BlueCross BlueShield
Federal Employee Program
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
750 9th St NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20001
1-800-624-5060
Fax 1-877-378-4727

5.75.040

Section:	Prescription Drugs	**Effective Date:**	April 1, 2025
Subsection:	Neuromuscular Drugs	**Original Policy Date:**	April 14, 2023
Subject:	Skyclarys	**Page:**	1 of 4

Last Review Date: March 7, 2025

Skyclarys

Description

Skyclarys (omaveloxolone) capsules

Background
Skyclarys (omaveloxolone) is indicated for the treatment of Friedreich's ataxia, which is a genetic, progressive, neurodegenerative movement disorder, with a typical age of onset between 10 and 15 years. Friedreich's ataxia is caused by mutations in the FXN gene by autosomal recessive inheritance. Affected individuals often develop slurred speech, characteristic foot deformities, irregular curvature of the spine, and cardiomyopathy. The precise mechanism by which Skyclarys exerts its therapeutic effect in patients with Friedreich's ataxia is unknown but may be due to its activation of Nuclear factor-like 2 (Nrf2) pathway which is involved in the cellular response to oxidative stress (1-2).

Regulatory Status
FDA-approved indication: Skyclarys is indicated for the treatment of Friedreich's ataxia in adults and adolescents aged 16 years and older (1).

Treatment with Skyclarys can cause an elevation in hepatic transaminases (ALT and AST). ALT, AST, and total bilirubin should be monitored prior to initiation of Skyclarys, every month for the first 3 months of treatment, and periodically thereafter. If transaminases increase to levels greater than 5 times the upper limit of normal (ULN), or greater than 3 times the ULN with

evidence of liver dysfunction, Skyclarys should be discontinued immediately, and repeat liver function tests as soon as possible (1).

Skyclarys may cause an increase in B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP), a marker of cardiac function. Elevations in BNP may indicate cardiac failure and should prompt an evaluation of cardiac function. Check BNP prior to initiation of Skyclarys. Patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of fluid overload, peripheral edema, palpitations, and shortness of breath (1).

Skyclarys may also cause increases in LDL and reductions in HDL cholesterol. Lipid parameters should be assessed prior to initiation with Skyclarys and monitored periodically during treatment (1).

The safety and effectiveness of Skyclarys in pediatric patients less than 16 years of age have not been established (1).

Related policies

Policy

This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.

Skyclarys may be considered **medically necessary** if the conditions indicated below are met.

Skyclarys may be considered **investigational** for all other indications.

Prior-Approval Requirements

Age 16 years of age or older

Diagnosis

Patient must have the following:

1. Friedreich’s ataxia

AND ALL of the following:

a. Genetic confirmation of Friedreich's ataxia
b. Patient exhibits clinical manifestations of disease (e.g., muscle weakness, decline in coordination, frequent falling)
c. Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) ≥ 40%
d. Prescriber agrees to monitor AST, ALT, and total bilirubin
e. Prescriber agrees to monitor B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) and lipid parameters (including LDL)

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

Age 16 years of age or older

Diagnosis

Patient must have the following:

1. Friedreich's ataxia

AND ALL of the following:

a. Patient has had a clinical benefit from therapy (e.g., slowed decline in limb coordination) **OR** patient has had a reduction in modified Friedreich's Ataxia Rating Scale (mFARS) score of at least 1.5 points from baseline
b. Prescriber agrees to monitor AST, ALT, and total bilirubin
c. Prescriber agrees to monitor B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) and lipid parameters (including LDL)

Policy Guidelines

Pre - PA Allowance

None

Prior - Approval Limits

Quantity 270 capsules per 90 days

Duration 12 months

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Same as above

Rationale

Summary

Skyclarys (omaveloxolone) is indicated for the treatment of Friedreich's ataxia, a genetic neurodegenerative movement disorder. Patients taking Skyclarys should have ALT, AST, bilirubin, BNP, and lipid parameters monitored. The safety and effectiveness of Skyclarys in pediatric patients less than 16 years of age have not been established (1).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of Skyclarys while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

1. Skyclarys [package insert]. Cambridge, MA: Biogen US Corporation; December 2024.
2. Friedreich's Ataxia: National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD). March 15, 2023. https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/friedreichs-ataxia/

Policy History

Date	Action
April 2023	Addition to PA
June 2023	Annual review. Per SME, added initiation requirement for patient to have clinical manifestations of the disease. Also added option for continuation to have a reduction of 1.5 points from baseline in mFARS score
March 2024	Annual review. Per SME, added "including LDL" to monitoring requirements
March 2025	Annual review and reference update

Keywords

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on March 7, 2025 and is effective on April 1, 2025.