

Clinical Policy: Megestrol Acetate 125 mg/mL Oral Suspension (Megace ES)

Reference Number: HIM.PA.128

Effective Date: 12.01.17

Last Review Date:

Line of Business: Health Insurance Marketplace

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Megestrol acetate 125 mg/mL oral suspension (Megace[®] ES) is a progestin.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Megace ES is indicated for the treatment of anorexia, cachexia, or an unexplained significant weight loss in patients with a diagnosis of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Limitation(s) of use:

- Therapy with megestrol acetate for weight loss should only be instituted after treatable causes of weight loss are sought and addressed. These treatable causes include possible malignancies, systemic infections, and gastrointestinal disorders affecting absorption, endocrine disease, renal disease, or psychiatric diseases.
- Megestrol acetate is not intended for prophylactic use to avoid weight loss.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (which may include office chart notes and lab results) supporting that member has met all approval criteria

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Request for Megace ES (must meet all):

1. Age \geq 18 years;
2. Member is contraindicated or has experienced clinically significant adverse effects to the excipients in megestrol acetate 40 mg/mL oral suspension (Megace);
3. Dose does not exceed 625 mg (5 mL) per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications: Not applicable

II. Continued Therapy

A. Request for Megace ES (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 625 mg (5 mL) per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications: Not applicable

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III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized: Not applicable

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

Appendix B: General Information

Megace ES (125 mg/mL) is not substitutable with other strengths (e.g., Megace 40 mg/mL).

V. References

1. Megace ES Prescribing Information. Spring Valley, NY: Par Pharmaceutical Companies, Inc.; September 2014. Available at: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2014/021778s018lbl.pdf. Accessed September 1, 2017.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	09.01.17	11.17

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or

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regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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