

Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 (DPP-4) Inhibitors, DPP-4 Inhibitor/Metformin Combination Drugs

Policy # 00306

Original Effective Date: 05/22/2013

Current Effective Date: 03/10/2025

Applies to all products administered or underwritten by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana and its subsidiary, HMO Louisiana, Inc. (collectively referred to as the "Company"), unless otherwise provided in the applicable contract. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

When Services May Be Eligible for Coverage

Coverage for eligible medical treatments or procedures, drugs, devices or biological products may be provided only if:

- *Benefits are available in the member's contract/certificate, and*
- *Medical necessity criteria and guidelines are met.*

Based on review of available data, the Company may consider Onglyza^{®‡} (saxagliptin), Kombiglyze^{®‡} XR (saxagliptin/metformin extended release), branded Alogliptin, Nesina (alogliptin), branded Alogliptin/Metformin, Kazano (alogliptin/metformin), generic saxagliptin tablets, generic saxagliptin/metformin extended release tablets, Zituvio (sitagliptin), branded Sitagliptin tablets, branded Sitagliptin/Metformin tablets, Zituvimet (sitagliptin/metformin), or Zituvimet XR (sitagliptin/metformin extended release) to be **eligible for coverage**** when the below patient selection criterion is met:

Patient Selection Criteria

Coverage eligibility will be considered for Onglyza (saxagliptin), Kombiglyze XR (saxagliptin/metformin extended release), branded Alogliptin, Nesina (alogliptin), branded Alogliptin/Metformin, Kazano (alogliptin/metformin), generic saxagliptin tablets, generic saxagliptin/metformin extended release tablets, Zituvio (sitagliptin), branded Sitagliptin tablets, branded Sitagliptin/Metformin tablets, Zituvimet (sitagliptin/metformin), and Zituvimet XR (sitagliptin/metformin extended release) when the following criterion is met:

- There is clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the use of Januvia^{®‡} (sitagliptin), Janumet^{®‡} (sitagliptin/metformin), Janumet^{®‡} XR (sitagliptin/metformin extended release), Tradjenta^{®‡} (linagliptin), Jentadueto^{®‡} (linagliptin/metformin), or Jentadueto^{®‡} XR (linagliptin/metformin extended release) will be/was ineffective or will/did cause an adverse reaction to the patient.

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When Services Are Considered Not Medically Necessary

Based on review of available data, the Company considers the use of Onglyza (saxagliptin), Kombiglyze XR (saxagliptin/metformin extended release), branded Alogliptin, Nesina (alogliptin), branded Alogliptin/Metformin, Kazano (alogliptin/metformin), generic saxagliptin tablets, generic saxagliptin/metformin extended release tablets, Zituvio (sitagliptin), branded Sitagliptin tablets, branded Sitagliptin/Metformin tablets, Zituvimet (sitagliptin/metformin), or Zituvimet XR (sitagliptin/metformin extended release) WITHOUT clinical evidence or patient history that suggests the use of Januvia (sitagliptin), Janumet (sitagliptin/metformin), Janumet XR (sitagliptin/metformin extended release), Tradjenta (linagliptin), Jentadueto (linagliptin/metformin), or Jentadueto XR (linagliptin/metformin extended release) will be/was ineffective or will/did cause an adverse reaction to the patient to be **not medically necessary**.**

Schematic

Class	Preferred	Non-Preferred
DPP-4 Inhibitors, DPP-4 Inhibitor/Metformin Combination Products	Januvia Janumet Janumet XR Tradjenta Jentadueto Jentadueto XR	Onglyza Kombiglyze XR Branded Alogliptin Nesina Branded Alogliptin/Metformin Kazano Generic saxagliptin Generic saxagliptin/metformin ER Zituvio Branded Sitagliptin Branded Sitagliptin/Metformin Zituvimet Zituvimet XR

Background/Overview

Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors and DPP-4 inhibitor combination drugs are indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

The active ingredients in the non-preferred products have not been studied head to head versus the preferred products, and therefore no superiority claims can be made between preferred and non-preferred products.

FDA or Other Governmental Regulatory Approval

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

All of these products are indicated for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus.



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Rationale/Source

This medical policy was developed through consideration of peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval status, nationally accepted standards of medical practice and accepted standards of medical practice in this community, technology evaluation centers, reference to regulations, other plan medical policies, and accredited national guidelines.

Based on a review of the available data and in the absence of any of the caveats mentioned, there is no advantage of using Onglyza (saxagliptin), Kombiglyze XR (saxagliptin/metformin extended release), branded Alogliptin, Nesina (alogliptin), branded Alogliptin/Metformin, Kazano (alogliptin/metformin), generic saxagliptin tablets, generic saxagliptin/metformin extended release tablets, Zituvio (sitagliptin), Zituvimet (sitagliptin/metformin), Zituvimet XR (sitagliptin/metformin extended release), branded Sitagliptin tablets, or branded Sitagliptin/Metformin tablets over Januvia (sitagliptin), Janumet (sitagliptin/metformin), Janumet XR (sitagliptin/metformin extended release), Tradjenta (linagliptin), Jentadueto (linagliptin/metformin), or Jentadueto XR (linagliptin/metformin extended release).

References

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2. Tradjenta tablets [package insert]. Ridgefield, CT: Boehringer Ingelheim, Inc; September 2012.
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4. Nesina tablets [prescribing information]. Deerfield, IL: Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, Inc.; January 2013.
5. Janumet tablets [package insert]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck & Co., Inc.; February 2013.
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9. Kazano tablets [package insert]. Deerfield, IL: Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, Inc.; January 2013.
10. Juvisync tablets [package insert]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck & Co., Inc.; February 2013.
11. Onesi tablets [package insert]. Deerfield, IL: Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, Inc.; January 2013.
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Policy History

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05/02/2013 Medical Policy Committee review

05/22/2013 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. New policy.

05/01/2014 Medical Policy Committee review

05/21/2014 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. No change to coverage.

10/02/2014 Medical Policy Committee review

10/15/2014 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Implemented a PA for non-preferred products to use preferred products, which are Januvia, Janumet, Janumet XR, Onglyza, and Kombiglyze XR.

10/08/2015 Medical Policy Committee review.

10/21/2015 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Considering other preferred products within next few months based on more updated modeling discussions. Will update policy in February 2016 with decisions. Will halt posting until that point.

02/04/2016 Medical Policy Committee review

02/17/2016 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. No change to coverage. Will not change preferred products.

06/30/2016 Medical Policy Committee review

07/20/2016 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added branded Alogliptin, branded Alogliptin/Metformin, Alogliptin/Pioglitazone and Jentaducto XR to the policy.

10/06/2016 Medical Policy Committee review

10/19/2016 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Moving Onglyza and Kombiglyze ER to non-preferred. Moving Tradjenta and Jentaducto/XR to preferred.

10/05/2017 Medical Policy Committee review

10/18/2017 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. No change to coverage.

10/04/2018 Medical Policy Committee review

10/17/2018 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added "metformin" to the title. Removed the step therapy only and step therapy/prior authorization sections. Updated schematic. Updated background info/rationale.

10/03/2019 Medical Policy Committee review

10/09/2019 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. No change to coverage.

10/01/2020 Medical Policy Committee review

10/07/2020 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. No change to coverage.

10/07/2021 Medical Policy Committee review

10/13/2021 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. No change to coverage.

10/06/2022 Medical Policy Committee review

10/11/2022 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. No change to coverage.



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10/05/2023 Medical Policy Committee review
10/11/2023 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added generic saxagliptin tablets and generic saxagliptin/metformin ER tablets to the policy.
03/07/2024 Medical Policy Committee review
03/13/2024 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added Zituvio to the policy.
09/05/2024 Medical Policy Committee review
09/11/2024 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added brand Sitagliptin tablets and brand Sitagliptin/Metformin tablets to the policy.
02/06/2025 Medical Policy Committee review
02/12/2025 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. Added Zituvimet and Zituvimet XR to the policy.
Next Scheduled Review Date: 02/2026

****Medically Necessary (or “Medical Necessity”)** - Health care services, treatment, procedures, equipment, drugs, devices, items or supplies that a Provider, exercising prudent clinical judgment, would provide to a patient for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that are:

- A. In accordance with nationally accepted standards of medical practice;
- B. Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, level of care, site and duration, and considered effective for the patient's illness, injury or disease; and
- C. Not primarily for the personal comfort or convenience of the patient, physician or other health care provider, and not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of that patient's illness, injury or disease.

For these purposes, “nationally accepted standards of medical practice” means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, Physician Specialty Society recommendations and the views of Physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas and any other relevant factors.

‡ Indicated trademarks are the registered trademarks of their respective owners.

NOTICE: If the Patient’s health insurance contract contains language that differs from the BCBSLA Medical Policy definition noted above, the definition in the health insurance contract will be relied upon for specific coverage determinations.

NOTICE: Medical Policies are scientific based opinions, provided solely for coverage and informational purposes. Medical Policies should not be construed to suggest that the Company recommends, advocates, requires, encourages, or discourages any particular treatment, procedure, or service, or any particular course of treatment, procedure, or service.



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NOTICE: Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage.

