DESCRIPTION: Biguanides (metformin) decrease hepatic glucose production, decreasing intestinal absorption of glucose, and improve insulin sensitivity (increases peripheral glucose uptake and utilization) and are used to produce glycemic control either alone or in combination with hypoglycemic agents with different mechanisms of action.

INDICATION(S): Treatment of Type II diabetes mellitus (noninsulin dependent) when hyperglycemia cannot be managed with diet and exercise alone.

REASONS FOR Step Therapy:
☐ Cost ☐ Potential for misuse ☐ Toxicity

CRITERIA for APPROVAL: The patient has had a trial and failure of Metformin-generic to Glucophage IR or XR- prior to the following hypoglycemic agents: Fortamet (brand and generic), Glucophage XR, Glumetza (grand and generic) and Riomet. Metformin trial is not necessary for those with estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) below 30 mL/minute/1.73 m²

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

BENEFIT APPROVAL: Approval for two years

References: