



PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

POLICY: Antiseizure Medications – Valtoco Prior Authorization Policy

- Valtoco® (diazepam nasal spray – Neurelis)

REVIEW DATE: 02/11/2026

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

THE FOLLOWING COVERAGE POLICY APPLIES TO HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS ADMINISTERED BY CIGNA COMPANIES. CERTAIN CIGNA COMPANIES AND/OR LINES OF BUSINESS ONLY PROVIDE UTILIZATION REVIEW SERVICES TO CLIENTS AND DO NOT MAKE COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS. REFERENCES TO STANDARD BENEFIT PLAN LANGUAGE AND COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS DO NOT APPLY TO THOSE CLIENTS. COVERAGE POLICIES ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE IN INTERPRETING CERTAIN STANDARD BENEFIT PLANS ADMINISTERED BY CIGNA COMPANIES. PLEASE NOTE, THE TERMS OF A CUSTOMER'S PARTICULAR BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT [GROUP SERVICE AGREEMENT, EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE, CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE, SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION (SPD) OR SIMILAR PLAN DOCUMENT] MAY DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE STANDARD BENEFIT PLANS UPON WHICH THESE COVERAGE POLICIES ARE BASED. FOR EXAMPLE, A CUSTOMER'S BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT MAY CONTAIN A SPECIFIC EXCLUSION RELATED TO A TOPIC ADDRESSED IN A COVERAGE POLICY. IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT, A CUSTOMER'S BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT ALWAYS SUPERSEDES THE INFORMATION IN THE COVERAGE POLICIES. IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONTROLLING FEDERAL OR STATE COVERAGE MANDATE, BENEFITS ARE ULTIMATELY DETERMINED BY THE TERMS OF THE APPLICABLE BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT. COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS IN EACH SPECIFIC INSTANCE REQUIRE CONSIDERATION OF 1) THE TERMS OF THE APPLICABLE BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT IN EFFECT ON THE DATE OF SERVICE; 2) ANY APPLICABLE LAWS/REGULATIONS; 3) ANY RELEVANT COLLATERAL SOURCE MATERIALS INCLUDING COVERAGE POLICIES AND; 4) THE SPECIFIC FACTS OF THE PARTICULAR SITUATION. EACH COVERAGE REQUEST SHOULD BE REVIEWED ON ITS OWN MERITS. MEDICAL DIRECTORS ARE EXPECTED TO EXERCISE CLINICAL JUDGMENT WHERE APPROPRIATE AND HAVE DISCRETION IN MAKING INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS. WHERE COVERAGE FOR CARE OR SERVICES DOES NOT DEPEND ON SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES, REIMBURSEMENT WILL ONLY BE PROVIDED IF A REQUESTED SERVICE(S) IS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT CRITERIA OUTLINED IN THE APPLICABLE COVERAGE POLICY, INCLUDING COVERED DIAGNOSIS AND/OR PROCEDURE CODE(S). REIMBURSEMENT IS NOT ALLOWED FOR SERVICES WHEN BILLED FOR CONDITIONS OR DIAGNOSES THAT ARE NOT COVERED UNDER THIS COVERAGE POLICY (SEE "CODING INFORMATION" BELOW). WHEN BILLING, PROVIDERS MUST USE THE MOST APPROPRIATE CODES AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE SUBMISSION. CLAIMS SUBMITTED FOR SERVICES THAT ARE NOT ACCOMPANIED BY COVERED CODE(S) UNDER THE APPLICABLE COVERAGE POLICY WILL BE DENIED AS NOT COVERED. COVERAGE POLICIES RELATE EXCLUSIVELY TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS. COVERAGE POLICIES ARE NOT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TREATMENT AND SHOULD NEVER BE USED AS TREATMENT GUIDELINES. IN CERTAIN MARKETS, DELEGATED VENDOR GUIDELINES MAY BE USED TO SUPPORT MEDICAL NECESSITY AND OTHER COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS.

CIGNA NATIONAL FORMULARY COVERAGE:

OVERVIEW

Valtoco, a benzodiazepine, is indicated for the acute treatment of **intermittent, stereotypic episodes of frequent seizure activity** (i.e., seizure clusters, acute repetitive seizures) that are distinct from a patient's usual seizure pattern in patients with epilepsy ≥ 2 years of age.¹

Valtoco is for acute treatment only. Do not use more than two doses of Valtoco to treat a single episode.¹ It is recommended that Valtoco be used to treat no more than one episode every five days and no more than five episodes per month.

Disease Overview

Patients with epilepsy can experience acute repetitive seizures or seizure clusters.² No consensus definition of a seizure cluster has been agreed upon.³ A broad definition of seizure clusters has been proposed to be "acute episodes of deterioration in seizure control." More specifically, they could be defined as a series of grouped seizures that

have short interictal periods. However, the number of seizures and the interictal period are the subject of controversy. Seizure clusters can result in increased emergency room visits or hospitalization, and they can disrupt the daily life, studies, and work of patients and caregivers. They are particularly concerning because of their association with status epilepticus, a potentially life-threatening condition. Benzodiazepine rescue medication is the primary acute therapy for management of seizure clusters, helping to abort clusters and reduce emergency department visits.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Valtoco. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Valtoco as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and efficacy, approval requires Valtoco to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

• **Valtoco® (diazepam nasal spray – Neurelis)**
is(are) covered as medically necessary when the following criteria is(are) met for FDA-approved indication(s) or other uses with supportive evidence (if applicable):

FDA-Approved Indication

1. Intermittent Episodes of Frequent Seizure Activity (i.e., seizure clusters, acute repetitive seizures). Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (A and B):

- A)** Patient is currently receiving maintenance antiseizure medication(s); AND
- B)** The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist.

CONDITIONS NOT COVERED

• **Valtoco® (diazepam nasal spray – Neurelis)**
is(are) considered not medically necessary for ANY other use(s); criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

REFERENCES

1. Valtoco® nasal spray [prescribing information]. San Diego, CA: Neurelis; April 2025.
2. Jafarpour S, Hirsch LJ, Gaínza-Lein M, et al. Seizure cluster: Definition, prevalence, consequences, and management. *Seizure*. 2019;68:9-15.
3. Chung S, Szaflarski JP, Choi EJ, et al. A systematic review of seizure clusters: Prevalence, risk factors, burden of disease and treatment patterns. *Epilepsy Res*. 2021;177:106748.

HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	02/07/2024
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	02/19/2025
Annual Revision	Policy Statement: The Policy Statement was updated to include "Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Valtoco as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and efficacy, approval requires Valtoco to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated." There were no changes to the criteria.	02/11/2026

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