

Clinical Policy: Zilucoplan (Zilbrysq)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.616

Effective Date: 10.17.23

Last Review Date: 05.26

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Zilucoplan (Zilbrysq[®]) is a complement inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Zilbrysq is indicated for the treatment of generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG) in adult patients who are anti-acetylcholine receptor (AChR) antibody positive.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation[®] that Zilbrysq is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Generalized Myasthenia Gravis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of gMG;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Myasthenia Gravis-Activities of Daily Living (MG-ADL) score \geq 6 at baseline;
5. Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) clinical classification of Class II to IV;
6. Member has positive serologic test for anti-AChR antibodies;
7. Failure of a corticosteroid (*see Appendix B*), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;*
**For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirement above does not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395*
8. Failure of a cholinesterase inhibitor (*see Appendix B*), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;*
**For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirement above does not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395*
9. Failure of at least one non-steroidal immunosuppressive therapy (*see Appendix B*), unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated;*
**For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirement above does not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395*
10. Failure of Ultomiris[®] at up to maximally indicated doses, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;*

**For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirement above does not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395*

11. Zilbrysq is not prescribed concurrently with Imaavy[™], Soliris[®]/Bkemv[™]/Epysqli[®], Ultomiris[®], Rystiggo[®], Vyvgart[®], or Vyvgart[®] Hytrulo;
12. Documentation of member's current weight in kg;
13. Dose does not exceed the following (a and b):
 - a. One of the following (i, ii, or iii):
 - i. Weight < 56 kg: 16.6 mg per day;
 - ii. Weight 56 kg to < 77 kg: 23 mg per day;
 - iii. Weight ≥ 77 kg: 32.4 mg per day;
 - b. 1 prefilled syringe per day.

Approval duration:

Medicaid/HIM – 12 months

Commercial – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Generalized Myasthenia Gravis (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by a ≥ 2-point reduction from baseline in the MG-ADL total score;
3. Zilbrysq is not prescribed concurrently with Imaavy, Soliris/Bkemv/Epysqli, Ultomiris, Rystiggo, Vyvgart, or Vyvgart Hytrulo;
4. Documentation of member's current weight in kg;
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed the following (a and b):

- a. One of the following (i, ii, or iii):
 - i. Weight < 56 kg: 16.6 mg per day;
 - ii. Weight 56 kg to < 77 kg: 23 mg per day;
 - iii. Weight ≥ 77 kg: 32.4 mg per day;
- b. 1 prefilled syringe per day.

Approval duration:

Medicaid/HIM – 12 months

Commercial – 6 months or to the member’s renewal date, whichever is longer

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

AChR: acetylcholine receptor

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

gMG: generalized myasthenia gravis

MG-ADL: Myasthenia Gravis-Activities of Daily Living

MGFA: Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

| Drug Name | Dosing Regimen | Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose |
|--|---|--|
| Corticosteroids | | |
| betamethasone | Oral: 0.6 to 7.2 mg PO per day | 7.2 mg/day |
| dexamethasone | Oral: 0.75 to 9 mg/day PO | 9 mg/day |
| methylprednisolone | Oral: 12 to 20 mg PO per day; increase as needed by 4 mg every 2-3 days until there is marked clinical improvement | 40 mg/day |
| prednisone | Oral: 15 mg/day to 20 mg/day; increase by 5 mg every 2-3 days as needed | 60 mg/day |
| Cholinesterase Inhibitors | | |
| pyridostigmine (Mestinon [®]) | Oral immediate-release: 600 mg daily in divided doses (range, 60-1,500 mg daily in divided doses) Oral sustained release: 180-540 mg QD or BID | Immediate-release: 1,500 mg/day Sustained-release: 1,080 mg/day |
| neostigmine (Bloxivert [®]) | Oral: 15 mg TID. The daily dosage should be gradually increased at intervals of 1 or more days. The usual maintenance dosage is 15-375 mg/day (average 150 mg) IM or SC: 0.5 mg based on response to therapy | Oral: 375 mg/day |
| Nonsteroidal Immunosuppressants | | |
| azathioprine (Imuran [®]) | Oral: 50 mg QD for 1 week, then increase gradually to 2 to 3 mg/kg/day | 3 mg/kg/day |
| mycophenolate mofetil (Cellcept [®])* | Oral: Dosage not established. 1 gram BID has been used with adjunctive corticosteroids or other non-steroidal immunosuppressive medications | 2 g/day |
| cyclosporine (Sandimmune [®])* | Oral: initial dose of cyclosporine (non-modified), 5 mg/kg/day in 2 divided doses | 5 mg/kg/day |
| Rituxan [®] (rituximab), Riabni [™] (rituximab-arrx), Ruxience [™] (rituximab-pvvr), Truxima [®] (rituximab-abbs)*† | IV: 375 mg/m ² once a week for 4 weeks; an additional 375 mg/m ² dose may be given every 1 to 3 months afterwards | 375 mg/m ² |
| Complement Inhibitor | | |
| Ultomiris (ravulizumab-cwvz) | gMG | 3,600 mg/ 8 weeks |

| Drug Name | Dosing Regimen | | | Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose |
|-----------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Body Weight Range (kg) | Loading Dose (mg) | Maintenance Dose (mg) | |
| | ≥ 40 to < 60 | 2,400 | 3,000 every 8 weeks | |
| | ≥ 60 to < 100 | 2,700 | 3,300 every 8 weeks | |
| | ≥ 100 | 3,000 | 3,600 every 8 weeks | |
| | Day 1: Loading dose IV Day 15 and thereafter: Maintenance dose IV | | | |

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name[®] (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name[®]) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

*Off-label

†Prior authorization is required for rituximab products

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): unresolved *Neisseria meningitidis* infection
- Boxed warning(s): serious meningococcal infections

Appendix D: General Information

- Zilbrysq is only available through a REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) program due to the risk of life-threatening and fatal meningococcal infection. Patients should be vaccinated with a meningococcal vaccine at least 2 weeks prior to receiving the first dose of Zilbrysq and revaccinated according to current medical guidelines for vaccine use. Patients should be monitored for early signs of meningococcal infections, evaluated immediately if infection is suspected, and treated with antibiotics if necessary.
- The MG-ADL scale is an 8-item patient-reported scale that measures functional status in 8 domains related to MG – talking, chewing, swallowing, breathing, impairment of ability to brush teeth or comb hair, impairment of ability to arise from a chair, double vision, and eyelid droop. Each domain is given a score of 0-3, with 0 being normal and 3 being most severe impairment. A 2-point decrease in the MG-ADL score is considered a clinically meaningful response.

V. Dosage and Administration

| Indication | Dosing Regimen | Maximum Dose |
|------------|--|--------------|
| gMG | Weight < 56 kg: 16.6 mg SC QD Weight 56 kg to < 77 kg: 23 mg SC QD Weight ≥ 77 kg: 32.4 mg SC QD | See regimen |

VI. Product Availability

Single-dose prefilled syringes: 16.6 mg/0.416 mL, 23 mg/0.574 mL, 32.4 mg/0.81 mL

VII. References

1. Zilbrysq Prescribing Information. Smyrna, GA: UCB, Inc., February 2025. Available at: <https://www.zilbrysq.com>. Accessed October 23, 2025.

2. UCB. UCB presents efficacy and safety results for zilucoplan and rozanolixizumab in generalized myasthenia gravis. Published May 10, 2022. Available at: <https://www.ucb.com/stories-media/Press-Releases/article/UCB-presents-efficacy-and-safety-results-for-zilucoplan-and-rozanolixizumab-in-generalized-myasthenia-gravis>. Accessed November 5, 2025.
3. Ra Pharmaceuticals. A phase 3, multicenter, randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled study to confirm the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of zilucoplan in subjects with generalized myasthenia gravis. [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04115293). Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04115293>. Accessed November 5, 2025.
4. Narayanaswami P, Sanders DB, Wolfe G, et al. International consensus guidance for management of Myasthenia Gravis. *Neurology*. 2020;96(3):114-122.
5. Treatment strategy. Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America. Available at: <https://myasthenia.org/Newly-Diagnosed/Treatment-Strategy>. Accessed November 5, 2025.
6. Muppidi S, Silvestri N, Tan R, et al. The evolution of Myasthenia Gravis-Activities of Daily Living (MG-ADL) scale utilization to measure myasthenia gravis symptoms and treatment response (1817). *Neurology*. 2021;96(15 Suppl):1817.

Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

| HCPCS Codes | Description |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| C9399 | Unclassified drugs or biologicals |
| J3490 | Unclassified drugs |

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals | Date | P&T Approval Date |
|---|----------|-------------------|
| Policy created pre-emptively | 01.17.23 | 02.23 |
| 1Q 2024 annual review: RT4: drug is now FDA approved – dosing criteria updated per FDA labeling; references reviewed and updated. | 11.02.23 | 02.24 |
| 1Q 2025 annual review: no significant changes; added Bkemy, Epysqli, and Rystiggo to the list of therapies that Zilbrysq should not be prescribed concurrently with; references reviewed and updated. | 10.31.24 | 02.25 |
| 1Q 2026 annual review: clarified that the required immunosuppressive therapy should be non-steroidal; added Imaavy and Vyvgart Hytrulo to the list of therapies that Zilbrysq should not be prescribed concurrently with; for Medicaid and HIM, extended approval durations from 6 to 12 months and for Commercial, revised approval durations to include “or to the member’s renewal date, whichever is longer” as gMG is a chronic condition; added | 11.05.25 | 02.26 |

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals | Date | P&T Approval Date |
|---|----------|-------------------|
| step therapy bypass for IL HIM per IL HB 5395; references reviewed and updated. | | |
| Per March SDC, added redirection to Ultomiris. | 03.10.26 | 05.26 |

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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Note:

For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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