

**VOQUEZNA
(vonoprazan)****RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM****Background**

Voquezna (vonoprazan) is a potassium-competitive acid blocker (P-CAB) that suppresses basal and stimulated gastric acid secretion. In contrast to a proton pump inhibitor (PPI), Voquezna does not require acid activation and binds reversibly to the H⁺,K⁺-ATPase to inhibit acid production (1).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indication: Voquezna is indicated (1):

- for healing of all grades of erosive esophagitis and relief of heartburn associated with erosive esophagitis in adults.
- to maintain healing of all grades of erosive esophagitis and relief of heartburn associated with erosive esophagitis in adults.
- for the relief of heartburn associated with non-erosive gastroesophageal reflux disease in adults.
- in combination with amoxicillin and clarithromycin for the treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) infection in adults.
- in combination with amoxicillin for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection in adults.

Voquezna therapy, like other treatments raising the pH of the stomach, may be associated with an increased risk for osteoporosis-related fractures of the hip, wrist, or spine. The risk of fracture was increased in patients who received high-dose, defined as multiple daily doses, and long-term PPI therapy (a year or longer). Bone fracture was reported during use of Voquezna.

Patients should use the lowest dose and shortest duration of Voquezna therapy appropriate to the condition being treated (1).

Voquezna therapy may also be associated with an increased risk of *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhea (CDAD) and hypomagnesemia. This association was first recorded with PPI use, however since Voquezna raises gastric pH in a similar way, patients with diarrhea that does not improve should be evaluated for CDAD. Patients with hypomagnesemia may require replacement treatment, and possible discontinuation of Voquezna (1).



**BlueCross
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The safety and effectiveness of Voquezna in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1).

Summary

Voquezna is a reversible, non-covalent inhibitor of the H⁺,K⁺-ATPase resulting in lower basal and stimulated gastric acid production. Voquezna is indicated for the treatment and maintenance of healing of erosive esophagitis, the treatment of non-erosive GERD, and it is also used in combination with antibiotics for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection. The safety and effectiveness of Voquezna in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1).

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

References

1. Voquezna [package insert]. Buffalo Grove, IL: Phathom Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; July 2024.