BlueCross BlueShield
Federal Employee Program

VERQUVO
(vericiguat)

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Verquvo (vericiguat) is a stimulator of soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC), an important enzyme in the nitric oxide (NO) signaling pathway. When NO binds to sGC, the enzyme catalyzes the synthesis of intracellular cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP), a second messenger that plays a role in the regulation of vascular tone, cardiac contractility, and cardiac remodeling. Heart failure is associated with impaired synthesis of NO and decreased activity of sGC, which may contribute to myocardial and vascular dysfunction. By directly stimulating sGC, Verquvo augments levels of intracellular cGMP, leading to smooth muscle relaxation and vasodilation (1).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indication: Verquvo is a soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) stimulator, indicated to reduce the risk of cardiovascular death and heart failure (HF) hospitalization following a hospitalization for heart failure or need for outpatient IV diuretics, in adults with symptomatic chronic HF and ejection fraction less than 45% (1).

Verquvo has a boxed warning that fetal harm can occur when administered to a pregnant woman. Females of reproductive potential should have a pregnancy test prior to initiation treatment with Verquvo. Females of reproductive potential should be advised to use effective contraception during treatment with Verquvo and for at least one month after the final dose (1).

Verquvo is contraindicated in patients with concomitant use of other soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) stimulators (1).

The safety and effectiveness of Verquvo in patients less than 18 year of age have not been established (1).

Summary

Verquvo (vericiguat) is a soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) stimulator, indicated to reduce the risk of cardiovascular death and heart failure hospitalization following a hospitalization for heart failure or need for outpatient IV diuretics. Verquvo has a boxed warning that fetal harm can occur when administered to a pregnant woman. The safety and effectiveness of Verquvo in patients less than

18 year of age have not been established (1).

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

References

1. Verquvo [package insert]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.; July 2023.