BlueCross BlueShield
Federal Employee Program

NEXLETOL (bempedoic acid)
NEXLIZET (bempedoic acid and ezetimibe)

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Nexletol (bempedoic acid) is an adenosine triphosphate-citrate lyase (ACL) inhibitor that lowers low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LCL-C) by inhibition of cholesterol synthesis in the liver. ACL is an enzyme upstream of 3-hydroxy-3-methyl-glutaryl-coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase in the cholesterol biosynthesis pathway. Inhibition of ACL results in decreased cholesterol synthesis in the liver and lowers LDL-C in blood via upregulation of low-density lipoprotein receptors. Nexlizet is a combination of bempedoic acid and ezetimibe; ezetimibe reduces blood cholesterol by inhibiting the absorption of cholesterol by the small intestine (1-2).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications: Nexletol and Nexlizet are adenosine triphosphate-citrate lyase (ACL) inhibitors indicated as an adjunct to diet and statin therapy for the treatment of primary hyperlipidemia in adults with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia or atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease who require additional lowering of LDL-C (1-2).

Nexletol and Nexlizet may increase blood uric acid levels, which may lead to the development of gout. Patients should be advised to contact their healthcare provider if symptoms of hyperuricemia occur. Serum uric acid should be assessed when clinically indicated (1-2).

Nexletol and Nexlizet are also associated with an increased risk of tendon rupture or injury. Nexletol or Nexlizet should be discontinued immediately if the patient experiences rupture of a tendon. Discontinuation should be considered if the patient experiences joint pain, swelling, or inflammation. Alternative therapy should be considered in patients with a history of tendon disorders or tendon rupture (1-2).

Nexletol and Nexlizet have an increased risk of myopathy when used with simvastatin > 20 mg or pravastatin > 40 mg. Patients should be advised to avoid concomitant use of Nexletol and Nexlizet with simvastatin > 20 mg or pravastatin >40 mg (1-2).

The safety and effectiveness of Nexletol and Nexlizet in pediatric patients less than 18 years of

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age have not been established (1-2).

Summary

Nexletol (bempedoic acid) is an adenosine triphosphate-citrate lyase (ACL) inhibitor that lowers low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LCL-C) by inhibition of cholesterol synthesis in the liver. ACL is an enzyme upstream of 3-hydroxy-3-methyl-glutaryl-coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase in the cholesterol biosynthesis pathway. Inhibition of ACL results in decreased cholesterol synthesis in the liver and lowers LDL-C in blood via upregulation of low-density lipoprotein receptors. Nexlizet is a combination of bempedoic acid and ezetimibe; ezetimibe reduces blood cholesterol by inhibiting the absorption of cholesterol by the small intestine. The safety and effectiveness of Nexletol and Nexlizet in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1-2).

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

References

1. Nexletol [package insert]. Ann Arbor, MI: Epserion Therapeutics, Inc.; March 2024.
2. Nexlizet [package insert]. Ann Arbor, MI: Epserion Therapeutics, Inc.; March 2024.
3. Nissen SE, Lincoff AM, Brennan D, et al. Bempedoic Acid and Cardiovascular Outcomes in Statin-Intolerant Patients [published online ahead of print, 2023 Mar 4]. *N Engl J Med*. 2023;10.1056/NEJMoa2215024.