

Commercial PA Criteria

Effective: April 30th, 2020

Prior Authorization: Nimodipine

Products Affected: Nymalize Oral Solution, nimodipine oral capsules, nimodipine oral solution

Medication Description: Nimodipine is a dihydropyridine calcium channel blocker, indicated for the improvement of neurological outcome by reducing the incidence and severity of ischemic deficits in adult patients with subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) from ruptured intracranial berry aneurysms regardless of their post-ictus neurological condition. The contractile processes of smooth muscle cells are dependent upon calcium ions, which enter these cells during depolarization as slow ionic transmembrane currents. Nimodipine inhibits calcium ion transfer into these cells and thus inhibits contractions of vascular smooth muscle. The precise mechanism of action of nimodipine in reducing the incidence and severity of ischemic deficits in adult patients with SAH from ruptured intracranial berry aneurysms is unknown.

Covered Uses: The improvement of neurological outcome by reducing the incidence and severity of ischemic deficits in adult patients with subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) from ruptured intracranial berry aneurysms regardless of their post-ictus neurological condition

Exclusion Criteria:

1. Concomitant use of strong inhibitors of CYP3A4 such as some macrolide antibiotics (e.g., clarithromycin, telithromycin), some anti-HIV protease inhibitors (e.g., delaviridine, indinavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir, saquinavir), some azole antimycotics (e.g., ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole) and some antidepressants (e.g., nefazadone)

Required Medical Information:

1. Diagnosis
2. Medical History
3. Current therapy regimen

Age Restrictions: 18 years of age and older

Prescriber Restrictions: N/A

Coverage Duration: 30 days

Other Criteria:

- A. Patient has the diagnosis of **subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH); AND**
- B. Patient is using the medication for the improvement of neurological outcome by reducing the incidence and severity of ischemic deficits with subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) from ruptured intracranial berry aneurysms regardless of their postictus neurological condition (ie, Hunt and Hess grades I to V); **AND**
- C. For Nymalize (Brand name) only, the patient is unable to ingest generic nimodipine oral capsules due to one of the following:

- a. Oral/motor difficulties; **OR**
- b. Dysphagia

References:

- 1. Nymalize (nimodipine) [prescribing information]. Atlanta, GA: Arbor Pharmaceuticals, LLC; December 2019
- 2. Facts & Comparisons online. Accessed 4/30/2020.

Policy Revision history

Rev #	Type of Change	Summary of Change	Sections Affected	Date
2	Update	Added Nimodipine solution to products affected; Clarified "Brand name only" for Nymalize solution criteria	Products affected, Criteria	2/12/2025
1	New Policy	New Policy	All	4/30/2020

