

## **Clinical Policy: Rivastigmine (Exelon)**

Reference Number: CP.PMN.101

Effective Date: 03.01.17

Last Review Date: 02.26

Line of Business: Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

### **Description**

Rivastigmine, as rivastigmine tartrate (Exelon<sup>®</sup> capsules for oral use) and rivastigmine transdermal system (Exelon<sup>®</sup> Patch), is an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor.

### **FDA Approved Indication(s)**

Exelon is indicated for treatment of

- Mild to moderate dementia of the Alzheimer's type (AD)\*
- Mild to moderate dementia associated with Parkinson's disease (PDD)

*\*Exelon patch is also indicated for treatment of severe AD.*

### **Policy/Criteria**

*Provider must submit documentation (including such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.*

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation<sup>®</sup> that Exelon and rivastigmine are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### **I. Initial Approval Criteria**

##### **A. Alzheimer's Dementia** (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of AD;
2. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
3. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Failure of  $\geq$  3 month trial of donepezil at doses  $\geq$  10 mg per day or galantamine 24 mg per day;
  - b. Both of the following (i and ii):
    - i. Member has intolerance or contraindication to both donepezil and galantamine;
    - ii. Failure of  $\geq$  3 month trial of memantine at doses  $\geq$  20 mg/day, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If Exelon patch is requested, member must use generic rivastigmine patches, unless contraindicated or clinically adverse effects are experienced;
5. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Oral, both of the following (i and ii):
    - i. 12 mg per day;
    - ii. 2 capsules per day;
  - b. Transdermal: 13.3 mg (1 patch) per 24 hours.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

**B. Parkinson's Disease Dementia (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of PDD;
2. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
3. Failure of  $\geq$  3 month trial of donepezil at doses  $\geq$  10 mg per day, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If Exelon patch is requested, member must use generic rivastigmine patches, unless contraindicated or clinically adverse effects are experienced;
5. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Oral, both of the following (i and ii):
    - i. 12 mg per day;
    - ii. 2 capsules per day;
  - b. Transdermal: 13.3 mg (1 patch) per 24 hours.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

**C. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):**

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
  - a. For drugs on the PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
  - b. For drugs NOT on the PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**II. Continued Therapy**

**A. All Indications in Section I (must meet all):**

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
  - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. If Exelon patch is requested, member must use generic rivastigmine patches, unless contraindicated or clinically adverse effects are experienced;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Oral, both of the following (i and ii):
    - i. 12 mg per day;
    - ii. 2 capsules per day;
  - b. Transdermal: 13.3 mg (1 patch) per 24 hours.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

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**B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):**

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
  - a. For drugs on the PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
  - b. For drugs NOT on the PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:**

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

AD: Alzheimer’s dementia

PDD: Parkinson’s disease dementia

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

*Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives*

*This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.*

<b>Drug Name</b>	<b>Dosing Regimen</b>	<b>Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose</b>
donepezil (Aricept®)	AD: 5 mg PO QD titrated up to 23 mg PO QD PDD: 5 mg PO QD titrated up to 10 mg PO QD	AD: 23 mg/day PDD: 10 mg/day
galantamine (Razadyne®)	AD (Razadyne): 4 mg PO BID titrated up to 12 mg PO BID AD (Razadyne ER): 8 mg PO QD titrated up to 24 mg PO QD	AD: 24 mg/day
memantine (Namenda®, Namenda® XR)	AD (Namenda): 5 mg PO QD titrated up to 10 mg PO BID AD (Namenda XR): 7 mg PO QD titrated to 28 mg PO QD	AD (Namenda): 20 mg/day AD (Namenda XR): 28 mg/day

*Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.*

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*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*

- Contraindication(s): known hypersensitivity to rivastigmine, other carbamate derivatives or other components of the formulation; history of application site reaction with rivastigmine transdermal patch suggestive of allergic contact dermatitis, in the absence of negative allergy testing
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
AD	Patch: 9.5 mg/24 hours or 13.3 mg/24 hours QD  Oral formulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial dose: initiate treatment with 1.5 mg PO BID</li> <li>• Dose titration: after a minimum of 2 weeks, if tolerated, increase dose to 3 mg PO BID and further to 4.5 mg PO BID and 6 mg PO BID if tolerate with a minimum of 2 weeks at each dose</li> </ul>	Patch: 13.3 mg/24 hours transdermally  Oral formulations: 12 mg/day
PDD	Patch: 9.5 mg/24 hours or 13.3 mg/24 hours QD  Oral formulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial dose: initiate treatment with 1.5 mg PO BID</li> <li>• Dose titration: after a minimum of 4 weeks, if tolerated, increase dose to 3 mg PO BID and further to 4.5 mg PO BID and 6 mg PO BID if tolerate with a minimum of 4 weeks at each dose</li> </ul>	Patch: 13.3 mg/24 hours transdermally  Oral formulations: 12 mg/day

**VI. Product Availability**

- Generic rivastigmine capsules: 1.5 mg, 3 mg, 4.5 mg, 6 mg
- Exelon patches: 4.6 mg/24 hours, 9.5 mg/24 hours, 13.3 mg/24 hours
- Generic rivastigmine patches: 4.6 mg/24 hours, 9.5 mg/24 hours, 13.3 mg/24 hours

**VII. References**

1. Exelon Patch Prescribing Information. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; May 2024. Available at: [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2024/022083s028lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2024/022083s028lbl.pdf). Accessed October 23, 2025.
2. Exelon. Prescribing Information. East Windsor, NJ: Aurobindo Pharma USA; June 2024. Available at: <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=c246a0e5-1e77-41ee-a7b3-384f21f2f2e0>. Accessed October 23, 2025.
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4. Grossberg GT, Tong G, Burke AD, Tariot PD. Present algorithms and future treatments for Alzheimer’s disease. *J Alzheimers Dis.* 2019;67(4):1157-1171.

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5. Winslow BT, Onysko MK, Stob CM, and Hazlewood KA. Treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. *Am Family Phys.* 2011;83(12):1403-1412.
6. Rolinski M, Fox C, Maidment I, McShane R. Cholinesterase inhibitors for dementia with Lewy bodies, Parkinson’s disease dementia and cognitive impairment in Parkinson’s disease. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.* 2012, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD006504. [www.cochranelibrary.com](http://www.cochranelibrary.com).
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Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
1Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; updated Section V Dosage and Administration and Section VI Product Availability; references reviewed and updated.	09.16.21	02.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	10.10.22	
1Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; added must use generic language for Exelon patch; references reviewed and updated.	11.14.22	02.23
1Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	10.19.23	02.24
1Q 2025 annual review: no significant changes; revised policy/criteria section to also include brand Exelon; references reviewed and updated.	11.13.24	02.25
1Q 2026 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	10.23.25	02.26

**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage

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decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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**Note:**

**For Medicaid members**, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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