



Drug Coverage Policy

Effective Date8/15/2025

Coverage Policy Number.....IP0250

Policy Title.....Praluent

Proprotein Convertase Subtilisin Kexin Type 9 Inhibitors – Praluent

- Praluent® (alirocumab subcutaneous injection - Regeneron)

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.

OVERVIEW

Praluent, a proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9 (PCSK9) inhibitor antibody, is indicated for the following uses:¹

- **Established cardiovascular (CV) disease**, in adults to reduce the risk of myocardial infarction (MI), stroke, and unstable angina requiring hospitalization.
- **Primary hyperlipidemia** (including **heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia [HeFH]**), in adults as an adjunct to diet, alone or in combination with other lipid-lowering therapies (e.g., statins, ezetimibe) to reduce low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C).
- **Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HeFH)**, in pediatric patients ≥ 8 years of age, as an adjunct to diet and other LDL-C lowering therapies, to reduce LDL-C.
- **Homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH)**, in adults as an adjunct to other LDL-C lowering therapies, to reduce LDL-C.

Repatha® (evolocumab subcutaneous injection) is another PCSK9 inhibitor.² Leqvio® (inclisiran subcutaneous injection), a small interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) directed to PCSK9 messenger RNA, is a similar product.³

Guidelines

Many guidelines are available regarding the treatment of patients with dyslipidemia.⁴⁻¹¹ For patients with elevated LDL-C, statins are the cornerstone of therapy and recommended first-line to be used at maximally tolerated doses due to the established benefits regarding the reduction of CV risks. Atorvastatin 40 mg to 80 mg once daily (QD) and rosuvastatin 20 mg to 40 mg QD are considered high-intensity statins as they achieve LDL-C lowering of $\geq 50\%$. Ezetimibe is usually the next therapy added.

- The **American College of Cardiology (ACC) Expert Consensus Decision Pathway on the Role of Non-Statins Therapies** for LDL-Cholesterol Lowering in the Management of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD) Risk (2022) make several recommendations regarding PCSK9 inhibitors.⁴ For adults with clinical ASCVD at very high risk (e.g., patients with major ASCVD events, HeFH, diabetes) who are on statin therapy for secondary prevention, the general goal is $\geq 50\%$ LDL-C reduction and an LDL-C < 55 mg/dL (or non-high-density lipoprotein cholesterol [HDL-C] < 85 mg/dL) with maximally tolerated statin therapy. If the above goals are not achieved, the initial non-statin agents recommended include ezetimibe and/or a PCSK9 monoclonal antibody (i.e., Repatha or Praluent). For adults without clinical ASCVD or diabetes or LDL-C ≥ 190 mg/dL who have undergone subclinical atherosclerosis imaging, if the coronary artery calcium score is $\geq 1,000$ Agatston units, PCSK9 monoclonal antibodies (i.e., Repatha or Praluent) may be non-statin agents to consider following high-intensity statin therapy and ezetimibe to achieve the goal of a $\geq 50\%$ LDL-C reduction (and LDL-C threshold < 70 mg/dL).
- The **American Heart Association (AHA)/ACC guidelines on the management of blood cholesterol** (updated 2018) defines patients with ASCVD as those with an acute coronary syndrome, those with a history of MI, stable or unstable angina or coronary or other revascularizations, stroke, transient ischemic attack, or peripheral arterial disease.^{5,6} Although LDL-C thresholds are not always recognized, in general, an LDL-C < 70 mg/dL is recommended for most patients with ASCVD to reduce CV risk. Use of a PCSK9 as an adjunct is justified if this goal is not met with maximally tolerated statins.^{5,6} Additionally, reviews have recognized that patients with an elevated coronary artery calcium or calcification score (e.g., ≥ 300 Agatston units) are at an increased risk of CV events.¹²⁻¹⁵
- The **ACC/AHA Guideline for the management of Patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS)** [2025] states that patients who are already on maximally tolerated statin therapy with LDL-C ≥ 70 mg/dL, adding a nonstatin lipid-lowering agent is recommended to further reduce the risk of a major adverse cardiac event (MACE).¹⁶ Some recommendations also provide for a lower goal LDL-C level (55 to 69 mg/dL).
- The **American Diabetes Association Standards of Care for Diabetes** discuss CV disease and risk management (2025).⁸ For patients with diabetes who are 40 to 75 years of age at

higher CV risk (including those with one or more ASCVD risk factors), it is recommended to use high-intensity statin therapy to reduce LDL-C by $\geq 50\%$ of baseline and to target an LDL-C of < 70 mg/dL. Also, for patients with diabetes who are 40 to 75 years of age at higher CV risk, especially those with multiple ASCVD risk factors and an LDL-C ≥ 70 mg/dL, it may be reasonable to add ezetimibe or a PCSK9 inhibitor to a maximum tolerated statin.

- Guidelines for **Chronic Coronary Disease from the AHA and ACC** (along with other organizations) [2023] state in such patients who are judged to be at very high risk and on maximally tolerated statin therapy and with an LDL-C ≥ 70 mg/dL, ezetimibe can be beneficial to further reduce the risk of a major adverse coronary event.⁹ Patients with chronic coronary disease who are considered to be at very high risk who have an LDL-C ≥ 70 mg/dL who are receiving maximally tolerated statins and ezetimibe, a PCSK9 monoclonal antibody can be beneficial to further reduce the risk of a major adverse coronary event.
- The **European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Statement on HoFH** (2023) states that HoFH should be suspected if untreated LDL-C levels are > 400 mg/dL.⁷ Other suggestions of HoFH involve cutaneous or tendon xanthomas before 10 years of age and/or untreated elevated LDL-C levels consistent with HeFH in both parents. Of note, in the digenic form, one parent may have normal LDL-C levels and the other may have LDL-C levels consistent with HoFH. Lipid-lowering therapy should be initiated with high-intensity statin therapy and ezetimibe. A PCSK9 inhibitor can be added as well. If the patient does not achieve LDL-C goals, other agents can be added (e.g., Juxtapid® [lomitapide capsules], Evkeeza® [evinacumab-dgnb intravenous infusion]). Lipoprotein apheresis may also be considered. The goal is to reduce LDL-C to < 115 mg/dL in children and adolescents, < 70 mg/dL in adults if no major ASCVD risk factors are present, and < 55 mg/dL if patients have ASCVD or major ASCVD risk factors.
- The **American Association of Clinical Endocrinology** (AACE) clinical practice guideline on the pharmacologic management of adults with dyslipidemia (2025) make many recommendations.¹⁷ In adults with dyslipidemia who are receiving maximally tolerated statins and have ASCVD or are an increased risk for ASCVD but who are not at goal (LDL-C < 70 mg/dL), AACE suggests therapy with Praluent or Repatha. In adults with dyslipidemia who do not have ASCVD, AACE suggests against the use of Praluent or Repatha.
- A **Scientific Statement from the AHA on Familial Hypercholesterolemia** (2015),¹⁰ as well as other information,¹¹ provide additional guidance on diagnosing familial hypercholesterolemia (e.g., HoFH, HeFH). For HeFH, Dutch Lipid Network criteria scoring is used, as well as the Simon Broome criteria.

Coverage Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is required for benefit coverage of Praluent. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. A patient who has previously met initial therapy criteria for Praluent for the requested indication under the Coverage Review Department and is currently receiving the requested therapy is only required to meet continuation of therapy criteria (i.e., currently receiving therapy). If past criteria have not been met under the Coverage Review Department and the patient is currently receiving Praluent, or is restarting Praluent, initial criteria must be met.

Praluent is considered medically necessary when ONE of the following is met (1, 2, 3, or 4):

FDA-Approved Indications

1. Established Cardiovascular Disease.* Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, iii, and iv):

- i. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND
- ii. Patient has had ONE of the following conditions or diagnoses (a, b, c, d, e, or f):
 - a) A previous myocardial infarction or a history of an acute coronary syndrome; OR
 - b) Angina (stable or unstable); OR
 - c) A past history of stroke or transient ischemic attack; OR
 - d) Coronary artery disease; OR
 - e) Peripheral arterial disease; OR
 - f) Patient has undergone a coronary or other arterial revascularization procedure in the past; AND

Note: Examples include coronary artery bypass graft surgery, percutaneous coronary intervention, angioplasty, and coronary stent procedures.

iii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):

a) Patient meets BOTH of the following [(1) and (2)]:

(1) Patient has tried one high-intensity statin therapy (i.e., atorvastatin ≥ 40 mg daily; rosuvastatin ≥ 20 mg daily [as a single-entity or as a combination product]) for ≥ 8 continuous weeks; AND

(2) Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level after this treatment remains ≥ 55 mg/dL; OR

b) Patient has been determined to be statin intolerant by meeting ONE of the following [(1) or (2)]:

(1) Patient experienced statin-related rhabdomyolysis; OR

Note: Rhabdomyolysis is statin-induced muscle breakdown that is associated with markedly elevated creatine kinase levels (at least 10 times the upper limit of normal), along with evidence of end organ damage which can include signs of acute renal injury (noted by substantial increases in serum creatinine [Scr] levels [$a \geq 0.5$ mg/dL increase in Scr or doubling of the Scr] and/or myoglobinuria [myoglobin present in urine]).

(2) Patient meets ALL of the following [(a), (b), and (c)]:

(a) Patient experienced skeletal-related muscle symptoms; AND

Note: Examples of skeletal-related muscle symptoms include myopathy (muscle weakness) or myalgia (muscle aches, soreness, stiffness, or tenderness).

(b) The skeletal-muscle related symptoms occurred while receiving separate trials of both atorvastatin and rosuvastatin (as single-entity or combination product); AND

(c) When receiving separate trials of both atorvastatin and rosuvastatin (as single-entity or as a combination product) the skeletal-related muscle symptoms resolved upon discontinuation of each respective statin therapy (atorvastatin and rosuvastatin); OR

Note: Examples of skeletal-related muscle symptoms include myopathy and myalgia.

iv. Preferred product criteria is met for the product(s) as listed in the below table(s)

B) Patient Currently Receiving Praluent. Approve if according to the prescriber, the patient has experienced a response to therapy.

Note: Examples of a response to therapy include decreasing low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), total cholesterol, non-high-density lipoprotein (non-HDL-C), or apolipoprotein B levels. Also, if the patient is currently receiving the requested therapy but has not previously received approval of Praluent for this specific indication through Cigna, review under criteria for Initial Therapy. If the patient is restarting therapy with Praluent, Initial Therapy criteria must be met.

2. Heterozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia (HeFH).* Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ONE the following (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, iii, and iv):

- i. Patient is ≥ 8 years of age; AND
- ii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a) Patient has an untreated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) level ≥ 190 mg/dL (prior to treatment with antihyperlipidemic agents); OR
 - b) The diagnosis has been confirmed by genetic testing; OR
Note: Examples include pathogenic variants at the low-density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR), apolipoprotein B (APOB), proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9 (PCSK9) or low-density lipoprotein receptor adaptor protein (LDLRAP1) gene.
 - c) Patient has been diagnosed with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia meeting one of the following diagnostic criteria thresholds [(1) or (2)]:
 - (1) Prescriber confirms that the Dutch Lipid Network criteria score was > 5 ; OR
 - (2) Prescriber confirms that Simon Broome criteria met the threshold for "definite" or "possible (or probable)" familial hypercholesterolemia; AND
- iii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):
 - a) Patient meets BOTH of the following [(1) and (2)]:
 - (1) Patient has tried one high-intensity statin therapy (i.e., atorvastatin ≥ 40 mg daily; rosuvastatin ≥ 20 mg daily [as a single-entity or as a combination product]) for ≥ 8 continuous weeks; AND
 - (2) Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level after this treatment remains ≥ 70 mg/dL; OR
 - b) Patient has been determined to be statin intolerant by meeting ONE of the following [(1) or (2)]:
 - (1) Patient experienced statin-related rhabdomyolysis; OR
Note: Rhabdomyolysis is statin-induced muscle breakdown that is associated with markedly elevated creatine kinase levels (at least 10 times the upper limit of normal), along with evidence of end organ damage which can include signs of acute renal injury (noted by substantial increases in serum creatinine [Scr] levels [a ≥ 0.5 mg/dL increase in Scr or doubling of the Scr] and/or myoglobinuria [myoglobin present in urine]).
 - (2) Patient meets ALL of the following [(a), (b), and (c)]:
 - (a) Patient experienced skeletal-related muscle symptoms; AND
Note: Examples of skeletal-related muscle symptoms include myopathy (muscle weakness) or myalgia (muscle aches, soreness, stiffness, or tenderness).
 - (b) The skeletal-muscle related symptoms occurred while receiving separate trials of both atorvastatin and rosuvastatin (as single-entity or combination product); AND
 - (c) When receiving separate trials of both atorvastatin and rosuvastatin (as single-entity or as a combination product), the skeletal-related muscle symptoms resolved upon discontinuation of each respective statin therapy (atorvastatin and rosuvastatin); AND
Note: Examples of skeletal-related muscle symptoms include myopathy and myalgia.
- iv. Preferred product criteria is met for the product(s) as listed in the below table(s)

B) Patient Currently Receiving Praluent. Approve if according to the prescriber, the patient has experienced a response to therapy.

Note: Examples of a response to therapy include decreasing low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), total cholesterol, non-high-density lipoprotein (non-HDL-C), or apolipoprotein B levels. Also, if the patient is currently receiving the requested therapy but

has not previously received approval of Praluent for this specific indication through Cigna, review under criteria for Initial Therapy. If the patient is restarting therapy with Praluent, Initial Therapy criteria must be met.

3. Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia (HoFH).* Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, iii, and iv):

i. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND

ii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a, b, or c):

a) The diagnosis has been confirmed by genetic testing; OR

Note: Examples include pathogenic variants at the low-density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR), apolipoprotein B (APOB), proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9 (PCSK9) or low-density lipoprotein receptor adaptor protein (LDLRAP1) gene.

b) Patient has an untreated low-density lipoprotein (LDL-C) level > 400 mg/dL AND meets ONE of the following [(1) or (2)]:

Note: Untreated refers to prior therapy with any antihyperlipidemic agent.

(1) Patient had clinical manifestations of homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia before 10 years of age; OR

Note: Clinical manifestations of homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia are cutaneous xanthomas, tendon xanthomas, arcus cornea, tuberous xanthomas, or xanthelasma.

(2) At least one parent of the patient had untreated LDL-C levels or total cholesterol levels consistent with familial hypercholesterolemia; OR

Note: An example of familial hypercholesterolemia is an untreated LDL-C level ≥ 190 mg/dL and/or an untreated total cholesterol level > 250 mg/dL.

c) Patient has a treated LDL-C level ≥ 300 mg/dL AND meets ONE of the following [(1) or (2)]:

Note: Treated refers to after therapy with at least one antihyperlipidemic agent. Some examples of antihyperlipidemic agents include statins (e.g., atorvastatin, rosuvastatin, lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin), ezetimibe, a PCSK9 inhibitor (e.g., Repatha [evolocumab subcutaneous injection]), Evkeeza (evinacumab-dgnb intravenous infusion), and Juxtapid (lomitapide capsules).

(1) Patient had clinical manifestations of homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia before 10 years of age; OR

Note: Examples of clinical manifestations of homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia are cutaneous xanthomas, tendon xanthomas, arcus cornea, tuberous xanthomas or xanthelasma.

(2) At least one parent of the patient had untreated LDL-C levels or total cholesterol levels consistent with familial hypercholesterolemia; AND

Note: An example of familial hypercholesterolemia is an untreated LDL-C ≥ 190 mg/dL and/or an untreated total cholesterol > 250 mg/dL.

iii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):

a) Patient meets BOTH of the following [(1) and (2)]:

(1) Patient has tried one high-intensity statin therapy (i.e., atorvastatin ≥ 40 mg daily; rosuvastatin ≥ 20 mg daily [as a single-entity or as a combination product]) for ≥ 8 continuous weeks; AND

(2) LDL-C level after this treatment remains ≥ 70 mg/dL; OR

b) Patient has been determined to be statin intolerant by meeting ONE of the following [(1) or (2)]:

(1) Patient experienced statin-related rhabdomyolysis; OR

Note: Rhabdomyolysis is statin-induced muscle breakdown that is associated with markedly elevated creatine kinase levels (at least 10 times the upper limit of normal), along with evidence of end organ damage which can include signs of

acute renal injury (noted by substantial increases in serum creatinine [Scr] levels [$a \geq 0.5$ mg/dL increase in Scr or doubling of the Scr] and/or myoglobinuria [myoglobin present in urine]); OR

(2) Patient meets ALL of the following [(a), (b), and (c)]:

(a) Patient experienced skeletal-related muscle symptoms; AND

Note: Examples of skeletal-related muscle symptoms include myopathy (muscle weakness) or myalgia (muscle aches, soreness, stiffness, or tenderness).

(b) The skeletal-muscle related symptoms occurred while receiving separate trials of both atorvastatin and rosuvastatin (as single-entity or combination product); AND

(c) When receiving separate trials of both atorvastatin and rosuvastatin (as single-entity or as a combination product) the skeletal-related muscle symptoms resolved upon discontinuation of each respective statin therapy (atorvastatin and rosuvastatin); AND

Note: Examples of skeletal-related muscle symptoms include myopathy and myalgia.

iv. Preferred product criteria is met for the product(s) as listed in the below table(s)

B) Patient Currently Receiving Praluent. Approve if according to the prescriber, the patient has experienced a response to therapy.

Note: Examples of a response to therapy include decreasing low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), total cholesterol, non-high-density lipoprotein (non-HDL-C), or apolipoprotein B levels. Also, if the patient is currently receiving the requested therapy but has not previously received approval of Praluent for this specific indication through Cigna, review under criteria for Initial Therapy. If the patient is restarting therapy with Praluent, Initial Therapy criteria must be met.

4. Primary Hyperlipidemia.* Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

Note: This is not associated with established cardiovascular disease, heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HeFH), or homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH) and may be referred to as combined hyperlipidemia, hypercholesterolemia (pure, primary), dyslipidemia, or increased/elevated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) levels.

1. Initial Therapy. Approve if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, iii, and iv):

i. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND

ii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):

a) Patient has a coronary artery calcium or calcification score ≥ 300 Agatston units [may require prior authorization]; OR

b) Patient has diabetes; AND

iii. Patient meets ONE of the following (a or b):

a) Patient meets ALL of the following [(1), (2), and (3)]:

(1) Patient has tried one high-intensity statin therapy (i.e., atorvastatin ≥ 40 mg daily; rosuvastatin ≥ 20 mg daily [as a single-entity or as a combination product]); AND

(2) Patient has tried the one high-intensity statin therapy above along with ezetimibe (as a single-entity or as a combination product) for ≥ 8 continuous weeks; AND

(3) LDL-C level after this treatment regimen remains ≥ 70 mg/dL; OR

b) Patient has been determined to be statin intolerant by meeting ONE of the following [(1) or (2)]:

(1) Patient experienced statin-related rhabdomyolysis; OR

Note: Rhabdomyolysis is statin-induced muscle breakdown that is associated with markedly elevated creatine kinase levels (at least 10 times the upper limit

of normal), along with evidence of end organ damage which can include signs of acute renal injury (noted by substantial increases in serum creatinine [Scr] levels [a $\geq$ 0.5 mg/dL increase in Scr or doubling of the Scr] and/or myoglobinuria [myoglobin present in urine]).

(2) Patient meets ALL of the following [(a), (b), and (c)]:

(a) Patient experienced skeletal-related muscle symptoms; AND

Note: Examples of skeletal-related muscle symptoms include myopathy (muscle weakness) or myalgia (muscle aches, soreness, stiffness, or tenderness).

(b) The skeletal-muscle related symptoms occurred while receiving separate trials of both atorvastatin and rosuvastatin (as single-entity or combination product); AND

(c) When receiving separate trials of both atorvastatin and rosuvastatin (as single-entity or as a combination product) the skeletal-related muscle symptoms resolved upon discontinuation of each respective statin therapy (atorvastatin and rosuvastatin); AND

Note: Examples of skeletal-related muscle symptoms include myopathy or myalgia.

iv. Preferred product criteria is met for the product(s) as listed in the below table(s)

2. Patient Currently Receiving Praluent. According to the prescriber, the patient has experienced a response to therapy.

Note: Examples of a response to therapy include decreasing low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), total cholesterol, non-high-density lipoprotein (non-HDL-C), or apolipoprotein B levels. Also, if the patient is currently receiving the requested therapy but has not previously received approval of Praluent for this specific indication through Cigna, review under criteria for Initial Therapy. If the patient is restarting therapy with Praluent, Initial Therapy criteria must be met.

Note:

* A patient may have a diagnosis that pertains to more than one FDA-approved indication, therefore, consider review under different approval conditions, if applicable (e.g., a patient with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia or homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia may have established cardiovascular disease, a patient with primary hyperlipidemia may have heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia).

Employer Plans:

Product	Criteria
Praluent (alirocumab)	1. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (A <u>and</u> B): A) Patient meets the above medical necessity criteria; AND B) Patient meets ONE of the following (i <u>or</u> ii): i. Patient meets BOTH of the following (a <u>and</u> b): a) Patient has tried Repatha (evolocumab subcutaneous injection) [may require prior authorization]; AND b) Patient has experienced inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance, according to the prescriber; OR ii. Patient meets BOTH of the following (a <u>and</u> b): a) Patient has heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia; AND

Product	Criteria
	b) Patient is ≥ 8 to < 10 years of age.

Individual and Family Plans:

Product	Criteria
Praluent (alirocumab)	1. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (A <u>and</u> B): A) Patient meets the above medical necessity criteria; AND B) Patient meets ONE of the following (i <u>or</u> ii): i. Patient meets BOTH of the following (a <u>and</u> b): a) Patient has tried Repatha (evolocumab subcutaneous injection) [may require prior authorization]; AND b) Patient has experienced inadequate efficacy or significant intolerance, according to the prescriber; OR ii. Patient meets BOTH of the following (a <u>and</u> b): a) Patient has heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia; AND b) Patient is ≥ 8 to < 10 years of age.

When coverage is available and medically necessary, the dosage, frequency, duration of therapy, and site of care should be reasonable, clinically appropriate, and supported by evidence-based literature and adjusted based upon severity, alternative available treatments, and previous response to therapy.

Receipt of sample product does not satisfy any criteria requirements for coverage.

Conditions Not Covered

Praluent for any other use is considered not medically necessary, including the following (this list may not be all inclusive; criteria will be updated as new published data are available):

- 1. Concurrent use of Praluent with Repatha (evolocumab subcutaneous injection) or Leqvio (inclisiran subcutaneous injection).** Repatha is another PCSK9 inhibitor and should not be used with Praluent.² Leqvio, a small interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) directed to PCSK9 messenger RNA, is a similar product and should not be given with Praluent.³

References

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 13. Greenland P, Blaha MJ, Budoff MJ, et al. Coronary calcium score and cardiovascular risk. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2018;72(4):434-447.
 14. Razavi AC, Agatston AS, Shaw LJ, et al. Evolving role of calcium density in coronary artery calcium scoring and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk. *JACC Cardiovas Imaging*. 2022;15:1648-1662.
 15. Lehker A, Mukherjee D. Coronary calcium risk score and cardiovascular risk. *Curr Vasc Pharmacol*. 2021;19(3):280-284.
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 17. Patel SB, Wyne KL, Afreen S, et al. American Association of Clinical Endocrinology clinical practice guideline on pharmacologic management of adults with dyslipidemia. *Endocrine Pract*. 2025;31:236-262.

Revision Details

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Date
Annual Revision	Updated policy title from Alirocumab to Proprotein Convertase Subtilisin Kexin Type 9 Inhibitors – Praluent. All Indications: Clarified “Initial Therapy” versus “Currently Receiving Praluent” criteria and added additional examples of what is considered a response to therapy; Removed “Use is adjunctive to diet and maximally tolerated statin therapy [unless contraindicated or intolerant]”; Updated the statin	8/15/2024

	intolerance criteria, to clearly define what is considered statin intolerant, with notes and examples also included; Updated the preferred product criteria to include an exception for patients between the ages of 8 and 10 years old with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia; Added a Note: * A patient may have a diagnosis that pertains to more than one FDA-approved indication, therefore, consider review under different approval conditions, if applicable (e.g., a patient with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia or homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia may have established cardiovascular disease, a patient with primary hyperlipidemia may have heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia). Established Cardiovascular Disease: The name of the indication was changed to as stated (previously "Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease"). For <u>Initial Therapy</u>, the specialist physician requirement was removed. The requirement that the low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level after treatment with one high-intensity statin therapy be ≥ 70 mg/dL was changed to ≥ 55 mg/dL. Heterozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia: For <u>Initial Therapy</u>, the age of approval was changed from ≥ 18 years of age to ≥ 8 years of age. The specialist physician requirement was removed. For the requirement that the patient has had genetic confirmation of heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia by mutations in the low-density lipoprotein receptor, apolipoprotein B, proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9, or low-density lipoprotein receptor adaptor protein 1 gene was changed to state that the patient has had phenotypic confirmation of heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia and the above examples moved to a Note. Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia: For <u>Initial Therapy</u>, the specialist physician requirement was removed. The requirement that the patient has had genetic confirmation by two mutant alleles at the low-density lipoprotein receptor, apolipoprotein B, proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9, or low-density lipoprotein receptor adaptor protein 1 gene locus was changed to state that the patient has phenotypic confirmation of homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia and the above examples moved to a Note. The diagnostic criterion which stated that the patient has an untreated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level > 500 mg/dL was changed to > 400 mg/dL. The criterion (which	
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	is in two places [those with an untreated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level > 400 mg/dL and a treated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level ≥ 300 mg/dL]) that both parents of the patient had untreated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels or total cholesterol levels consistent with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia was changed to state that at least one parent of the patient had untreated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels or total cholesterol levels consistent with familial hypercholesterolemia. The related Note that "An example of heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia in both parents would be if both had an untreated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level ≥ 190 mg/dL and/or an untreated total cholesterol level > 250 mg/dL" was changed to state "An example of familial hypercholesterolemia is an untreated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level ≥ 190 mg/dL and/or an untreated total cholesterol level > 250 mg/dL." Primary Hyperlipidemia: For <u>Initial Therapy</u>, the specialist physician requirement was removed. Removed "Individual has a coronary artery calcium or calcification score of 100 or greater Agatston units or 75th percentile or greater for the individual's age, gender and ethnicity [coronary calcium scan may require prior authorization] OR Calculated 10 year ASCVD risk score of 7.5% or higher and replaced with "Patient has a coronary artery calcium or calcification score ≥ 300 Agatston units OR Patient has diabetes". Added a requirement that "Patient has tried the one high-intensity statin therapy (atorvastatin or rosuvastatin) along with ezetimibe (as a single-entity or as a combination product) for ≥ 8 continuous weeks". The requirement that the low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level after treatment with one high-intensity statin therapy, along with ezetimibe, be ≥ 100 mg/dL was changed to ≥ 70 mg/dL.	
Annual Revision	Heterozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia: For <u>Initial Therapy</u>, the phrase "phenotypic confirmation of heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia" was replaced with "The diagnosis has been confirmed by genetic testing". Also, "apo B" was changed to "APOB". Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia: For <u>Initial Therapy</u>, the phrase "phenotypic confirmation of homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia" was replaced with "The diagnosis has been confirmed by genetic testing". Also, "apo B" was changed to "APOB".	8/15/2025

The policy effective date is in force until updated or retired.

APPENDIX A

Simon Broome Register Diagnostic Criteria.^{10,11}

Definite Familial Hypercholesterolemia
Raised cholesterol
--Total cholesterol greater than 6.7 mmol/L (260 mg/dL) or LDL-C > 4.0 mmol/L (155 mg/dL) in a child < 16 years; OR
--Total cholesterol > 7.5 mmol/L (290 mg/dL) or LDL-C > 4.9 mmol/L (190 mg/dL) in an adult (aged > 16 years);
AND
--Tendon xanthomas in the patient or in a first (parent, sibling, or child) or second-degree relative (grandparent, aunt, or uncle);
OR
DNA-based evidence of LDL-receptor, familial defective APOB, or PCSK9 mutation.
Possible (or Probable) Familial Hypercholesterolemia
Raised cholesterol
--Total cholesterol greater than 6.7 mmol/L (260 mg/dL) or LDL-C > 4.0 mmol/L (155 mg/dL) in a child < 16 years; OR
--Total cholesterol > 7.5 mmol/L (290 mg/dL) or LDL-C > 4.9 mmol/L (190 mg/dL) in an adult (aged > 16 years);
AND
Family history of premature myocardial infarction younger than 50 years of age in second-degree relative or younger than 60 years of age in first-degree relative;
OR
Raised cholesterol
--Total cholesterol greater than 6.7 mmol/L (260 mg/dL) or LDL-C > 4.0 mmol/L (155 mg/dL) in a child < 16 years; OR
--Total cholesterol > 7.5 mmol/L (290 mg/dL) or LDL-C > 4.9 mmol/L (190 mg/dL) in an adult (aged > 16 years);
AND
Family history of raised cholesterol > 7.5 mmol (290 mg/dL) in adult first-degree or second-degree relative or > 6.7 mmol/L (260 mg/dL) in child or sibling aged < 16 years.

LDL-C – Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL – Low-density lipoprotein; APOB – Apolipoprotein B; PCSK9 – Proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9.

APPENDIX B.

Dutch Lipid Network Criteria.^{10,11}

Criteria	Score
Family History	
First-degree relative with known premature coronary and/or vascular disease (men < 55 years, women < 60 years)	1
First degree relative with known LDL-C > 95 th percentile for age and sex	1
First-degree relative with tendon xanthomata and/or arcus cornealis, OR	2

Children aged < 18 years with LDL-C > 95 th percentile for age and sex	2
Clinical History	
Patient with premature CAD (age as above)	2
Patient with premature cerebral or peripheral vascular disease (age as above)	1
Physical Examination	
Tendon xanthomas	6
Arcus cornealis at age < 45 years	4
LDL-C	
LDL-C ≥ 8.5 mmol/L (330 mg/dL)	8
LDL-C 6.5 to 8.4 mmol/L (250 to 329 mg/dL)	5
LDL-C 5.0 to 6.4 mmol/L (190 to 249 mg/dL)	3
LDL-C 4.0 to 4.9 mmol/L (155 to 189 mg/dL)	1
DNA analysis	
Functional mutation LDLR, APOB or PCSK9 gene	8
Stratification	Total score
Definite familial hypercholesterolemia	> 8
Probable familial hypercholesterolemia	6 to 8
Possible familial hypercholesterolemia	3 to 5
Unlikely familial hypercholesterolemia	< 3

LDL-C – Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; CAD – Coronary artery disease; LDLR – Low-density lipoprotein receptor; APOB – Apolipoprotein B; PCSK9 – Proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9.

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