

**Nuedexta® (dextromethorphan hydrobromide/quinidine sulfate) capsules**  
**Effective 01/01/2023**

Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> MassHealth UPPL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Exchange		Program Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior Authorization
Benefit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy Benefit <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Benefit			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quantity Limit <input type="checkbox"/> Step Therapy
Specialty Limitations	N/A			
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

Pseudobulbar affect (PBA) is a condition that's characterized by episodes of sudden uncontrollable and inappropriate laughing or crying. PBA typically occurs in people with certain neurological conditions or injuries, which might affect the way the brain controls emotion.

Nuedexta® (dextromethorphan hydrobromide/quinidine sulfate) is a combination product containing dextromethorphan hydrobromide (an uncompetitive NMDA receptor antagonist and sigma-1 agonist) and quinidine sulfate (a CYP450 2D6 inhibitor) indicated for the treatment of Pseudobulbar affect (PBA).

### Coverage Guidelines

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

#### OR

Authorization may be granted for members with a diagnosis or indication for the treatment of Pseudobulbar Affect (PBA) due to a neurological condition (e.g., amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), multiple sclerosis (MS), stroke, traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease).

### Limitations

- Approvals will be for 12 months.
- The following quantity limits apply

Nuedexta 20-10mg	60 capsules per 30 days
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### References

- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/pseudobulbar-affect/diagnosis-treatment>. 2018 May.
- Nuedexta (dextromethorphan/quinidine) [prescribing information]. Aliso Viejo, CA: Avanir Pharmaceuticals; January 2016.
- Dextromethorphan and Quinidine. Lexi-Interact [database online]. Hudson, OH: Lexicomp Inc; 2015. <http://online.lexi.com>. Accessed April 14, 2015.

4. Cummings JL, Lyketsos CG, Raskind ER, et al. Effect of dextromethorphan-quinidine on agitation in patients with Alzheimer disease dementia: a randomized clinical trial. JAMA. 2015;314(12):1242-1254.[PubMed 26393847]10.1001/jama.2015.10214

**Review History**

11/28/2011: Reviewed

01/03/2012: Effective

11/26/2012: Reviewed

12/01/2012: Updated (RxAuth implementation)

11/25/2013: Reviewed

11/24/2014: Reviewed

11/27/2017: Reviewed in P&T Meeting

11/26/2018: Updated

01/22/2020: Added started & stabilized criteria

09/21/2022: Reviewed at Sept P&T; Separated Comm/Exch vs MH policies; no clinical updates. Effective

01/01/2023

