

Reference number(s)
1836-A

SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT

AVONEX (interferon beta-1a)

POLICY

I. INDICATIONS

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered covered benefits provided that all the approval criteria are met and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

FDA-Approved Indication: Avonex is indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis to slow the accumulation of physical disability and decrease the frequency of clinical exacerbations. Patients with multiple sclerosis in whom efficacy has been demonstrated include patients who have experienced a first clinical episode and have MRI features consistent with multiple sclerosis.

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and are not covered benefits.

II. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

A. Relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis

Authorization of 24 months may be granted to members who have been diagnosed with a relapsing form of multiple sclerosis.

B. First clinical episode of multiple sclerosis

Authorization of 24 months may be granted to members for the treatment of a first clinical episode of multiple sclerosis.

III. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY

All members (including new members) requesting authorization for continuation of therapy must meet all initial authorization criteria.

IV. REFERENCES

1. Avonex [package insert]. Cambridge, MA: Biogen Inc.; March 2016.