



**BlueCross
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Federal Employee Program.

GABAPENTIN **(Gralise*, Horizant*, Neurontin)**

* Prior authorization for certain formulations apply only to formulary exceptions due to being a non-covered medication

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Gabapentin is used in the treatment of neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN), neuropathic pain associated with spinal cord injury, partial onset seizures, postherpetic neuralgia (PHN), or Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS). Gabapentin is thought to reduce the release of a neurotransmitter called glutamate. Glutamate is a neurotransmitter that acts as a natural 'nerve-exciting' agent. It is released when electrical signals build up in nerve cells and subsequently excites more nerve cells (1-3).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications: (1-3)

1. **Gabapentin** is indicated for postherpetic neuralgia in adults, adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial onset seizures with and without secondary generalization in adults and pediatric patients 3 years and older.
2. **Gralise** is indicated for the management of postherpetic neuralgia (PHN).
3. **Horizant** is indicated for the:
 - treatment of moderate-to-severe primary restless legs syndrome (RLS)
 - management of postherpetic neural (PHN) in adults

In clinical studies, gabapentin efficacy was demonstrated over a range of doses from 1800 mg/day to 3600 mg/day (1-3).

The safety and efficacy of gabapentin in the management of postherpetic neuralgia in pediatric patients have not been established. Effectiveness as adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial seizures in pediatric patients below the age of 3 years has not been established (1).

Summary

Gabapentin is used in the treatment of neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN), neuropathic pain associated with spinal cord injury, partial onset seizures, postherpetic neuralgia (PHN), or restless legs syndrome (RLS). Gabapentin is thought to reduce



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the release of a neurotransmitter called glutamate. As gabapentin reduces the release of this neurotransmitter it can also be used to treat nerve pain that occurs as a result of damage to or a disturbance in the function of nerves (neuropathic pain) (1-3).

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

References

1. Neurontin [package insert]. New York, NY: Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; July 2022.
2. Horizant [package insert]. Wobum, MA: Azurity Pharmaceuticals Inc.; August 2022.
3. Gralise [package insert]. Morristown, NJ: Almatica Pharma LLC, Inc.; April 2023.