

**Inbrija (levodopa)
 Nourianz (istradefylline)
 Effective 07/01/2026**

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 Benefit Pharmacy Benefit	Phone: 833-895-2611 Phone: 800-711-4555	Fax: 888-656-6671 Fax: 844-403-1029
Exceptions	N/A		

Overview

Parkinson disease symptoms are due to lack of striatal dopamine. Levodopa circulates in the plasma to the blood-brain-barrier (BBB), where it crosses, to be converted by striatal enzymes to dopamine.

Inbrija (levodopa) is an aromatic amino acid indicated for the intermittent treatment of “off” episodes in patients with Parkinson’s disease treated with carbidopa/levodopa.

Nourianz (istradefylline) is an adenosine receptor antagonist indicated for patients with Parkinson’s disease, in combination with levodopa/carbidopa, in adults experiencing “off” episodes.

Coverage Guidelines

If member is new to the plan (as evidenced by coverage effective date of less than or equal to 90 days), submission of medical records documenting that the member is currently receiving treatment with requested drug, excluding when the product is obtained as samples or via manufacturer’s patient assistance programs
 OR

Authorization may be granted when all of the following criteria are met:

Inbrija

1. Diagnosis of Parkinson disease
2. Member is experiencing “off” episodes
3. Member is concurrently taking carbidopa/levodopa.
4. Member is \geq 18 years of age
5. Member is experiencing “off” symptoms with carbidopa/levodopa therapy
6. Member has had an inadequate response or adverse reaction to both of the following:
 - a. Selegiline
 - b. Rasagiline

Nourianz

1. Member has a diagnosis of Parkinson disease experiencing “off” episodes
2. Member is concurrently taking carbidopa/levodopa.
3. Member is \geq 18 years of age

4. Member is experiencing “off” symptoms with carbidopa/levodopa therapy
5. ONE of the following:
 - a. Member has inadequate response or intolerance to at least two (2) of the following:
 - i. Dopamine agonist. Ex) pramipexole, ropinirole
 - ii. COMT (catechol-O-methyltransferase) inhibitor. Ex) entacapone, tolcapone
 - iii. MAO-B (monoamine oxidase B) inhibitor. Ex) selegiline, rasagiline
 - b. Member has contraindication to ALL available generic agents to treat Parkinson’s disease.

Continuation of Therapy

Requests for reauthorization will be approved when all of the following criteria are met:

1. Submission of medical records (e.g., chart notes) documenting improvement of member’s condition.

Limitations

1. Initial approvals will be granted for 6 months.
2. Reauthorizations will be granted for 12 months
3. The following quantity limits apply:

Drug Name and Dosage Form	Quantity Limit
Inbrija 42mg capsule	10 capsules per day
Nourianz 20 &40mg tablets	1 tablet per day

References

1. Selegiline Hydrochloride Capsules [prescribing information]. Weston, FL: Apotex Corp; June 2014
2. Azilect (rasagiline) [prescribing information]. North Wales, PA: Teva Pharmaceuticals USA; December 2018
3. Inbrija (levodopa) [prescribing information]. Ardsley, NY: Acorda Therapeutics; December 2018
4. Lloyd KG, Davidson L, Hornykiewicz O. The neurochemistry of Parkinson's disease: effect of L-dopa therapy. *J Pharmacol Exp Ther.* 1975;195(3):453-464. [\[PubMed 489\]](#)
5. Nourianz (istradefylline) [prescribing information]. Bedminster, NJ: Kyowa Kirin, Inc.; August 2019.
6. Takahashi M, Fujita M, Asai N, et al. Safety and effectiveness of istradefylline in patients with Parkinson's disease: interim analysis of a post-marketing surveillance study in Japan. *Expert Opin Pharmacother* 2018; 19:1635
7. Trenkwalder C, Kuoppamäki M, Vahteristo M, et al. Increased dose of carbidopa with levodopa and entacapone improves "off" time in a randomized trial. *Neurology* 2019; 92:e1487
8. LeWitt PA, Hauser RA, Pahwa R, et al. Safety and efficacy of CVT-301 (levodopa inhalation powder) on motor function during off periods in patients with Parkinson's disease: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 trial. *Lancet Neurol* 2019; 18:145

Review History

09/24/2018 – Reviewed
 06/19/2019 – Added Inbrija
 09/18/2019 – Reviewed
 07/22/2020 – Reviewed at P&T Mtg; Added Nourianz to criteria
 09/16/2020 – reviewed and updated at Sept P&T Mtg; added QL to Nourianz. Effective 12/01/2020.
 11/16/2022 – Reviewed for Nov P&T. Separated out MH vs Comm/Exch. No clinical changes.
 04/15/2026 – Reviewed and updated at April P&T. Updated language for members who are new to the Plan. Updated policy to remove Xadago as agent is moving to nonformulary status. Updated criteria for Inbrija to remove trial requirement with Xadago. Effective 07/01/2026.

