Apopyn® (apomorphine hydrochloride injection) is a non-ergoline dopamine agonist. The action is believed to be due to stimulation of post-synaptic dopamine D₂-type receptors within the caudate-putamen in the brain.

Acute, intermittent treatment of hypomobility, "off" episodes ("end-of-dose wearing off" and unpredictable "on/off" episodes) associated with advanced Parkinson’s disease.

CRITERIA for APPROVAL:
1. Patient has been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and has progressed onto stage 4
   AND
2. Patient is concomitantly treated with levodopa
   AND
3. Patient has demonstrated difficulties in his/her management with conventional therapy resulting in “off” episodes
   AND
4. Patient is pre-treated with an antiemetic (except 5HT₃ receptor antagonists)

REASONS for DENIAL of BENEFIT:
1. Patient has a hypersensitivity to Apokyn® or any of its components
2. Patient is concomitantly using a 5HT₃ receptor antagonist
   ▪ 5HT₃ receptor antagonists include: ondansetron (Zofran®), granisetron (Kytril®), dolasetron (Anzemet®), palonosetron (Aloxi®), and alosetron (Lotronex®)
3. Patient does not meet above criteria

RENEWAL CRITERIA: Review of past 3 months demonstrates improved health-related quality of life and 3 months have passed since completion of the last treatment course.

BENEFIT APPROVAL: Initial approval for a period of 3 months. Renewal approval period: 3 months

References: