

Clinical Policy: Elbasvir/Grazoprevir (Zepatier)

Reference Number: IL.PHAR.275

Effective Date: 09.16

Last Review Date: 6.27.22

Line of Business: Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Grazoprevir/elbasvir (Zepatier[®]) is a fixed-dose combination product containing elbasvir, a hepatitis C virus (HCV) NS5A inhibitor, and grazoprevir, an HCV NS3/4A protease inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Zepatier is indicated for treatment of chronic HCV genotype 1 or 4 infection in adults and pediatrics patients 12 years of age and older or weighing at least 30 kg. Zepatier is indicated for use with ribavirin in certain patient populations.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (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[®] that Zepatier is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Chronic Hepatitis C Infection (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of chronic HCV infection as evidenced by detectable serum HCV RNA levels by quantitative assay in the last 6 months;
2. Confirmed HCV genotype is 1 or 4;
**Chart note documentation and copies of lab results are required*
3. For genotype 1a, laboratory testing for the presence or absence of virus with NS5A resistance-associated polymorphisms at amino acid positions 28, 30, 31, or 93;
4. Documentation of the treatment status of the patient (treatment-naive or treatment-experienced);
5. If cirrhosis is present, confirmation of Child-Pugh A status;
6. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease specialist, or provider who has expertise in treating HCV based on a certified training program (*see Appendix F*);
7. Age \geq 12 years or weight \geq 30 kg;
8. Member must use Mavyret[®] or sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;
9. Life expectancy \geq 12 months with HCV treatment;
10. Member agrees to participate in a medication adherence program meeting both of the following components (a and b);
 - a. Medication adherence monitored by pharmacy claims data or member report;

- b. Member's risk for non-adherence identified by adherence program or member/prescribing physician follow-up at least every 4 weeks;
- 11. Prescribed regimen is consistent with an FDA or AASLD-IDSAs recommended regimen (*see Section V Dosage and Administration for reference*);
- 12. Dose does not exceed elbasvir/grazoprevir 50 mg/100 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: up to a total of 16 weeks*

(*Approved duration should be consistent with a regimen in Section V Dosage and Administration)

B. Other diagnoses/indications

- 1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Chronic Hepatitis C Infection (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. Must meet both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Documentation supports that member is currently receiving Zepatier for chronic HCV infection and has recently completed at least 60 days of treatment with Zepatier;
 - ii. Confirmed HCV genotype is 1 or 4;
- 2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
- 3. Dose does not exceed elbasvir/grazoprevir 50 mg/100 mg (1 tablet) per day.

Approval duration: up to a total of 16 weeks*

(*Approved duration should be consistent with a regimen in Section V Dosage and Administration)

B. Other diagnoses/indications:

- 1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): 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

AASLD: American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

APRI: AST to platelet ratio

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

FIB-4: Fibrosis-4 index

HBV: hepatitis B virus

HCC: hepatocellular carcinoma

HCV: hepatitis C virus

HIV: human immunodeficiency virus

IDSAs: Infectious Diseases Society of America

IQR: interquartile range

MRE: magnetic resonance elastography

NS3/4A, NS5A/B: nonstructural protein
PegIFN: pegylated interferon
RBV: ribavirin

RNA: ribonucleic acid

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.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
sofosbuvir/ velpatasvir (Epclusa®)	Genotype 1 or 4: Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis, treatment-naïve or pegIFN/ RBV-experienced patient One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks	One tablet (sofosbuvir 400 mg /velpatasvir 100 mg) per day
Mavyret® (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir)	Genotypes 1 or 4: Treatment-naïve Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 8 weeks	Mavyret: glecaprevir 300 mg/pibrentasvir 120 mg (3 tablets) per day
Mavyret® (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir)	Genotypes 1 or 4: Treatment-experienced with IFN/pegIFN + RBV +/- sofosbuvir infection Without cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 8 weeks With compensated cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 12 weeks	Mavyret: glecaprevir 300 mg/pibrentasvir 120 mg (3 tablets) per day
Mavyret® (glecaprevir /pibrentasvir)	Genotype 1: Treatment-experienced with NS3/4A protease inhibitor without prior NS5A inhibitor Without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis: Three tablets PO QD for 12 weeks	Mavyret: glecaprevir 300 mg/pibrentasvir 120 mg (3 tablets) per 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.

‡ Off-label, AASLD-IDSa guideline-supported dosing regimen

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- **Contraindication(s):**
 - Patients with moderate or severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh B or C) due to the expected significantly increased grazoprevir plasma concentration and the increased risk of alanine aminotransferase (ALT) elevations or those with any history of hepatic decompensation due to the risk of hepatic decompensation

- With inhibitors of organic anion transporting polypeptides 1B1/3 (OATP1B1/3) inhibitors that are known or expected to significantly increase grazoprevir plasma concentrations, strong CYP3A inducers, and efavirenz
- If Zepatier is administered with RBV, the contraindications to RBV also apply.
- Boxed warning(s): risk of hepatitis B virus reactivation in patients coinfecting with HCV and HBV

Appendix D: Direct-Acting Antivirals for Treatment of HCV Infection

Brand Name	Drug Class				
	NS5A Inhibitor	Nucleotide Analog NS5B Polymerase Inhibitor	Non-Nucleoside NS5B Palm Polymerase Inhibitor	NS3/4A Protease Inhibitor (PI)	CYP3A Inhibitor
Epclusa*	Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir			
Harvoni*	Ledipasvir	Sofosbuvir			
Mavyret*	Pibrentasvir			Glecaprevir	
Sovaldi		Sofosbuvir			
Viekira PAK*	Ombitasvir		Dasabuvir	Paritaprevir	Ritonavir
Vosevi*	Velpatasvir	Sofosbuvir		Voxilaprevir	
Zepatier*	Elbasvir			Grazoprevir	

*Combination drugs

Appendix E: General Information

- Unacceptable medical justification for inability to use Mavyret (preferred product):
 - Black Box Warning (BBW): currently or previously infected with hepatitis B virus. This BBW is not unique to Mavyret, and it applies across the entire therapeutic class of direct-acting antivirals for treatment of HCV infection. Therefore it is not a valid clinical reason not to use Mavyret.
 - Concurrent anticoagulant therapy: Fluctuations in International Normalized Ratio (INR) have been observed in warfarin recipients who were also receiving treatment for HCV infections. This BBW is not unique to Mavyret, and it applies across the entire therapeutic class of direct-acting antivirals for treatment of HCV infection. Although caution is advised when using Mavyret while receiving concurrent anticoagulant therapy, specifically warfarin, this is not an absolute contraindication as long as patient is adequately monitored and educated during therapy.
 - Drug-drug interactions with one or more of the following agents:
 - Rifampin, efavirenz, atazanavir, carbamazepine, or St. John’s wort:
 - These drug-drug interactions are not unique to Mavyret, and several apply across the entire therapeutic class of direct-acting antivirals for treatment of HCV infection.
 - The combination of either efavirenz or atazanavir with either Mavyret or Zepatier should be avoided per most recent AASLD/IDSA HCV guidance (March 2021).

- Acceptable medical justification for inability to use Epclusa (preferred product):
 - In patients indicated for co-administration of Epclusa with ribavirin: contraindications to ribavirin
 - In patients indicated for co-administration with amiodarone: serious symptomatic bradycardia in patients taking amiodarone, with cardiac monitoring recommended.
- Hepatitis B Virus Reactivation (HBV) is a Black Box Warning for all direct-acting antiviral drugs for the treatment of HCV. HBV reactivation has been reported when treating HCV for patients co-infected with HBV, leading to fulminant hepatitis, hepatic failure, and death, in some cases. Patients should be monitored for HBV reactivation and hepatitis flare during HCV treatment and post-treatment follow-up, with treatment of HBV infection as clinically indicated.
- For patients infected with HCV Genotype 1a: Testing for the presence of virus with NS5A resistance-associated polymorphisms is recommended. Clinical trial results show decreased efficacy of Zepatier in HCV genotype 1a with presence of NS5A polymorphisms. If baseline NS5A polymorphisms are present for genotype 1a, refer to Section V on the longer recommended duration of therapy.
- Child-Pugh Score:

	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points
Bilirubin	<i>Less than 2 mg/dL Less than 34 umol/L</i>	2-3 mg/dL 34-50 umol/L	Over 3 mg/dL Over 50 umol/L
Albumin	Over 3.5 g/dL Over 35 g/L	2.8-3.5 g/dL 28-35 g/L	Less than 2.8 g/dL Less than 28 g/L
INR	Less than 1.7	1.7 - 2.2	Over 2.2
Ascites	None	Mild / medically controlled	Moderate-severe / poorly controlled
Encephalopathy	None	Mild / medically controlled Grade I-II	Moderate-severe / poorly controlled. Grade III-IV

Child-Pugh class is determined by the total number of points: A = 5-6 points; B = 7-9 points; C = 10-15 points.

Appendix F: Healthcare Provider HCV Training

Acceptable HCV training programs and/or online courses include, but are not limited to the following:

- Hepatitis C online course (<https://www.hepatitisc.uw.edu/>): University of Washington is funded by the Division of Viral Hepatitis to develop a comprehensive, online self-study course for medical providers on diagnosis, monitoring, and management of hepatitis C virus infection. Free CME and CNE credit available.
- Fundamentals of Liver Disease (<https://liverlearning.aasld.org/fundamentals-of-liver-disease>): The AASLD, in collaboration with ECHO, the American College of Physicians (ACP), CDC, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, has developed Fundamentals of Liver Disease, a free, online CME course to improve providers' knowledge and clinical skills in hepatology.
- Clinical Care Options: <http://www.clinicaloptions.com/hepatitis.aspx>

- CDC training resources:
<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/resources/professionals/trainingresources.htm>

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose	Reference
Genotype 1a: Treatment-naïve or pegIFN/RBV-experienced with or without compensated cirrhosis without baseline NS5A polymorphisms at amino acid positions 28, 30, 31, or 93	One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks	One tablet (grazoprevir 100 mg/ elbasvir 50 mg) per day	FDA-approved labeling
Genotype 1a: Treatment-naïve or PegIFN/RBV experienced with or without compensated cirrhosis with baseline NS5A polymorphisms at amino acid positions 28, 30, 31, or 93	One tablet PO QD plus weight-based RBV for 16 weeks	One tablet (grazoprevir 100 mg/ elbasvir 50 mg) per day	FDA-approved labeling
Genotype 1b: Treatment-naïve or PegIFN/RBV experienced with or without compensated cirrhosis	One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks An 8-week regimen can be considered in those with genotype 1b infection and mild fibrosis (F0-F2) [‡]	One tablet (grazoprevir 100 mg/ elbasvir 50 mg) per day	1) FDA-approved labeling 2) AASLD-IDSA (updated March 2021)
Genotype 1a or 1b: pegIFN/RBV/NS3/4A PI* - experienced with or without compensated cirrhosis, without baseline NS5A polymorphisms at amino acid positions 28, 30, 31, or 93	One tablet PO QD plus weight-based RBV for 12 weeks	One tablet (grazoprevir 100 mg/ elbasvir 50 mg) per day	FDA-approved labeling
Genotype 4: Treatment-naïve with or without compensated cirrhosis	One tablet PO QD for 12 weeks	One tablet (grazoprevir 100 mg/ elbasvir 50 mg) per day	FDA-approved labeling
Genotype 4: PegIFN/RBV-experienced with or without compensated cirrhosis	One tablet PO QD plus weight-based RBV for 16 weeks	One tablet (grazoprevir 100 mg/ elbasvir 50 mg) per day	FDA-approved labeling

AASLD/IDSA treatment guidelines for chronic hepatitis C infection are updated at irregular intervals; refer to the most updated AASLD/IDSA guideline for most accurate treatment regimen.

* NS3/4A protease inhibitor = telaprevir, boceprevir, or simeprevir

‡ Off-label, AASLD-IDSA guideline-supported dosing regimen

VI. Product Availability

Tablet: grazoprevir 100 mg with elbasvir 50 mg

VII. References

1. Zepatier Prescribing Information. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck and Company, Inc.; December 2021. Available at http://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/z/zepatier/zepatier_pi.pdf. Accessed May 5, 2022.
2. American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases/ Infectious Disease Society of America (AASLD-IDSa). HCV guidance: recommendations for testing, managing, and treating hepatitis C. Last updated September 29, 2021. Available at: <https://www.hcvguidelines.org/>. Accessed May 5, 2022.
3. CDC. Hepatitis C Q&As for health professionals. Last updated August 7, 2020. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/hcvfaq.htm>. Accessed May 5, 2022.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
<p>New policy created, split from CP.PHAR.17 Hepatitis C Therapies. HCV RNA levels over six-month period added to confirm infection is chronic.</p> <p>Life expectancy “≥12 months if HCC and awaiting transplant” is modified to indicate “≥12 months with HCV therapy”. Testing criteria reorganized by “no cirrhosis”/“cirrhosis” consistent with the regimen tables; HCC population is included under “cirrhosis” and broadened to incorporate HCC amenable to curative measures (resection, ablation, transplant). Methods to diagnose fibrosis/cirrhosis are modified to require presence of HCC, liver biopsy or a combination of one serologic and one radiologic test. Serologic and radiologic tests are updated and correlated with METAVIR per Appendix B. Removed creatinine clearance restriction. Criteria added excluding post-liver transplantation unless regimens specifically designate.</p> <p>Dosing regimens are presented in Appendix D and E per AASLD guidelines and FDA-approved indications. The initial approval is shortened to 8 weeks.</p>	08.16	09.16
<p>Policy converted to new template. Added requirement of documentation of NS5A resistance-associated polymorphisms; added requirement for prevention of HBV reactivation. Consolidated appendix D and E into dosing and administration in section V; deleted viral load and adherence requirement in continued therapy section; added maximum dose requirement, added documentation of positive response to therapy and continuity of care, and removed CIs in section II, added reference column in section V. Added preferencing information requiring Mavyret for FDA-approved indications.</p> <p>Safety criteria was applied according to the safety guidance discussed at CPAC and endorsed by Centene Medical Affairs. Exception made to require Hep B screening for all patients prior to treatment to ensure</p>	08.17	09.17

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
that proper risk reduction measures are taking, though this is not specifically addressed in boxed warning.		
3Q 2018 annual review: removed requirement for HBV verification; expanded duration of tx required for COC from 30 days to 60 days; required verification of genotype for COC; removed conditional requirement for RBV CI; references reviewed and updated.	05.22.18	08.18
Removed requirement for advanced fibrosis or other candidacy for therapy following approved clinical guidance and removed sobriety requirement.	2.26.19	4.19
2Q 2021 Annual review: Added new prescriber requirement to include a “provider who has expertise in treating HCV based on a certified training program”; Added Appendix G (Healthcare Provider HCV Training); Dosage and Administration tables updated; , added member must use Mavyret [®] or sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa [®]) (<i>authorized generic preferred</i>); removed documented sobriety from alcohol and illicit IV drugs for ≥ 6 months prior to starting therapy; Removed Appendix D: Approximate Scoring Equivalencies using METAVIR F3/F4 as Reference; removed medical justification for inability to use Mavyret in appendix F; updated Dosage and Administration	6.15.21	
3Q 2021 annual review: annual review: no significant changes; included reference to Appendix E with the addition of un/acceptable rationale for bypassing preferred agents; updated Appendix B therapeutic alternatives; references reviewed and updated.	9.8.21	
1Q 2022 Annual Review: added pediatric use extension to 12 years of age and older or weight at least 30 kg.	3.11.22	
3Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	6.27.22	

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 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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