



Drug Coverage Policy

Effective Date01/01/2026

Coverage Policy NumberIP0761

Policy TitleDawnzera

Hereditary Angioedema - Dawnzera

- Dawnzera™ (donidalorsen subcutaneous injection – Ionis)

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

Dawnzera, a prekallikrein-directed antisense oligonucleotide, is indicated for **prophylaxis to prevent attacks of hereditary angioedema (HAE)** in adult and pediatric patients ≥ 12 years of age.¹

Guidelines

According to US HAE Association Medical Advisory Board Guidelines (2020), when HAE is suspected based on clinical presentation, appropriate testing includes measurement of the serum C4 level, C1 esterase inhibitor (C1-INH) antigenic level, and C1-INH functional level.² Low C4 plus low C1-INH antigenic or functional level is consistent with a diagnosis of HAE types I/II. The decision on when to use long-term prophylaxis cannot be made on rigid criteria but should reflect the needs of the individual patient. First-line medications for HAE I/II include intravenous C1-INH, Haegarda® (C1-INH [human] subcutaneous injection), or Takhzyro® (lanadelumab-flyo SC injection).

According to World Allergy Organization/European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology guidelines (2021), it is recommended to evaluate for long-term prophylaxis at every visit, taking disease activity, burden, and control as well as patient preference into consideration.³ The following therapies are supported as first-line options for long-term prophylaxis: plasma-derived C1-INH (87% agreement), Takhzyro (89% agreement), and Orladeyo® (berotralstat capsules) [81% agreement]. With regard to plasma-derived C1-INH, it is noted that Haegarda provided very good and dose-dependent preventative effects on the occurrence of HAE attacks; the subcutaneous route may provide more convenient administration and maintain improved steady-state plasma concentrations compared with the intravenous route. Of note, androgens are not recommended in the first-line setting for long-term prophylaxis. Recommendations are not made regarding long-term prophylaxis in HAE with normal C1-INH.

An international consensus paper was published on the diagnosis, pathophysiology, and treatment of HAE-nC1INH.⁴ The paper notes there is a paucity of high-level evidence in HAE-nC1INH and that all recommendations are based on expert opinion. Mutations in six different genes have been linked to HAE-nC1INH; however, the paper also specifies that many patients still lack an identified pathogenic variant for HAE-nC1INH.

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POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is required for benefit coverage of Dawnzera. Approval is recommended for those who meet the **Criteria** and **Dosing** for the listed indication. Extended approvals are allowed if the patient continues to meet the Criteria and Dosing. Requests for doses outside of the established dosing documented in this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis by a clinician (i.e., Medical Director or Pharmacist). All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Dawnzera as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, approval requires Dawnzera to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated. A patient who has previously met initial therapy criteria for Dawnzera for the requested indication under the Coverage Review Department and is currently receiving the requested therapy is only required to meet the continuation therapy criteria (i.e., currently receiving Dawnzera). If past criteria have not been met under the Coverage Review Department and the patient is currently receiving Dawnzera, initial therapy criteria must be met.

Documentation: Documentation will be required where noted in the criteria as **[documentation required]**. Documentation may include, but is not limited to, chart notes, laboratory records,

and prescription claims records. All documentation must include patient-specific identifying information.

Dawnzera is considered medically necessary when the following are met:

FDA-Approved Indication

1. Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) Due to C1 Inhibitor (C1-INH) Deficiency –

Prophylaxis. Approve Dawnzera 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, and iii):

i. Patient is ≥ 12 years of age; AND

ii. Patient has HAE type I or type II as confirmed by the following diagnostic criteria (a and b):

Note: A diagnosis of HAE with normal C1-INH (also known as HAE type III) does NOT satisfy this requirement.

a) Patient has low levels of functional C1-INH protein ($< 50\%$ of normal) at baseline, as defined by the laboratory reference values [**documentation required**]; AND

b) Patient has lower than normal serum C4 levels at baseline, as defined by the laboratory reference values [**documentation required**]; AND

iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist/immunologist or a physician who specializes in the treatment of HAE or related disorders; OR

B) Patient is Currently Receiving Dawnzera. Approve if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):

Note: If the patient is currently receiving the requested therapy but has not previously received approval of Dawnzera for this indication through the Coverage Review Department, review under criteria for Initial Therapy.

i. Patient has a diagnosis of HAE type I or type II [**documentation required**]; AND

Note: A diagnosis of HAE with normal C1-INH (also known as HAE type III) does NOT satisfy this requirement.

ii. According to the prescriber, the patient has had a favorable clinical response since initiating Dawnzera prophylactic therapy compared with baseline (i.e., prior to initiating prophylactic therapy); AND

Note: Examples of a favorable clinical response include decrease in HAE acute attack frequency, decrease in HAE attack severity, or decrease in duration of HAE attacks.

iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist/ immunologist or a physician who specializes in the treatment of HAE or related disorders.

Dosing. Approve 80 mg administered as a subcutaneous injection not more frequently than every 4 weeks.

Conditions Not Covered

Dawnzera 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. Concomitant Use with Other Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) Prophylactic

Therapies. Dawnzera has not been studied in combination with other prophylactic therapies for HAE, and combination therapy for long-term prophylactic use is not recommended. Patients may use other medications, including Cinryze® (C1 esterase inhibitor [human] intravenous infusion), for on-demand treatment of acute HAE attacks, and for short-term (procedural) prophylaxis.

Note: Examples of other HAE prophylactic therapies include Andembry® (garadacimab subcutaneous injection), Cinryze® (C1 esterase inhibitor [human] intravenous infusion), Haegarda® (C1 esterase inhibitor [human] subcutaneous injection), Orladeyo® (berotralstat capsules), and Takhzyro® (lanadelumab-flyo subcutaneous injection).

Coding Information

- 1) This list of codes may not be all-inclusive.
- 2) Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement.

Considered Medically Necessary when criteria in the applicable policy statements listed above are met:

HCPCS Codes	Description
J3490	Unclassified Drugs

References

1. Dawnzera™ subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Carlsbad, CA: Ionis; August 2025.
2. Busse PJ, Christiansen SC, Riedl MA, et al. US HAEA Medical Advisory Board 2020 guidelines for the management of hereditary angioedema. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract.* 2021;9(1):132-150.e3.
3. Maurer M, Magerl M, Betschel S, et al. The international WAO/EAACI guideline for the management of hereditary angioedema: the 2021 revision and update. *Allergy.* 2022;77(7):1961-1990.
4. Zuraw BL, Bork K, Bouillet L, et al. Hereditary angioedema with normal C1 inhibitor: an updated international consensus paper on diagnosis, pathophysiology, and treatment. *Clin Rev Allergy Immunol.* 2025;68:24.

Revision Details

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Date
New	New policy.	01/01/2026

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

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