

Serostim (somatropin)
Effective 01/01/2024

Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> MassHealth UPPL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Exchange	Program Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior Authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Quantity Limit <input type="checkbox"/> Step Therapy
Benefit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy Benefit <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Benefit		
Specialty Limitations	This medication has been designated specialty and must be filled at a contracted specialty pharmacy.		
Contact Information	Medical and Specialty Medications		
	All Plans	Phone: 877-519-1908	Fax: 855-540-3693
	Non-Specialty Medications		
	All Plans	Phone: 800-711-4555	Fax: 844-403-1029
Exceptions	N/A		

Overview

Serostim is indicated for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) patients with wasting or cachexia to increase lean body mass and body weight and improve physical endurance. Concomitant antiretroviral therapy is necessary.

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

Coverage Guidelines

Authorization may be granted for members new to the plan who are currently receiving treatment with the requested medication, excluding when the product is obtained as samples or via manufacturer’s patient assistance programs.

OR

Authorization may be granted when the following criteria is met:

1. Member is currently on antiretroviral therapy
2. Trial with suboptimal response to alternative therapies (See Appendix A) or contraindication or intolerance to alternative therapies
3. Body mass index (BMI) was less than 18.5 kg/m² prior to initiating therapy with Serostim (See Appendix B)

Continuation of Therapy

Authorization may be granted for continued treatment in members requesting reauthorization for treatment of HIV-associated wasting/cachexia when all of the following criteria are met:

1. Member is currently on antiretroviral therapy
2. Member is currently receiving treatment with Serostim excluding obtainment as samples or via manufacturer’s patient assistance programs
3. Current BMI is less than 27 kg/m² (See Appendix B)

Limitations

1. Approvals will be granted for 12 weeks.

Appendix

Appendix A – Alternative therapies for HIV Wasting

- Cyproheptadine
- Marinol (dronabinol)
- Megace (megestrol acetate)
- Testosterone therapy if hypogonadal

Appendix B – Calculation of BMI

$$\text{BMI} = \frac{\text{Weight (pounds)} \times 703}{[\text{Height (inches)}]^2} \quad \text{OR} \quad \frac{\text{Weight (kg)}}{[\text{Height (m)}]^2}$$

BMI classification:	Underweight	< 18.5 kg/m ²
	Normal weight	18.5 – 24.9 kg/m ²
	Overweight	25 – 29.9 kg/m ²
	Obesity (class 1)	30 – 34.9 kg/m ²
	Obesity (class 2)	35 – 39.9 kg/m ²
	Extreme obesity (class 3)	≥ 40 kg/m ²

References

1. Serostim [package insert]. Rockland, MA: EMD Serono, Inc.; June 2019.
2. Mangili A, Murman H, Zampini AM, et al. Nutrition and HIV infection: review of weight loss and wasting in the era of highly active antiretroviral therapy from the nutrition for healthy living cohort. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2006;42:836-42.
3. Grinspoon S, Mulligan K for the Department of Health and Human Services Working Group on the Prevention and Treatment of Wasting and Weight Loss. Weight loss and wasting in patients infected with human immunodeficiency virus. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2003;36(Suppl 2):S69-78.
4. Polsky B, Kotler D, Steinhart C. HIV-associated wasting in the HAART era: guidelines for assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. *AIDS Patient Care STDS*. 2001;15(8):411-23.
5. Schambelan M, Mulligan K, Grunfeld C, et al. Recombinant human growth hormone in patients with HIV-associated wasting: a randomized placebo-controlled trial. *Ann Intern Med*. 1996;125:873-882.
6. Evans WJ, Kotler DP, Staszewski S, et al. Effect of recombinant human growth hormone on exercise capacity in patients with HIV-associated wasting on HAART. *AIDS Read*. 2005;15:301-314.
7. Nemechek PM, Polsky B, Gottlieb MS. Treatment guidelines for HIV-associated wasting. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2000;75:386-394.
8. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Obesity Education Initiative: The practical guide: identification, evaluation, and treatment of overweight and obesity in adults. Bethesda, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; 2000. NIH Publication No. 00-4084.

Review History

12/13/2023: Reviewed at Dec P&T, switched from SGM to Custom. Effective 1/1/2024



