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Federal Employee Program.

## **MIGRAINE CALCITONIN GENE-RELATED PEPTIDE (CGRP) ANTAGONISTS SC** **Aimovig (erenumab-aooe), Ajovy\* (fremanezumab-vfrm), Emgality** **(galcanezumab-gnim)**

\* Prior authorization for this product applies only to formulary exceptions due to being a non-covered Medication

### **RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM**

#### **Background**

Aimovig, Ajovy, and Emgality are human immunoglobulin G2 (IgG2) monoclonal antibodies that have high affinity for binding to the calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) receptor and act by antagonizing this receptor. CGRP is a neuropeptide widely distributed in the nervous system, particularly at anatomical areas thought to be involved with migraine, including the trigeminovascular nociceptive system. In studies, CGRP has been shown to be released during severe migraine attacks. CGRP triggers migraine in patients and CGRP receptor antagonists can abort migraine. Moreover, recent data demonstrate that CGRP mechanism blockade either by small molecule receptor antagonists or by monoclonal antibodies can have a preventive effect in migraine. Aimovig, Ajovy, and Emgality are indicated for the preventive treatment of migraine in adults. Emgality is also indicated for the treatment of episodic cluster headaches in adults. Other migraine prophylaxis options include antiepileptic drugs, antidepressants, and antihypertensive agents (1-5).

#### **Regulatory Status**

FDA-approved indications: Aimovig, Ajovy, and Emgality are calcitonin gene-related peptide receptor antagonists indicated for the preventive treatment of migraine in adults (1-3).

Emgality is also indicated for the treatment of episodic cluster headache in adults (3).

The American Academy of Neurology and the American Headache Society Position Statement recommends giving at least 2 conventional oral migraine preventive treatments an adequate trial of at least 6 weeks at a target or usual effective dose prior to initiating preventive therapy with a CGRP medication (6).

The safety and effectiveness of Aimovig, Ajovy, and Emgality in pediatric patients have not been established (1-3).

#### **Summary**



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Aimovig, Ajovy, and Emgality are human immunoglobulin G2 (IgG2) monoclonal antibodies that have high affinity for binding to the calcitonin gene-related peptide receptor and acts by antagonizing this receptor. They are indicated for the preventive treatment of migraine in adults. Emgality is also used for the treatment of episode cluster headaches in adults. The safety and effectiveness of Aimovig, Ajovy, and Emgality in pediatric patients have not been established (1-4).

Prior approval is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of CGRP antagonists SC while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

**References**

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2. Ajovy [package insert]. North Wales, PA: Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.; October 2022.
3. Emgality [package insert]. Indianapolis, IN: Eli Lilly and Company; March 2021.
4. Silberstein, S.D. et al. "Evidence-Based Guideline Update: Pharmacologic Treatment for Episodic Migraine Prevention in Adults: Report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the American Headache Society." *Neurology* 78.17 (2012): 1337–1345.
5. Karsan N, Goadsby PJ. Calcitonin gene-related peptide and migraine. *Curr Opin Neurol.* 2015 Jun;28(3):250-4. doi: 10.1097/WCO.000000000000191. PMID: 25887765.
6. (2019), The American Headache Society Position Statement On Integrating New Migraine Treatments Into Clinical Practice. *Headache: The Journal of Head and Face Pain*, 59: 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1111/head.13456>