

Specialty Guideline Management sodium phenylbutyrate products

Products Referenced by this Document

Drugs that are listed in the following table include both brand and generic and all dosage forms and strengths unless otherwise stated. Over-the-counter (OTC) products are not included unless otherwise stated.

Brand Name	Generic Name
Buphenyl	sodium phenylbutyrate
Olpruva	sodium phenylbutyrate
Pheburane	sodium phenylbutyrate

Indications

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

FDA-approved Indications^{1,5-7}

- Buphenyl/sodium phenylbutyrate (generic) is indicated as adjunctive therapy in the chronic management of patients with urea cycle disorders involving deficiencies of carbamylphosphate synthetase (CPS), ornithine transcarbamylase (OTC), or argininosuccinic acid synthetase (AS). It is indicated in all patients with neonatal-onset deficiency (complete enzymatic deficiency, presenting within the first 28 days of life). It is also indicated in patients with late-onset disease (partial enzymatic deficiency, presenting after the first month of life) who have a history of hyperammonemic encephalopathy. It is important that the diagnosis be made early, and treatment initiated immediately to improve survival. Any episode of acute hyperammonemia should be treated as a life-threatening emergency.
- Pheburane is indicated as adjunctive therapy to standard of care, which includes dietary management, for the chronic management of adult and pediatric patients with urea cycle disorders (UCDs), involving deficiencies of carbamylphosphate synthetase (CPS), ornithine transcarbamylase (OTC) or argininosuccinic acid synthetase (AS).

Reference number(s)
2121-A

- Olpruva is indicated as adjunctive therapy to standard of care, which includes dietary management, for the chronic management of adult and pediatric patients 1 year of age and older who weigh 7 kg or greater, with urea cycle disorders (UCDs) involving deficiencies of carbamylphosphate synthetase (CPS), ornithine transcarbamylase (OTC), or argininosuccinic acid synthetase (AS).

Compendial Use⁴

Arginase deficiency

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and not medically necessary.

Documentation

Submission of the following information is necessary to initiate the prior authorization review:

Initial Requests

- Enzyme assay, biochemical, or genetic testing results supporting diagnosis; and
- Lab results documenting baseline plasma ammonia levels.

Continuation Requests

- Lab results documenting a reduction in plasma ammonia levels from baseline.

Prescriber Specialties

This medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the treatment of enzyme or metabolic disorders.

Coverage Criteria

Urea Cycle Disorders (UCDs) Including Arginase Deficiency¹⁻⁷

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for chronic management of a urea cycle disorder (UCD), including arginase deficiency, when all of the following criteria are met:

- The diagnosis is confirmed by enzymatic, biochemical, or genetic testing.
- The member has elevated plasma ammonia levels at baseline.

Reference number(s)
2121-A

- If the request is for Olpruva, both of the following criteria are met:
 - The member is 1 year of age or older.
 - The member weighs 7 kg or greater.

Continuation of Therapy

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for continued treatment in members requesting reauthorization for an indication listed in the coverage criteria section who are experiencing benefit from therapy as evidenced by a reduction in plasma ammonia levels from baseline.

References

1. Buphenyl [package insert]. Deerfield, IL: Horizon Therapeutics USA, Inc.; March 2023.
2. Mew NA, Lanpher BC. Urea Cycle Disorders Overview. In: Pagon RA, Adam MP, Ardinger HH, et. al., editors. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2017 [updated July 3, 2025]. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1217/>
3. Häberle J, Boddaert N, Burlina A, et al. Suggested guidelines for the diagnosis and management of urea cycle disorders. *J Inher Metab Dis*. 2019;42(6):1192-1230.
4. Sun A, Crombez EA, Wong D. Arginase Deficiency. 2004 Oct 21 [Updated 2020 May 28]. In: Adam MP, Feldman J, Mirzaa GM, et al., editors. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2023. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1159/>.
5. Pheburane [package insert]. Princeton, NJ: Medunik USA, Inc.; August 2023.
6. Olpruva [package insert]. Newton, MA: Acer Therapeutics, Inc.; October 2025.
7. sodium phenylbutyrate [package insert]. Malvern, PA: Endo USA, Inc.; June 2024.