

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont and The Vermont Health Plan

Celebrex® (celecoxib)

Step Therapy Guidelines

DESCRIPTION: Celecoxib inhibits prostaglandin synthesis by decreasing the activity of the enzyme cyclooxygenase-2, which results in the decrease formation of prostaglandin precursors. It does not however inhibit cyclooxygenase-1 at therapeutic concentrations.

INDICATION(S): Treatment of Osteoarthritis
Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis
Treatment of Dysmenorrhea
Treatment of Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS)
Treatment of Adenomatous colorectal polyps due to familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)

REASONS FOR Step Therapy: Cost Potential for misuse Toxicity

CRITERIA for APPROVAL: Patient has failed a 30 day trial of diclofenac (Voltaren®/ Arthrotec®) diflunisal (Dolobid®) etodolac (Lodine®) flurbiprofen (Ansaid®), ibuprofen (Advil®/ Motrin®), indomethacin (Indocin®), Disalcid®/salsitab® (salsalate), Tricosal®/Trilisate® (Magnesium salicylate), mefenamic acid (Ponstel®), ketoprofen (Orudis®), ketorolac (Toradol®), meloxicam (Mobic®), nabumetone (Relafen®), naproxen (Naprosyn® /Anaprox®), sulindac (Clinoril®), oxaprozin (Daypro®), piroxicam (Feldene®).

REASON for DENIAL of BENEFIT: Patient does not meet above criteria.

BENEFIT APPROVAL: Approval for a one year

References:

1. Olin BR, ed. Drug Facts and Comparisons. Facts and Comparisons. St. Louis, 2006.
2. Lacy CF, Armstrong LL, et al. Lexi-Comp's Drug Information Handbook, 15th Ed. Hudson, OH 2007

