Kerendia Prior Authorization with Quantity Limit Program Summary

This program applies to FlexRx Closed, FlexRx Open, FocusRx, GenRx Closed, GenRx Open, Health Insurance Marketplace and KeyRx formularies.

This is a FlexRx Standard and GenRx Standard program.

The BCBS MN Step Therapy Supplement also applies to this program for all Commercial/HIM lines of business.

POLICY REVIEW CYCLE

Effective Date	Date of Origin
04-01-2024	01-01-2022

FDA APPROVED INDICATIONS AND DOSAGE

Agent(s)	FDA Indication(s)	Notes	Ref#
Kerendia® (finerenone) Tablets	To reduce the risk of sustained eGFR decline, end stage kidney disease, cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, and hospitalization for heart failure in adult patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) associated with type 2 diabetes (T2D)		1

See package insert for FDA prescribing information: https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/index.cfm

CLINICAL RATIONALE

Overview	Type 2 diabetes is the leading cause of chronic kidney disease (CKD) worldwide. International guidelines for the management of CKD in patients with type 2 diabetes recommend control of hypertension and hyperglycemia, as well as the use of a renin–angiotensin system (RAS) blocker (an angiotensin-converting–enzyme [ACE] inhibitor or angiotensin-receptor blocker [ARB]) and, more recently, a sodium–glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor.(2) The International Society of Nephrology Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) guidelines recommend ACEIs or ARBs for slowing the progression of CKD in patients with diabetes, with the dose titrated to the highest approved dose that is tolerated. In addition, the KDIGO guidelines also state that glycemic management for patients with type 2 diabetes and CKD should include first-line treatment with metformin and a sodium-glucose contransporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitor, with further drug therapy as needed for glycemic control, (unless pretreatment eGFR less than 20 ml/min). SGLT2 inhibitors have a large effect on reducing CKD progression that appears to be independent of eGFR. Even when glycemic targets are achieved on metformin, an SGLT2 inhibitor should be added for their beneficial effects. The KDIGO guidelines recommend that the selection of an SGLT2 inhibitor should prioritize agents with documented kidney or cardiovascular benefits and take eGFR into account.(8) Of these, canagliflozin and dapagliflozin have obtained FDA approval for reducing the risk of sustained eGFR decline, end-stage kidney disease, cardiovascular death and hospitalization for heart failure in adults with CKD at risk of progression.(4-6) Nonetheless, despite recommended treatment, a risk of CKD progression remains. Evidence supports a pathophysiological role for overactivation of the mineralocorticoid receptor in cardiorenal diseases, including CKD and diabetes, through inflammation and fibrosis that lead to progressive kidney and cardiovascular dysfunction.(2) Finerenone is a nonsteroidal, selective antagonist of the mineralocorticoid receptor (MR), which is activated by aldosterone and cortisol and regulates gene transcription. Finerenone blocks MR mediated sodium reabsorption and MR overactivation in both

	epithelial (e.g., kidney) and nonepithelial (e.g., heart, and blood vessels) tissues. MR overactivation is thought to contribute to fibrosis and inflammation.(1)
Efficacy	The FIDELIO-DKD and FIGARO-DKD studies were randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter studies in adult patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) associated with type 2 diabetes. Both trials excluded patients with known significant non-diabetic kidney disease. All patients were to have a serum potassium less than or equal to 4.8 mEq/L at screening and be receiving standard of care background therapy, including a maximum tolerated labeled dose of an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor or angiotensin receptor blocker. Patients with a clinical diagnosis of chronic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction and persistent symptoms (New York Heart Association class II to IV) were excluded. The starting dose of Kerendia was based on screening eGFR. The dose of Kerendia could be titrated during the study, with a target dose of 20 mg daily. The FIDELIO-DKD patients were followed for 2.6 years and the FIGARO-DKD patients were followed for 3.4 years.(1) At baseline, 99.8% of patients were treated with an ACEi or ARB. Approximately 97% were on an antidiabetic agent (insulin [64.1%], biguanides [44%], glucagon-like peptide-1 [GLP-1] receptor agonists [7%], sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 [SGLT2] inhibitors [5%]), 74% were on a statin, and 57% were on an antiplatelet agent. In the FIGARO-DKD study, background therapies were similar to the FIDELIO-DKD study.(1) In the FIDELO-DKD trial, Kerendia reduced the incidence of the primary composite endpoint of a sustained decline in eGFR of greater than or equal to 40%, kidney failure, or renal death (HR 0.82, 95% CI 0.73-0.93, p=0.001). The treatment effect reflected a reduction in a sustained decline in eGFR of greater than or equal to 40% and progression to kidney failure. Kerendia also reduced the incidence of the composite endpoint of cardiovascular (CV) death, non-fatal myocardial infarction (MI), and non-fatal stroke or hospitalization for heart failure (HR 0.86, 95% CI 0.75-0.99, p=0.034). The treatment effect reflected a reduction in CV death, non-fatal MI, and hospitalization for heart failure. In the FIGARO-DKD study, Kerendia reduced the incidence of the primary composite endpoint of CV death, non-fatal MI, non- fatal stroke or hospitalization for heart failure (HR 0.87, 95% CI 0.76-0.98, p = 0.026). The treatment effect was mainly driven by an effect on hospitalization for heart failure, though CV death also contributed to the treatment effect.(1) At the time of this writing, there are two sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors that are indicated to reduce the risk of kidney disease: Farxiga (dapagliflozin) and the Invokana (canagliflozin) family (Invokana, Invokamet, and Invokamet XR). While an official recommendation for Kerendia is not evident, we recognize the longer time in therapy these SGLT-2 inhibitors have. Thus, we require use of these SGLT-2 inhibitors or FDA contraindication/intolerance/hypersensitivity to same before approving use of Kerendia.(4-6) In the 2022 edition of the American Diabetes Association's Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes, a recommendation was made for patients with chronic kidney disease who are at increased risk for cardiovascular events or chronic kidney disease progression or are unable to use a sodium–glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor. In these patients, a nonsteroidal mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist (finerenone) is recommended to reduce chronic kidney disease progression and cardiovascular events.(7) The International Society of Nephrology Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) guidelines recommend a nonsteroidal mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist (finerenone) with proven kidney or cardiovascular benefit for patients with type 2 diabetes, an eGFR greater than or equal to 25 ml/min per 1.73 m^2, normal serum potassium concentration, and albuminuria (greater than or equal to 30 mg/g [greater than or equal to 3 mg/mmol]) despite maximum tolerated dose of renin–angiotensin system (RAS) blocker. (8)
Safety	Kerendia is contraindicated in patients concomitantly using strong CYP34 inhibitors and in patients with adrenal insufficiency. Treatment with Kerendia should not be initiated if serum potassium is greater than 5 mEq/L. Initiation of treatment with Kerendia is not recommended if estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) is less than 25 mL/min/1.73m^2.(1)

REFERENCES

Number	Reference
1	Kerendia Prescribing information. Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Inc. September 2022.
2	Bakris GL, Agarwal R, Anker SD, et al. "Effects of Finerenone on Chronic Kidney Disease Outcomes in Type 2 Diabetes". N Engl J Med 2020; 383:2219-2229. Available at: https://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa2025845?articleTools=true
3	~~KDIGO 2020 Clinical Practice Guidelines for Diabetes Management in Chronic Kidney Disease. Supplement to Kidney International. Vol 98, Issue 4S, October 2020. Available at: https://kdigo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/KDIGO-2020-Diabetes-in-CKD-GL.pdf.~~ Reference no Longer used.
4	Farxiga Prescribing information. AstraZeneca. July 2022.
5	Invokana Prescribing information. Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. August 2020.
6	Invokamet, Invokamet XR Prescribing information. Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. August 2020.
7	American Diabetes Association Professional Practice Committee. "Chronic Kidney Disease and Risk Management: Standards of Medical care in Diabetes-2022." Diabetes Care 2022; 45(Suppl. 1): S175+-S184. Available at: https://diabetesjournals.org/care/issue/45/Supplement_1
8	KDIGO 2022 Clinical Practice Guidelines for Diabetes Management in Chronic Kidney Disease. Supplement to Kidney International. Vol 102, Issue 5S, November 2022. Available at: https://www.kidney-international.org/article/S0085-2538(22)00507-5/fulltext.

POLICY AGENT SUMMARY PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Target Brand Agent(s)	Target Generic Agent(s)	Strength	Targeted MSC	Available MSC	Final Age Limit	Preferred Status
Kerendia	finerenone tab	10 MG ; 20 MG	M ; N ; O ; Y	N		

POLICY AGENT SUMMARY QUANTITY LIMIT

Target Brand Agent Name(s)	Target Generic Agent Name(s)	Strength	QL Amount	Dose Form	Day Supply	Duration	Addtl QL Info	Allowed Exceptions	Targeted NDCs When Exclusions Exist
Kerendia	Finerenone Tab	10 MG	30	Tablets	30	DAYS			
Kerendia	Finerenone Tab	20 MG	30	Tablets	30	DAYS			

CLIENT SUMMARY – PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Target Brand Agent Name(s)	Target Generic Agent Name(s)	Strength	Client Formulary
Kerendia	finerenone tab	10 MG ; 20 MG	FlexRx Closed ; FlexRx Open ; FocusRx ; GenRx Closed ; GenRx Open ; Health Insurance Marketplace/BasicRx ; KeyRx

CLIENT SUMMARY – QUANTITY LIMITS

Target Brand Agent Name(s)	Target Generic Agent Name(s)	Strength	Client Formulary
Kerendia	Finerenone Tab	20 MG	FlexRx Closed ; FlexRx Open ; FocusRx ; GenRx Closed ; GenRx Open ; Health Insurance Marketplace/BasicRx ; KeyRx
Kerendia	Finerenone Tab	10 MG	FlexRx Closed ; FlexRx Open ; FocusRx ; GenRx Closed ; GenRx Open ; Health Insurance Marketplace/BasicRx ; KeyRx

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION CLINICAL CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL

Module	Clinical Criteria for Approval

Initial Evaluation

Target Agent(s) will be approved when ALL of the following are met:

1. ONE of the following:
   - A. Information has been provided that indicates the patient has been treated with the requested agent (starting on samples is not approvable) within the past 90 days **OR**
   - B. The prescriber states the patient has been treated with the requested agent within the past 90 days AND is at risk if therapy is changed **OR**
   - C. The patient has a diagnosis of chronic kidney disease (CKD) associated with type 2 diabetes and BOTH of the following:
     1. ONE of the following:
        - A. The patient will be using an agent containing an angiotensin-receptor enzyme inhibitor (ACEi) (e.g., lisinopril, captopril) or an agent containing an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) (e.g., losartan, valsartan) at a maximally tolerated dose in combination with the requested agent **OR**
        - B. The patient has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to an agent containing an angiotensin-receptor enzyme inhibitor (ACEi) AND an agent containing an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) **OR**
        - C. The patient has an FDA labeled contraindication to ALL agents containing an angiotensin-receptor enzyme inhibitor (ACEi) AND ALL agents containing an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) **OR**
        - D. The patient's medication history includes use of an agent containing an angiotensin-receptor enzyme inhibitor (ACEi) OR an agent containing an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) in the past 999 days **OR**
        - E. BOTH of the following:
          1. The prescriber has stated that the patient has tried maximally tolerated therapy on an angiotensin-receptor enzyme inhibitor (ACEi) or an agent containing an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) **AND**
          2. Maximally tolerated therapy on an angiotensin-receptor enzyme inhibitor (ACEi) or an agent containing an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) was discontinued due to lack of effectiveness or an adverse event **OR**
        - F. The patient is currently being treated with the requested agent as indicated by ALL of the following:
          1. A statement by the prescriber that the patient is currently taking the requested agent **AND**
          2. A statement by the prescriber that the patient is currently receiving a positive therapeutic outcome on requested agent **AND**

Module	Clinical Criteria for Approval
	3. The prescriber states that a change in therapy is expected to be ineffective or cause harm **OR** G. The prescriber has provided documentation that ALL agents containing an angiotensin-receptor enzyme inhibitor (ACEi) AND ALL agents containing an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) cannot be used due to a documented medical condition or comorbid condition that is likely to cause an adverse reaction, decrease ability of the patient to achieve or maintain reasonable functional ability in performing daily activities or cause physical or mental harm **AND** 2. ONE of the following: A. The patient will be using an agent containing a sodium glucose transport protein 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor that is indicated for use in patients with chronic kidney disease (i.e., canagliflozin, dapagliflozin) in combination with the requested agent **OR** B. The patient has an intolerance or hypersensitivity to an agent containing a sodium glucose transport protein 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor that is indicated for use in patients with chronic kidney disease (i.e., canagliflozin, dapagliflozin) **OR** C. The patient has an FDA labeled contraindication to ALL agents containing a sodium glucose transport protein 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor that is indicated for use in patients with chronic kidney disease (i.e., canagliflozin, dapagliflozin) **OR** D. The patient has chronic kidney disease and is at increased risk for cardiovascular events or chronic kidney disease progression **OR** E. The patient's medication history includes use of an agent containing a sodium glucose transport protein 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor that is indicated for use in patients with chronic kidney disease (i.e., canagliflozin, dapagliflozin) in the past 999 days **OR** F. BOTH of the following: 1. The prescriber has stated that the patient has tried an agent containing a sodium glucose transport protein 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor that is indicated for use in patients with chronic kidney disease (i.e., canagliflozin, dapagliflozin) **AND** 2. The agent containing a sodium glucose transport protein 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor that is indicated for use in patients with chronic kidney disease (i.e., canagliflozin, dapagliflozin)was discontinued due to lack of effectiveness or an adverse event **OR** G. The patient is currently being treated with the requested agent as indicated by ALL of the following: 1. A statement by the prescriber that the patient is currently taking the requested agent **AND** 2. A statement by the prescriber that the patient is currently receiving a positive therapeutic outcome on requested agent **AND** 3. The prescriber states that a change in therapy is expected to be ineffective or cause harm **OR** H. The prescriber has provided documentation that ALL agents containing a sodium glucose transport protein 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor indicated for use in patients with chronic kidney disease (i.e., canagliflozin, dapagliflozin) cannot be used due to a documented medical condition or comorbid condition that is likely to cause an adverse reaction, decrease ability of the patient to achieve or maintain reasonable functional ability in performing daily activities or cause physical or mental harm **OR** D. The patient has another FDA approved indication for the requested agent and route of administration **OR** E. The patient has another indication that is supported in compendia for the requested agent and route of administration **AND** 2. The patient's serum potassium is less than or equal to 5.0 mEq/L **AND**

Module	Clinical Criteria for Approval
	3. The patient's estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) is greater than or equal to 25 mL/min/1.73m^2 **AND** 4. The patient's urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio (UACR) is greater than or equal to 30 mg/g **AND** 5. If the patient has an FDA approved indication, then ONE of the following: A. The patient's age is within FDA labeling for the requested indication for the requested agent **OR** B. The prescriber has provided information in support of using the requested agent for the patient's age for the requested indication **AND** 6. The patient does NOT have any FDA labeled contraindications to the requested agent **Compendia Allowed:** AHFS, or DrugDex 1 or 2a level of evidence **Length of Approval:** 4 months NOTE: If Quantity Limit applies, please refer to Quantity Limit Criteria. **Renewal Evaluation** **Target Agent(s)** will be approved when ALL of the following are met: 1. The patient has been previously approved for the requested agent through the plan's Prior Authorization process **AND** 2. The patient has had clinical benefit with the requested agent **AND** 3. The patient does NOT have any FDA labeled contraindications to the requested agent **Length of Approval:** 12 months NOTE: If Quantity Limit applies, please refer to Quantity Limit Criteria.

QUANTITY LIMIT CLINICAL CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL

Module	Clinical Criteria for Approval
QL with PA	**Quantity Limit for the Target Agent(s)** will be approved when ONE of the following is met: 1. The requested quantity (dose) does NOT exceed the program quantity limit **OR** 2. ALL of the following: A. The requested quantity (dose) exceeds the program quantity limit **AND** B. The requested quantity (dose) does NOT exceed the maximum FDA labeled dose for the requested indication **AND** C. The requested quantity (dose) cannot be achieved with a lower quantity of a higher strength that does not exceed the program quantity limit **OR** 3. ALL of the following: A. The requested quantity (dose) exceeds the program quantity limit **AND** B. The requested quantity (dose) exceeds the maximum FDA labeled dose for the requested indication **AND** C. The prescriber has provided information in support of therapy with a higher dose for the requested indication **Length of Approval:** Initial: 4 months; Renewal: 12 months