

## Clinical Policy: Interferon beta-1b (Betaseron, Extavia)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.256

Effective Date: 08/16

Last Review Date: 08/17

[Coding Implications](#)  
[Revision Log](#)

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

### Description

The intent of the criteria is to ensure that patients follow selection elements established by Centene® clinical policy for interferon beta-1b (Betaseron®, Extavia®).

### Policy/Criteria

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that Betaseron and Extavia are **medically necessary** for the following indications:

#### I. Initial Approval Criteria

##### A. Multiple Sclerosis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of clinically isolated syndrome or relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (MS);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  12 years;
4. If age  $\geq$  18 years, failure of Avonex or Plegridy and one of the following: Copaxone, Glatopa, Tecfidera, or Gilenya, at up to maximally indicated doses unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Member will not use other disease modifying therapies for MS concurrently;
6. Dose does not exceed 0.25 mg every other day (1 vial every other day).

**Approval duration: 6 months**

##### B. Other diagnoses/indications: Refer to CP.PHAR.57 - Global Biopharm Policy

#### II. Continued Approval

##### A. Multiple Sclerosis (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met all initial approval criteria;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy (e.g., improved or maintained disease control evidenced by decreased or stabilized Expanded Disability Status Scale score or reduction in relapses or magnetic resonance imaging lesions);
3. Member is not using other disease modifying therapies for MS concurrently;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 0.25 mg every other day (1 vial every other day).

**Approval duration: 12 months**

##### B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy; or
2. Refer to CP.PHAR.57 - Global Biopharm Policy.

**Background**

*Description/Mechanism of Action:*

Betaseron and Extavia are purified, sterile, lyophilized protein products produced by recombinant DNA techniques. Interferon beta-1b is manufactured by bacterial fermentation of a strain of Escherichia coli that bears a genetically engineered plasmid containing the gene for human interferon beta. The mechanism of action of interferon beta-1b in patients with multiple sclerosis is unknown.

*Formulations:*

Betaseron and Extavia are supplied as lyophilized powder in clear glass, single-use vials (3 mL capacity) for reconstitution. Each vial comes with a pre-filled single-use syringe containing 1.2 mL diluent (sodium chloride).

*FDA Approved Indication(s):*

Betaseron is an interferon beta/subcutaneous injection indicated for:

- Treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis to reduce the frequency of clinical exacerbations. Patients with multiple sclerosis in whom efficacy has been demonstrated include patients who have experienced a first clinical episode and have MRI features consistent with multiple sclerosis.

Extavia is an interferon beta/subcutaneous injection indicated for:

- Treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis to reduce the frequency of clinical exacerbations. Patients with multiple sclerosis in whom efficacy has been demonstrated include patients who have experienced a first clinical episode and have MRI features consistent with multiple sclerosis.

**Appendices**

**Appendix A: Abbreviation Key**

DNA: deoxyribonucleic acid

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

MS: multiple sclerosis

**Coding Implications**

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

<b>HCPCS Codes</b>	<b>Description</b>
J1830	Injection interferon beta-1b, 0.25 mg (code may be used for Medicare when drug administered under the direct supervision of a physician, not for use when drug is self-administered)

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
Policy split from CP.PHAR.18 MS Treatments. Criteria: added max dosing, clarified monotherapy restriction, removed re-authorization requirement for documented adherence, updated reasons to discontinue, modified efficacy to “Responding positively to therapy”. Changed renewal approval duration to 12 months; added requirement for the trial and failure of at least 2 preferred regimens from different classes with one being Avonex or plegridy. Removed specific strength requirement from glatiramer.	08/16	08/16
Added age requirement. Applied preferencing to members 18 and over. Removed contraindication, reasons to discontinue, and MRI requirement.	07/17	08/17

**References**

1. Betaseron Prescribing Information. Whippany, NJ: Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals Inc.; April 2016. Available at <http://www.betaseron.com>. Accessed June 14, 2017.
2. Extavia Prescribing Information. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; May 2016. Available at <http://www.extavia.com/>. Accessed June 14, 2017.
3. Goodin DS, Frohman EM, Garmany GP, et al. Disease modifying therapies in multiple sclerosis: Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the MS Council for Clinical Practice Guidelines. *Neurology*. 2002; 58(2): 169-178.
4. Olek MJ. Diagnosis of multiple sclerosis in adults. In: UpToDate, Waltham, MA: Walters Kluwer Health; 2016. Available at [www.UpToDate.com](http://www.UpToDate.com). Accessed June 13, 2017.
5. Costello K, Halper J, Kalb R, Skutnik L, Rapp R. The use of disease-modifying therapies in multiple sclerosis, principles and current evidence – a consensus paper by the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition. July 2016. Accessed June 13, 2017.
6. European Medicines Agency: Betaferon: EPAR – Product Information; April 2017 Accessed June 21, 2017.
7. European Medicines Agency: Extavia: EPAR – Product Information; January 2016.. Accessed June 21, 2017.

**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

## CLINICAL POLICY

### Interferon beta-1b

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 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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**Note: For Medicaid members**, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

**Note: For Medicare members**, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs, and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov> for additional information.

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**Interferon beta-1b**



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