PH.320	February 25, 2025	November 11, 2020

Definitions

Barhemsys (amisulpride) is a selective dopamine-2 (D 2) and dopamine-3 (D 3) receptor antagonist. D 2 receptors are located in the chemoreceptor trigger zone (CTZ) and respond to the dopamine released from the nerve endings. Activation of CTZ relays stimuli to the vomiting center which is involved in emesis. Studies in multiple species indicate that D 3 receptors in the area postrema also play a role in emesis.

Amisulpride has no appreciable affinity for any other receptor types apart from low affinities for 5-HT 2B and 5-HT 7 receptors.

Length of Authorization

Coverage will be provided for 1 month.

Dosing Limits [Medical Benefit]

Max Units (per dose and over time):

- 5 mg as a single dose for prevention of postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV)
- 10 mg as a single dose for treatment of PONV

Guideline

I. INITIAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

Barhemsys *may be considered medically necessary if all of the below conditions are met* ***AND*** *use is consistent with the medical necessity criteria that follows:*

1. **Prevention of PONV**
   A. Patient is 18 years of age or older; **AND**
   B. Patient has a scheduled surgery within the next 30 days.
2. **Treatment of PONV**
   A. Patient is 18 years of age and older; **AND**
   B. Patient has had a surgery within the last 30 days

Limitations/Exclusions

Barhemsys is not considered medically necessary for indications other than those listed above due to insufficient evidence of therapeutic value.

II. RENEWAL CRITERIA

N/A

Dosage/Administration

Indication	Dose
Prevention of postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV), either alone or in combination with an antiemetic of a different class.	The recommended dose of Barhemsys for prevention of PONV is 5 mg as a single intravenous dose infused over 1 to 2 minutes at the time of induction of anesthesia.
Treatment of PONV in patients who have received antiemetic prophylaxis with an agent of a different class or have not received prophylaxis.	The recommended dose of Barhemsys for treatment of PONV is 10 mg as a single intravenous dose infused over 1 to 2 minutes in the event of nausea and/or vomiting after a surgical procedure.

Applicable Procedure Codes

Code	Description
J0184	Injection, amisulpride, 1 mg

Applicable NDCs

Code	Description
71390-0125-xx	Barhemsys (amisulpride) injection, 5mg in 2ml
71390-0125-xx	Barhemsys (amisulpride) injection, 10mg in 4ml

ICD-10 Diagnoses

Code	Description
R11.0	Nausea
R11.10	Vomiting, unspecified
R11.12	Projectile vomiting

R11.2	Nausea with vomiting, unspecified
T41.0X5A	Adverse effect of inhaled anesthetics, initial encounter
T41.1X5A	Adverse effect of intravenous anesthetics, initial encounter
T41.205A	Adverse effect of unspecified general anesthetics, initial encounter
T41.295A	Adverse effect of other general anesthetics, initial encounter
T41.45XA	Adverse effect of unspecified anesthetic, initial encounter
T88.59XA	Other complications of anesthesia, initial encounter

Revision History

Company(ies)	DATE	REVISION
EmblemHealth & ConnectiCare	2/25/2025	Annual Review: No criteria changes
EmblemHealth & ConnectiCare	4/2/2024	Annual Review: Removed Code C9153 and C9399, added J0184, updated NDCs
EmblemHealth & ConnectiCare	9/11/2023	Removed JCode3490 - Unclassified drugs. Added C9153 Injection, amisulpride, 1 mg.
EmblemHealth & ConnectiCare	7/27/2023	Annual Review: No criteria changes
EmblemHealth & ConnectiCare	3/30/2022	Updated Procedure Code to Q2055 and put on new template
EmblemHealth & ConnectiCare	11/11/2020	New Policy

References

1. Barhemsys [package insert]. Indianapolis, IN: Acacia Pharma Inc.; February 2020.