



## Aetna Better Health of Illinois Prior Authorization Guidelines

Medication/Policy	Requirements	Duration of Approval if Requirements Are Met
Bonjesta  Doxylamine Succinate and Pyridoxine Hydrochloride  (Diclegis) <sup>i</sup>	<p><b>May be authorized when the following criteria are met:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member is at least 18 years of age</li> <li>• Diagnosis of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy</li> <li>• Inadequate response or intolerable side effects to dietary and lifestyle changes               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For example, avoiding stimuli/triggers, avoiding spicy or fatty foods, eating frequent small meals, or inadequate response to ginger</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use of individual products (over the counter doxylamine and pyridoxine) as separate dosage forms has not achieved adequate treatment response               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pyridoxine is available as a single agent and recommended dose 10-25mg orally every six to eight hours.</li> <li>○ Doxylamine is available as over the counter and as prescription products, with recommended dose as one-half 25mg over-the-counter tablet, or two chewable 5mg prescription tablets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Initial Approval:</b> 3 months</p> <p><b>Renewal Approval:</b> 3 months</p> <p><b>Requires:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation member is still pregnant and continues to have nausea and vomiting symptoms</li> </ul> <p><b>Quantity Level Limit:</b>  <u>Diclegis or generic Doxylamine Succinate and Pyridoxine Hydrochloride:</u>            4 tablets per day</p> <p><u>Bonjesta:</u>            2 tablets per day</p>
<b>Nuedexta<sup>ii</sup></b>	<p><b>May be authorized when all of the following criteria are met:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member is 18 years of age or older</li> <li>• Medication is prescribed by, or in consultation with, a specialist (for example, a psychiatrist, psychologist, neuropsychologist, or neurologist)</li> <li>• Diagnosis of pseudobulbar affect (PBA)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Initial Approval:</b> 3 months</p> <p><b>Renewal Approval:</b> 1 year</p>

Last Update: 12.1.2020, 12.4.2020, 3.1.2021, 5.11.2021, 6.28.2021, 8.1.2021, 9.13.2021, 10.1.2021, 12.17.2021, 1.9.2022, 2.1.2022, 2.17.2022, 2.28.2022, 3.11.2022, 4.5.2022, 4.7.2022, 4.26.2022, 5.11.2022, 5.19.2022, 6.7.2022, 7.9.2022, 8.1.2022, 12.16.2022, 1.1.2023, 1.13.2023, 2.1.2023, 2.10.2023, 2.23.2023, 3.2.2023, 3.11.2023, 3.20.2023, 3.24.2023, 3.30.2023, 4.6.2023, 4.15.2023, 4.20.2023, 5.1.2023, 5.25.2023, 6.1.2023, 6.22.2023, 7.6.2023, 7.20.2023, 8.10.2023, 8.17.2023, 8.31.2023, 9.14.2023

Current Update: 9.28.2023



## Aetna Better Health of Illinois Prior Authorization Guidelines

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Documentation that member has at least one underlying neurologic condition associated with pseudobulbar affect (PBA)</li><li>• Member has had a cognitive assessment to evaluate for the presence of pseudobulbar affect (PBA) (for example, Center for Neurologic Study-Lability Scale (CNS-LS) greater than or equal to 13 or The Pathological Laughter and Crying Scale (PLACS) greater than or equal to 13)</li><li>• Member does not have any contraindications to therapy (for example, QT prolongation, Atrioventricular (AV) block, or monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) therapy in the previous 14 days)</li><li>• Member has tried and failed selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs)</li><li>• Dose adjustments to desipramine, paroxetine, and digoxin will be made if co-administered with Nuedexta</li></ul>	<p><b>Requires:</b> Decreased frequency of pseudobulbar affect (PBA) episodes</p> <p><b>Quantity Level Limit:</b> 2 capsules per day</p>
<b>Rectiv</b>	<p><b>Rectiv may be authorized when the following criteria are met:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member has a diagnosis of pain associated with anal fissures.</li></ul>	<p><b>Initial Approval:</b> 6 months</p> <p><b>Renewal Approval:</b> 1 year</p>

### <sup>i</sup> Diclegis & Bonjesta References

1. Nausea and vomiting of pregnancy. Practice Bulletin No. 189. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstet Gynecol 2018; 131(1):e15-e30. [https://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/Fulltext/2018/01000/ACOG\\_Practice\\_Bulletin\\_No\\_189\\_\\_Nausea\\_And.39.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/Fulltext/2018/01000/ACOG_Practice_Bulletin_No_189__Nausea_And.39.aspx)
2. Diclegis<sup>®</sup> (doxylamine succinate and pyridoxine hydrochloride). [Prescribing Information]. Bryn Mawr, PA. Duchesnay Inc; Revised September 2018.
3. Bonjesta<sup>®</sup> (doxylamine succinate and pyridoxine hydrochloride). [Prescribing Information]. Bryn Mawr, PA. Duchesnay Inc; Revised June 2018.
4. Gold Standard, Inc. Diclegis. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Available at: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology.com>. Accessed October 15, 2019.
5. Gold Standard, Inc. Bonjesta. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Available at: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology.com>. Accessed October 15,<sup>†</sup>

Last Update: 12.1.2020, 12.4.2020, 3.1.2021, 5.11.2021, 6.28.2021, 8.1.2021, 9.13.2021, 10.1.2021, 12.17.2021, 1.9.2022, 2.1.2022, 2.17.2022, 2.28.2022, 3.11.2022, 4.5.2022, 4.7.2022, 4.26.2022, 5.11.2022, 5.19.2022, 6.7.2022, 7.9.2022, 8.1.2022, 12.16.2022, 1.1.2023, 1.13.2023, 2.1.2023, 2.10.2023, 2.23.2023, 3.2.2023, 3.11.2023, 3.20.2023, 3.24.2023, 3.30.2023, 4.6.2023, 4.15.2023, 4.20.2023, 5.1.2023, 5.25.2023, 6.1.2023, 6.22.2023, 7.6.2023, 7.20.2023, 8.10.2023, 8.17.2023, 8.31.2023, 9.14.2023

Current Update: 9.28.2023



# Aetna Better Health of Illinois Prior Authorization Guidelines

---

2019.

6. Facts & Comparisons eAnswers. Drug Facts and Comparisons. Indianapolis, IN: Wolters Kluwer Health; 2013. <http://online.factsandcomparisons.com/>. Accessed October 15, 2019

## ii Nuedexta References

1. Nuedexta® (dextromethorphan hybromide and quinidine sulfate). Avanir Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Aliso Viejo, CA. June 2019. [https://www.nuedexta.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/Prescribing\\_Information.pdf](https://www.nuedexta.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/Prescribing_Information.pdf). Accessed September 7, 2021.
2. Ahmed A and Simmons Z. Pseudobulbar affect: prevalence and management. *Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management* 2013;9:482-489.
3. Brook BR, Crumacker D, Fellus J, et al. PRISM: A novel research tool to assess the prevalence of pseudobulbar affect symptoms across neurological conditions. *PLOS one*.2013;8(8):e72232
4. Hammond FM, Alexnader DN, Cutler AJ, et al. PRISM II: an open-label study to assess effectiveness of dextromethorpahan/quinidine for pseudobulbar affect in patients with dementia, stroke or traumatic brain injury. *BMD Neurology*. 2016;16(89).
5. Lapchak P. Neuronal Dysregulation in Stroke-Associated Pseudobulbar Affect (PBA): Diagnostic scales and current treatment options. *J Neurol Neurophysiol*. 2016;6(5):323.
6. Miden SL, Feintein A, Kalk RS, et al. Evidence-based guideline: Assessment and management of psychiatric disorders in individuals with MS. *Neurology*. 2014;82(2):174-181.
7. Robinson RG, Parikh RM, and Lipsey JR, et al. Pathological laughing and crying following stroke: validation of a measurement scale and a double-blind treatment study. *Am J Psychiatry*. 1993;150(2): 286-293.
8. Woodard T.J, Charles K, et al. Review of the Diagnosis and Management of Pseudobulbar Affect. *US Pharm*. 2017;42(11)31-35.
9. Demier TL, Chen JJ. Pseudobulbar Affect: Considerations for Managed Care Professionals. *The American Journal of Managed Care*, 2017;23:-S0.
10. AJMC Managed Markets Network, Pharmacotherapeutic Management of Pseudobulbar Affect, December 2017; available from <https://www.ajmc.com/journals/supplement/2017/pseudobulbar-affect-considerations-for-managed-care-professionals/pharmacotherapeutic-management-of-pseudobulbar-affect?p=2>. Accessed September 7, 2021.

Last Update: 12.1.2020, 12.4.2020, 3.1.2021, 5.11.2021, 6.28.2021, 8.1.2021, 9.13.2021, 10.1.2021, 12.17.2021, 1.9.2022, 2.1.2022, 2.17.2022, 2.28.2022, 3.11.2022, 4.5.2022, 4.7.2022, 4.26.2022, 5.11.2022, 5.19.2022, 6.7.2022, 7.9.2022, 8.1.2022, 12.16.2022, 1.1.2023, 1.13.2023, 2.1.2023, 2.10.2023, 2.23.2023, 3.2.2023, 3.11.2023, 3.20.2023, 3.24.2023, 3.30.2023, 4.6.2023, 4.15.2023, 4.20.2023, 5.1.2023, 5.25.2023, 6.1.2023, 6.22.2023, 7.6.2023, 7.20.2023, 8.10.2023, 8.17.2023, 8.31.2023, 9.14.2023

Current Update: 9.28.2023