



Medical Necessity Criteria for Calcium Channel Blockers – Dihydropyridines, Diltiazem and Verapamil

Drug Class - Calcium Channel Blockers—Dihydropyridine (CCBs-DHP) and diltiazem and verapamil (non-dihydropyridines)

Background – After evaluating the relative clinical and cost effectiveness of the dihydropyridine calcium channel blockers, the DoD P&T Committee recommended that the following medications be designated as non-formulary:

- **CCBs-DHP** – Sular geomatrix, Cardene SR, DynaCirc, DynaCirc CR, nifedipine immediate release
- **Verapamil products** - Verelan, Verelan PM, Covera HS
- **Diltiazem products** - Cardizem LA

This recommendation has been approved by the Director, TMA.

Effective Date – 7 Jan 2009

Patients currently using a nonformulary CCB may wish to ask their doctor to consider a formulary alternative.

Uniform Formulary Status, Cost Shares, and Therapeutic Alternatives for CCBs-DHP^{1,2}

Uniform Formulary Status	Medication	Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) (up to a 90 day supply)	TMOP (up to a 90 day supply)	Retail Network (up to a 30-day supply)
Dihydropyridines				
Non-Formulary (Tier 3)	Cardene SR, Dynacirc, Dynacirc CR, nifedipine immediate release, Sular geomatrix	Not available ²	Non-Formulary cost share applies	Non-Formulary cost share applies
Formulary: Brand Name (Tier 2)	-	\$0	Formulary (Brand) cost share applies	Formulary (Brand) cost share applies
Formulary: Generic (Tier 1)	amlodipine, felodipine, nifedipine extended release, nisoldipine ³ nifedipine immediate release, nimodipine ⁴	\$0	Generic cost share applies	Generic cost share applies
Non-dihydropyridines - verapamil products				
Non-Formulary (Tier 3)	Verelan, Verelan PM, Covera HS	Not available ²	Non-Formulary cost share applies	Non-Formulary cost share applies
Formulary: Brand Name (Tier 2)	-	\$0	Formulary (Brand) cost share applies	Formulary (Brand) cost share applies
Formulary: Generic (Tier 1)	verapamil immediate & sustained release	\$0	Generic cost share applies	Generic cost share applies
Non-dihydropyridines - diltiazem products				

Non-Formulary (Tier 3)	Cardizem LA	Not available ²	Non-Formulary cost share applies	Non-Formulary cost share applies
Formulary: Brand Name (Tier 2)	-	\$0	Formulary (Brand) cost share applies	Formulary (Brand) cost share applies
Formulary: Generic (Tier 1)	diltiazem immediate, sustained & extended release	\$0	Generic cost share applies	Generic cost share applies
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Active duty cost share always \$0 in all points of service for all three tiers; active duty service members may not fill prescriptions for a non-formulary medication unless it is determined to be medically necessary. MTFs will be able to fill non-formulary requests for non-formulary medications only if both of the following conditions are met: 1) the prescription must be written by an MTF provider; MTFs may (but are not required to) fill a prescription for a non-formulary medication written by a non-MTF provider to whom the patient was referred AND 2) MN is established. Nisoldipine core coat (Sular) is now available only as a generic product. Nisoldipine geomatrix (Sular geomatrix) is a brand-only product that has the same active ingredient as the generic nisoldipine. Nifedipine immediate release and Nimotop (nimodipine) are calcium channel blockers which are not typically used for the same indications or in the same patient population as other calcium channel blockers. These medications are not considered to be therapeutic alternatives to the non-formulary CCBs. 				

Medical Necessity Criteria

Dihydropyridine CCBs (amlodipine, felodipine, nifedipine extended release, nisoldipine, Cardene SR, Dynacirc, Dynacirc CR, nifedipine immediate release, Sular geomatrix, nifedipine immediate release, nimodipine)

- Use of ALL of the following formulary dihydropyridine CCBs (amlodipine, felodipine, nifedipine extended release, and nisoldipine) is contraindicated.
- The patient has experienced significant adverse effects from ALL of the following formulary dihydropyridine CCBs (amlodipine, felodipine, nifedipine extended release, and nisoldipine).
- The patient is stabilized on a non-formulary dihydropyridine CCB, is clinically fragile (multiple comorbidities), and changing to a formulary dihydropyridine CCB (amlodipine, felodipine, nifedipine extended release, and nisoldipine) would incur an unacceptable risk to the patient (e.g., destabilization, abrupt worsening of symptoms).

Verapamil products (verapamil immediate release, verapamil sustained release, Verelan, Verelan PM, Covera HS)

The non-formulary cost share for a nonformulary verapamil product (Verelan, Verelan PM, or Covera HS) may be reduced to the formulary cost share if one or more of the following criteria are met:

- Use of verapamil sustained release is contraindicated (e.g., hypersensitivity to a dye or other inert ingredient), AND treatment with Verelan, Verelan PM, or Covera HS is not contraindicated.
- The patient is stabilized on Verelan, Verelan PM, or Covera HS, is clinically fragile (multiple comorbidities), and changing to verapamil sustained release would incur an unacceptable risk to the patient (e.g., destabilization, abrupt worsening of symptoms).

Diltiazem products (diltiazem immediate release, diltiazem sustained release, diltiazem extended release, Cardizem LA)

The non-formulary cost share for a nonformulary diltiazem product (Cardizem LA) may be reduced to the formulary cost share if one or more of the following criteria are met:

1. Use of all formulary diltiazem sustained and extended release products (including diltiazem sustained release, Diltia XT, Cartia XT, Taztia XT) is contraindicated (e.g., hypersensitivity to a dye or other inert ingredient), AND treatment with Cardizem LA is not contraindicated.

The patient is stabilized on Cardizem LA, is clinically fragile (multiple comorbidities), and changing to formulary diltiazem sustained or extended release products would incur an unacceptable risk of destabilization.

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