

ANTHELMINTIC DRUGS

ALBENZA (albendazole), EGATEN* (triclabendazole), EMVERM (mebendazole)

*This medication is included in this policy but is not available in the market as of yet

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Anthelmintics are agents used to eliminate intestinal worms (helminthes) from the body.

Helminthes can be divided into three groups: cestodes, or tapeworms; nematodes, or roundworms; and trematodes, or flukes. The helminthes differ from other infectious organisms in that they have a complex body structure. They are multicellular and have partial or complete organ systems (e.g., muscular, nervous, digestive, and reproductive). Several of the drugs used to treat worm infections affect the nervous system of the parasite and result in muscle paralysis. Other drugs affect the uptake of glucose and thus energy stores. Anthelmintics are effective in eradicating worms but proper hygiene is necessary to prevent re-infection (1).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications:

1. Albenza is an anthelmintic drug indicated for: (2)
 - a. Treatment of parenchymal neurocysticercosis due to active lesions caused by larval forms of the pork tapeworm, *Taenia solium*.
 - b. Treatment of cystic hydatid disease of the liver, lung, and peritoneum, caused by the larval form of the dog tapeworm, *Echinococcus granulosus*.
2. Emverm is an anthelmintic drug indicated for the treatment of *Enterobius vermicularis* (pinworm), *Trichuris trichiura* (whipworm), *Ascaris lumbricoides* (common roundworm), *Ancylostoma duodenale* (common hookworm), and *Necator americanus* (American hookworm) in single or mixed infections (3).
3. Egaten is an anthelmintic indicated for the treatment of fascioliasis (4).

World Health Organization and CDC guidelines recommend use in several other parasitic infections (1).

Summary

Anthelmintics are agents used to eliminate intestinal worms (helminthes) from the body. Several of the drugs used to treat worm infections affect the nervous system of the parasite and result in muscle paralysis. Other drugs affect the uptake of glucose and thus energy stores. Both Emverm

ANTHELMINTIC DRUGS

ALBENZA (albendazole), EGATEN* (triclabendazole), EMVERM (mebendazole)

*This medication is included in this policy but is not available in the market as of yet

and Albenza are indicated for the treatment of various types of helminthes. Anthelmintics are effective in eradicating worms but proper hygiene is necessary to prevent re-infection (1).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of Anthelmintic drugs while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

1. World Health Organization. Preventive chemotherapy in human helminthiasis: a manual for health professionals. 2006.
2. Albenza [package insert]. Bridgewater, NJ: Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC; September 2019.
3. Emverm [package insert]. Bridgewater, NJ: Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC; August 2021.
4. Egaten [package insert]. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; February 2022.