

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

POLICY: Antiepileptics – Nayzilam Prior Authorization Policy

- Nayzilam[®] (midazolam nasal spray – UCB, Inc.)

REVIEW DATE: 08/19/2020

OVERVIEW

Nayzilam is indicated for the acute treatment of intermittent, stereotypic episodes of frequent seizure activity (i.e., seizure clusters, acute repetitive seizures) that are distinct from a patient's usual seizure pattern in patients with epilepsy ≥ 12 years of age.¹

Nayzilam is a benzodiazepine which is thought to work by the potentiation of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)ergic neurotransmission resulting from binding at the benzodiazepine site of the GABA_A receptor.¹ The recommended initial dose is one spray (5 mg dose) into one nostril. If needed, the recommended second dose is one additional 5 mg spray into the opposite nostril administered after 10 minutes if the patient has not responded to the initial dose. A second dose of Nayzilam should not be administered if the patient has trouble breathing or if there is excessive sedation that is uncharacteristic of the patient during a seizure cluster episode. No more than two doses of Nayzilam should be used to treat a single episode. It is recommended that Nayzilam be used to treat no more than one episode every 3 days and no more than five episodes per month. Nayzilam is available as a single-dose nasal spray unit containing 5 mg/0.1 mL of midazolam and supplied in boxes of two nasal spray units. Nayzilam is a Schedule C-IV controlled substance.

Disease Overview

Patients with epilepsy can experience acute repetitive seizures or seizure clusters.² The prevalence of epilepsy in the US is approximately 3.4 million people, and of these patients, an estimated 36% of patients have uncontrolled disease, a significant risk factor for seizure clusters.^{3,4} Seizure clusters are estimated to occur in approximately 15% of adults with uncontrolled epilepsy.⁵ No consensus definition of a seizure cluster has been agreed upon, and seizure cluster is not listed in the International League Against Epilepsy commission on classification and terminology.² A broad definition of seizure clusters has been proposed to be “acute episodes of deterioration in seizure control”. More specifically, they could be defined as a series of grouped seizures that have short interictal periods. However, the number of seizures and the interictal period are the subject of controversy. Seizure clusters can result in increased emergency room visits or hospitalization, and they can disrupt the daily life, studies, and work of patients and caregivers. They are particularly concerning because of their association with status epilepticus, a potentially life-threatening condition. Benzodiazepine rescue medication is the primary acute therapy for management of seizure clusters, helping to abort clusters and reduce emergency department visits.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Nayzilam. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Nayzilam as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and efficacy, approval requires Nayzilam to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below.

Automation: None.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Nayzilam is recommended in those who meet the following criteria:

FDA-Approved Indications

- 1. Intermittent Episodes of Frequent Seizure Activity (i.e., seizure clusters, acute repetitive seizures).** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (A and B):
 - A)** Patient is currently receiving maintenance antiepileptic medication(s); AND
 - B)** Nayzilam is prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist.

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Nayzilam is not recommended in the following situations:

- 1.** Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

REFERENCES

1. Nayzilam® nasal spray [prescribing information]. Plymouth, MN: Proximagen, LLC; May 2019.
2. Jafarpour S, Hirsch LJ, Gaínza-Lein M, et al. Seizure cluster: Definition, prevalence, consequences, and management. *Seizure*. 2019;68:9-15.
3. Zack M, Kobau R. National and state estimates of the numbers of adults and children with active epilepsy - United States, 2015. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2017;66(31):821-825. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6631a1.htm>. Accessed on August 17, 2020.
4. Chen B, Choi H, Hirsch LJ, et al. Prevalence and risk factors of seizure clusters in adult patients with epilepsy. *Epilepsy Res*. 2017;133:98-102.
5. Chen Z, Brodie MJ, Liew D, et al. Treatment outcomes in patients with newly diagnosed epilepsy treated with established and new antiepileptic drugs: a 30-year longitudinal cohort study. *JAMA Neurol*. 2018;75(3):279-286.