

## **Lyrica (pregabalin)**

### **Step Edit Policy**

#### **Description:**

Studies have found gabapentin effective versus a placebo in the treatment of peripheral neuropathy (DPN), postherpetic neuralgia (PHN), and fibromyalgia. A majority of the studies comparing Lyrica to a placebo for the treatment of DPN, PHN and in the management of fibromyalgia excluded patients not responding to gabapentin. This exclusion could bias the data by improving the outcomes for patients taking Lyrica. To date there is no study comparing Lyrica to gabapentin.

#### **Purpose:**

Based on the clinical study available at this time, the Lyrica step edit will require trial and failure of gabapentin prior to receiving Lyrica.

#### **Criteria:**

To avoid member disruption in care, the new criteria affects new prescriptions only. Patients currently taking Lyrica can continue therapy under their coverage.

Benefits cover Lyrica for:

- Adjunctive therapy of partial onset seizures; OR
- Neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN), post herpetic neuralgia (PHN), Fibromyalgia when an adequate treatment course of at least 30 days with the following medication is not effective, contraindicated or not tolerated:
  - Gabapentin

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If deemed an emergency situation and the prescriber is not available, Prior Authorization of Benefits Center can authorize an override for 72 hours or until the next full business day following a holiday weekend upon request from the dispensing pharmacist.