STEP THERAPY CRITERIA

BRAND NAME
(generic)

FETZIMA
(levomilnacipran)

KHEDEZLA
(desvenlafaxine extended release tablets)

PRISTIQ
(desvenlafaxine succinate extended release tablets)

Status: CVS Caremark Criteria
Type: Initial Step Therapy with Quantity Limit;
Post Step Therapy Prior Authorization with Quantity Limit

POLICY

FDA-APPROVED INDICATIONS
Fetzima
Fetzima is indicated for the treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD) in adults.
Limitation of Use: Fetzima is not approved for the management of fibromyalgia. The efficacy and safety of Fetzima for the management of fibromyalgia have not been established.
Khedezla
Khedezla is indicated for the treatment of adults with major depressive disorder. .
Pristiq
Pristiq is indicated for the treatment of adults with major depressive disorder (MDD).

INITIAL STEP THERAPY with QUANTITY LIMIT*
**Include Rx and OTC products unless otherwise stated.*

If the patient has filled a prescription for at least a 30 day supply of a serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI), mirtazapine, bupropion (Wellbutrin IR, SR/XL), OR a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) within the past 180 days under a prescription benefit administered by CVS Caremark, then the requested drug will be paid under that prescription benefit. If the patient does not meet the initial step therapy criteria, then the claim will reject with a message indicating that a prior authorization (PA) is required. The prior authorization criteria would then be applied to requests submitted for evaluation to the PA unit.

**If the patient meets the initial step therapy criteria, then the initial limit criteria will apply. If the patient is requesting more than the initial quantity limit the claim will reject with a message indicating that a PA is required.

****INITIAL LIMIT CRITERIA**
Limits do not accumulate together, patient is allowed the maximum limit for each drug and strength

Drug	1 Month Limit*	3 Month Limit*
Desvenlafaxine (Khedezla, Pristiq)	30 tablets / 25 days	90 tablets / 75 days

Fetzima	30 capsules / 25 days	90 capsules / 75 days

** The duration of 25 days is used for a 30-day fill period and 75 days is used for a 90-day fill period to allow time for refill processing.*

COVERAGE CRITERIA

The requested drug will be covered with prior authorization when the following criteria are met:

- The requested drug is being prescribed for the treatment of an adult patient with major depressive disorder

AND

- The patient experienced an inadequate treatment response, intolerance or contraindication to any of the following: A) a serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI), B) a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), C) mirtazapine, D) bupropion

Quantity Limits Apply.

QUANTITY LIMIT

Drug	1 Month Limit*	3 Month Limit*
Desvenlafaxine (Khedezla, Pristiq)	30 tablets / 25 days	90 tablets / 75 days
Fetzima	30 capsules / 25 days	90 capsules / 75 days

** The duration of 25 days is used for a 30-day fill period and 75 days is used for a 90-day fill period to allow time for refill processing.*

REFERENCES

1. Fetzima [package insert].Madison, NJ: Allergan Inc.; October 2019.
2. Khedezla [package insert]. Marietta, GA: Osmotica Pharmaceutical US LLC; January 2019.
3. Pristiq [package insert]. Philadelphia, PA: Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Inc; November 2018.
4. Lexicomp Online, AHFS DI (Adult and Pediatric) Online. Hudson, OH: Wolters Kluwer Clinical Drug Information, Inc. http://online.lexi.com/. Accessed March 2020.
5. Micromedex (electronic version). Truven Health Analytics, Greenwood Village, Colorado, USA. http://www.micromedexsolutions.com/. Accessed March 2020.
6. Gelenberg A, Freeman M, Markowitz J, et al. American Psychiatric Association (APA). Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Major Depressive Disorder, Third Edition. October 2010. Available at: https://psychiatryonline.org/pb/assets/raw/sitewide/practice_guidelines/guidelines/mdd.pdf. Accessed March 2020.