



**BlueCross
BlueShield**

Federal Employee Program.

METFORMIN

Glumetza* (extended-release metformin, modified release), Riomet (metformin oral solution), Riomet ER* (extended-release metformin oral suspension), Metformin extended-release (modified release), Metformin extended-release (osmotic)

*Prior authorization for the brand formulation applies only to formulary exceptions due to being a non-covered medication.

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Metformin is an oral antidiabetic medication used to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Controlling high blood sugar helps prevent kidney damage, blindness, nerve problems, and loss of limbs. Proper control of diabetes may also lessen the risk of a heart attack or stroke. Metformin works by helping to restore the body's proper response to the insulin it naturally produces. It also decreases the amount of sugar that the liver makes and that the stomach/intestines absorb (1-4).

Regulatory status

FDA approved indication: Metformin is a biguanide indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes (1-4).

Limitations of Use:

Metformin is not used for the treatment of type 1 diabetes or ketoacidosis (1-4).

Metformin carries a boxed warning regarding the risk of lactic acidosis, which may be fatal. Increased risk is associated with hypotensive states such as acute congestive heart failure and acute myocardial infarction. Metformin is contraindicated in patients with renal impairment, metabolic acidosis, or hypersensitivity to metformin hydrochloride. Before initiating therapy with Metformin, evaluate the patient's renal function (1-4).

Patients should be warned against excessive alcohol intake while taking Metformin (1-4).

The American Diabetes Association notes that metformin can be used for the prevention of diabetes (especially in those with a Body Mass Index (BMI) ≥ 35 , > 60 years of age and women with prior gestational diabetes) and for polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) (5).



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The safety and effectiveness of Glumetza and Metformin ER osmotic in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1-2). The safety and effectiveness of Riomet and Riomet ER in pediatric patients less than 10 years of age have not been established (3-4).

Summary

Metformin is indicated to improve glycemic control in adult patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Controlling high blood sugar helps prevent kidney damage, blindness, nerve problems, and loss of limbs. Proper control of diabetes may also lessen the risk of a heart attack or stroke. Metformin works by helping to restore the body's proper response to the insulin it naturally produces. It also decreases the amount of sugar that the liver makes and that the stomach/intestines absorb. The safety and effectiveness of Glumetza and Metformin ER osmotic in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established. The safety and effectiveness of Riomet and Riomet ER in pediatric patients less than 10 years of age have not been established (1-4).

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

References

1. Glumetza [package insert]. Raleigh, NC: Salix Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; March 2024.
2. Fortamet [package insert]. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Actavis Laboratories FL, Inc.; November 2018.
3. Riomet [package insert]. Cranbury, NJ: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.; December 2018.
4. Riomet ER [package insert]. Cranbury, NJ: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.; November 2019.
5. Prevention or Delay of Type 2 Diabetes: Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2020 American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Care Jan 2020, 43 (Supplement 1) S32-S36; DOI: 10.2337/dc20-S003.



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