Drug and Biologic Coverage Policy

Effective Date 12/15/2023
Next Review Date… 12/15/2024
Coverage Policy Number IP0337

Azathioprine

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Related Coverage Resources

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE
The following Coverage Policy applies to health benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Certain Cigna Companies and/or lines of business only provide utilization review services to clients and do not make coverage determinations. References to standard benefit plan language and coverage determinations do not apply to those clients. Coverage Policies are intended to provide guidance in interpreting certain standard benefit plans administered by Cigna Companies. Please note, the terms of a customer's particular benefit plan document [Group Service Agreement, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, Summary Plan Description (SPD) or similar plan document] may differ significantly from the standard benefit plans upon which these Coverage Policies are based. For example, a customer's benefit plan document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a Coverage Policy. In the event of a conflict, a customer's benefit plan document always supersedes the information in the Coverage Policies. In the absence of a controlling federal or state coverage mandate, benefits are ultimately determined by the terms of the applicable benefit plan document. Coverage determinations in each specific instance require consideration of 1) the terms of the applicable benefit plan document in effect on the date of service; 2) any applicable laws/regulations; 3) any relevant collateral source materials including Coverage Policies and; 4) the specific facts of the particular situation. Coverage Policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans. Coverage Policies are not recommendations for treatment and should never be used as treatment guidelines. In certain markets, delegated vendor guidelines may be used to support medical necessity and other coverage determinations.

Overview

This policy supports medical necessity review for formulary exceptions to the following non-covered azathioprine products:

- **Azasan®** (azathioprine)
- azathioprine 75 mg tablets
- azathioprine 100 mg tablets

Receipt of sample product does not satisfy any criteria requirements for coverage.

Medical Necessity Criteria

Coverage criteria are listed for products **in below table:**

Non-Covered Product	Criteria
Azasan (azathioprine) 75 mg and 100 mg oral tablets	**Azasan** is considered medically necessary when there is documentation of failure, contraindication, or intolerance to azathioprine 50 mg tablet

Non-Covered Product	Criteria
Azathioprine 75 mg oral tablets	**Azathioprine** 75 mg oral tablets is considered medically necessary when there is documentation of failure, contraindication, or intolerance to azathioprine 50 mg tablet
Azathioprine 100 mg oral tablets	**Azathioprine** 100 mg oral tablets is considered medically necessary when there is documentation of failure, contraindication, or intolerance to azathioprine 50 mg tablet

When coverage is available and medically necessary, the dosage, frequency, duration of therapy, and site of care should be reasonable, clinically appropriate, and supported by evidence-based literature and adjusted based upon severity, alternative available treatments, and previous response to therapy.

Reauthorization Criteria

Continuation of azathioprine products is considered medically necessary when the above medical necessity criteria are met AND there is documentation of beneficial response.

Authorization Duration

Initial approval duration: up to 12 months
Reauthorization approval duration: up to 12 months

References

1. Azasan® (azathioprine) tablets [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Salix Pharmaceuticals, a division of Bausch Health US, LLC.; July 2021.