STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
Health AND Human
SERVICES

# Vyvgart (efgartigimod alfa-fcab)
## PAM-052

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| **Iowa Medicaid Program:** | Prior Authorization | **Effective Date:** | 07/01/2022 |
| **Revision Number:** | 1 | **Last Rev Date:** | 01/20/2023 |
| **Reviewed By:** | Medicaid Medical Director | **Next Rev Date:** | 01/19/2024 |
| **Approved By:** | Medicaid Clinical Advisory Committee | **Approved Date:** | 01/20/2023 |

## Overview

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| Medication:[1] | efgartigimod alfa-fcab |
| Brand Name: | Vyvgart® |
| Pharmacologic Category: | Neonatal Fc receptor blocker |
| FDA-Approved Indication(s): | Treatment of generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG) in adult patients who are anti-acetylcholine receptor (AChR) antibody positive |
| How Supplied: | Single-dose vial, 400 mg/20 mL (20 mg/mL) |
| Dosage and Administration: | • IV infusion: 10 mg/kg once weekly for 4 weeks (in patients weighing 120 kg or more, the recommended dose is 1,200 mg per infusion).<br>• Administer subsequent treatment cycles based on clinical evaluation.<br>• The safety of initiating subsequent cycles sooner than 50 days from the start of the previous treatment cycle has not been established. |
| Benefit Category: | Medical |

As noted in the prescribing information, immunization with vaccines during Vyvgart® treatment has not been studied. The safety of immunization with live or live-attenuated vaccines and the response to immunization with any vaccine are unknown. Because Vyvgart® causes a reduction in IgG levels, vaccination with live-attenuated or live vaccines is not recommended during treatment with Vyvgart®. Evaluate the need to administer age-appropriate vaccines according to immunization guidelines before initiation of a new treatment cycle with Vyvgart®.

## Descriptive Narrative

Neuromuscular junction (NMJ) disorders comprise several dysfunctions that ultimately lead to muscle weakness. Some of these diseases, such as congenital myasthenic syndromes, are genetic. Other NMJ disorders are acquired autoimmune forms, such as myasthenia gravis, the most prevalent neuromuscular junction disorder. Myasthenia gravis (MG) is characterized by muscle weakness and fatigue. The weakness is due to an antibody-mediated immunologic attack directed at proteins in the postsynaptic membrane of the neuromuscular junction.

Myasthenia gravis can affect all ages, but it is considered "a disease of young women and old men." The most common onset age is between 20 and 39 years in women and between 50 and 70 years in men.[2] Autoimmune myasthenia gravis has a reported worldwide prevalence of 40-180 per million people, and an annual incidence of 4-12 per million people. In the United States, there are an estimated 60,000 patients diagnosed with myasthenia gravis.

Autoimmune myasthenia gravis is characterized by the presence of antibodies against several components of the neuromuscular junctions. The most common antibody found in autoimmune myasthenia gravis is directed against post-synaptic acetylcholine receptors (AChRs). Anti-AChR antibodies are present in approximately 80 percent of all autoimmune MG patients. Less frequent autoantibodies found in autoimmune MG include the anti-muscle-specific kinase (MuSK) antibody (4 percent of the cases) and the anti-lipoprotein receptor-related protein-4 (LRP4) antibody (2 percent of the cases) directed against LPR4. All these auto-antibodies belong to the immunoglobulin G (IgG) class.[3]

## Goals of Therapy

The goals of therapy in myasthenia gravis are to render patients minimally symptomatic or better while minimizing side effects from medications. There are four primary therapies currently used to treat MG. The time of onset of clinical effect of each of these therapies for varies considerably, which plays a large role, in addition to the pace and severity of the disease, in choosing the appropriate therapy for a given patient.[4]

| **Commonly used therapies for myasthenia gravis**[5] (estimated times are rough guidelines based upon clinical experience in MG) | | Time to onset of effect | Time to maximal effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| Symptomatic therapy – *increases the amount of acetylcholine available at the neuromuscular junction* | pyridostigmine | 10-15 minutes | 2 hours |
| Chronic immunotherapies – *target underlying immune dysregulation* | prednisone | 2 to 3 weeks | 5 to 6 months |
| | azathioprine | ~12 months | 1 to 2 years |
| | mycophenolate mofetil | 6 to 12 months | 1 to 2 years |
| | cyclosporine | ~6 months | ~7 months |
| | tacrolimus | ~6 months | ~12 months |
| | efgartigimod alfa | 1 to 2 weeks | ~4 weeks |
| | ravulizumab | 1 to 2 weeks | ~4 to 10 weeks |
| Rapid immunotherapies – *manage myasthenia crisis* | plasmapheresis | 1 to 7 days | 1 to 3 weeks |
| | intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) | 1 to 2 weeks | 1 to 3 weeks |
| Surgery – *therapeutic option in select patients* | thymectomy | 1 to 10 years | 1 to 10 years |

## Outcomes Measurements[6]

| The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America Classification (MGFA) | |
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| MGFA classification separates patients in groups based on disease severity and the localization of the symptoms. | |
| Class I | Any ocular muscle weakness; may have weakness of eye closure. All other muscle strength is normal. |
| Class II | Mild weakness affecting muscles other than ocular, ± ocular muscle weakness of any severity.<br>IIa. Predominantly affecting limb, axial muscles, or both. May also have lesser involvement of oropharyngeal muscles.<br>IIb. Predominantly affecting oropharyngeal, respiratory muscles, or both. May also have lesser or equal involvement of limb, axial muscles, or both. |
| Class III | Moderate weakness affecting muscles other than ocular, ± ocular muscle weakness of any severity.<br>IIIa. Predominantly affecting limb, axial muscles, or both. May also have lesser involvement of oropharyngeal muscles.<br>IIIb. Predominantly affecting oropharyngeal, respiratory muscles, or both. May also have lesser or equal involvement of limb, axial muscles, or both. |
| Class IV | Severe weakness affecting muscles other than ocular, ± ocular muscle weakness of any severity.<br>IVa. Predominantly affecting limb, axial muscles, or both. May also have lesser involvement of oropharyngeal muscles.<br>IVb. Predominantly affecting oropharyngeal, respiratory muscles, or both. May also have lesser or equal involvement of limb, axial muscles, or both. |
| Class V | Defined as intubation, with or without mechanical ventilation, except when employed during routine postoperative management. The use of a feeding tube without intubation places the patient in class IVb. |

| The Myasthenia Gravis Activities of Daily Living (MG-ADL) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The MG-ADL assesses the impact of generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG) on daily functions by assigning a score to 8 signs or symptoms that are commonly affected in gMG, then totaling the individual scores for a composite MG-ADL score. Each item is measured on a 4-point scale, where a score of 0 represents normal function and a score of 3 represents the loss of ability to perform that function. | | | | |
| Grade | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. Talking | Normal | Intermittent slurring or nasal speech | Constant slurring or nasal, but can be understood | Difficult to understand speech |
| 2. Chewing | Normal | Fatigue with solid food | Fatigue with soft food | Gastric tube |
| 3. Swallowing | Normal | Rare episode of choking | Frequent choking necessitating changes in diet | Gastric tube |
| 4. Breathing | Normal | Shortness of breath with exertion | Shortness of breath at rest | Ventilator dependence |
| 5. Impairment of ability to brush teeth or comb hair | None | Extra effort, but no rest periods needed | Rest periods needed | Cannot do one of these functions |
| 6. Impairment of ability to arise from a chair | None | Mild, sometimes uses arms | Moderate, always uses arms | Severe, requires assistance |
| 7. Double vision | None | Occurs, but not daily | Daily, but not constant | Constant |
| 8. Eyelid droop | None | Occurs, but not daily | Daily, but not constant | Constant |

## Guidelines

The International Consensus Guidance for Management of Myasthenia Gravis was last updated in 2020.[7] Vyvgart® was approved by the FDA in December of 2021 and is not yet included in the consensus guidance.

## Criteria

Prior authorization is required.

Vyvgart® is considered medically necessary when **ALL** of the following are met:

1. Documented diagnosis of acetylcholine receptor antibody-positive (AChR-Ab+) generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG); **AND**
2. Member has Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) Clinical Classification of Class II to IV; **AND**
3. Member has a Myasthenia Gravis – Activities of Daily Living (MG-ADL) score of at least 5 or higher, with at least 50 percent of the baseline MG-ADL score due to non-ocular symptoms; **AND**
4. Member is 18 years of age or older; **AND**
5. Member is on a stable dose (for the duration specified, if indicated) of at least ONE (or documentation of inadequate response, intolerance, or labeled contraindication to ALL) of the following standard-of-care treatments for gMG:
    a. Acetylcholine inhibitors (e.g., pyridostigmine); and/or
    b. Steroids (at least 3 months of treatment); and/or
    c. Non-steroidal immunosuppressive therapy, e.g., azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, cyclosporine, mycophenolate mofetil, or tacrolimus (at least 6 months of treatment); **AND**
6. Vyvgart® is not prescribed concurrently with eculizumab (Soliris®), rituximab, ravulizumab (Ultomiris®), or maintenance immunoglobulin treatment; **AND**
7. Prescribed by, or in consultation with, an immunologist, neurologist, or rheumatologist; **AND**
8. The regimen prescribed is within the FDA-approved labeling. If dose or schedule exceeds the FDA-approved regimen, regimen (including dosage) must be supported by clinical practice guidelines (supporting clinical documentation must be provided with any request for which the regimen or dosage prescribed does not align with FDA-approved labeling).

Vyvgart® is considered medically necessary for continuation of therapy when **ALL** of the following are met:

1. Member is currently receiving medication through the Iowa Medicaid benefit or has previously met initial approval criteria; **AND**
2. Documentation of positive clinical response to therapy, as demonstrated by at least a 2-point reduction in the total Myasthenia Gravis Activities of Daily Living (MG-ADL) score from pre-treatment baseline; **AND**
3. Vyvgart® is not prescribed concurrently with eculizumab (Soliris®), rituximab, ravulizumab (Ultomiris®), or maintenance immunoglobulin treatment; **AND**
4. Prescribed by, or in consultation with, an immunologist, neurologist, or rheumatologist; **AND**
5. The regimen prescribed is within the FDA-approved labeling. If dose or schedule exceeds the FDA-approved regimen, regimen (including dosage) must be supported by clinical practice guidelines (supporting clinical documentation must be provided with any request for which the regimen or dosage prescribed does not align with FDA-approved labeling).

## Approval Duration and Quantity Limits

| | Initial Authorization | Subsequent Authorization(s) |
|---|---|---|
| Approval Duration | 6 months | 12 months |
| Quantity Limits | Dose not to exceed 10 mg/kg (1,200 mg per infusion for members 120 kg or more):<br>▪ given once weekly for 4 weeks; **AND**<br>▪ (for subsequent cycles) at least 50 days have passed since the start of the previous cycle. | |

## Coding and Product Information

The following list(s) of codes and product information are provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment, nor does the exclusion of a code imply that its association to the HCPCS code is inappropriate.

| HCPCS | Description |
|---|---|
| J9332 | Injection, efgartigimod alfa-fcab, 2 mg |

| ICD-10 | Description |
|---|---|
| G70.00 | Myasthenia gravis without (acute) exacerbation |
| G70.01 | Myasthenia gravis with (acute) exacerbation |

| NDC | Labeler | Dosage | Pkg Size | Pkg Qty | Units/Pkg |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 73475-3041-05 | argenx US, Inc. | 2 mg | 1 | EA | 200 |

## Compliance

1. Should conflict exist between this policy and applicable statute, the applicable statute shall supersede.
2. Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions or exclusions, take precedence over medical policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage.
3. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and Iowa Medicaid reserves the right to review and update medical policy on an annual or as-needed basis.

Medical necessity guidelines have been developed for determining coverage for member benefits and are published to provide a better understanding of the basis upon which coverage decisions are made. Medical necessity guidelines are developed for selected physician-administered medications found to be safe and proven to be effective in a limited, defined population or clinical circumstances. They include concise clinical coverage criteria based on current literature review, consultation with practicing physicians in the service area who are medical experts in the particular field, FDA and other government agency policies, and standards adopted by national accreditation organizations. Criteria are revised and updated annually, or more frequently if new evidence becomes available that suggests needed revisions.

## References

[1] Vyvgart prescribing information (04/2022). argenx US, Inc.: Boston, MA. Available online at www.vyvgarthcp.com. Accessed November 4, 2022.

[2] Bubuioc AM, Kudebayeva A, Turuspekova S, Lisnic V, Leone MA. The epidemiology of myasthenia gravis. J Med Life. 2021 Jan-Mar;14(1):7-16. PMID: 33767779; PMCID: PMC7982252.

[3] Gilhus NE, Verschuuren JJ. Myasthenia gravis: subgroup classification and therapeutic strategies. Lancet Neurol. 2015 Oct;14(10):1023-36. PMID: 26376969.

[4] Bird SJ. Overview of the treatment of myasthenia gravis. Goddeau RP, ed. UpToDate. Waltham, MA: UpToDate Inc. www.uptodate.com. Accessed December 23, 2022.

[5] Bird SJ. Chronic immunotherapy for myasthenia gravis. Goddeau RP, ed. UpToDate. Waltham, MA: UpToDate Inc. www.uptodate.com. Accessed December 23, 2022.

[6] Barnett C, Herbelin L, Dimachkie MM, Barohn RJ. Measuring Clinical Treatment Response in Myasthenia Gravis. Neurol Clin. 2018 May;36(2):339-353. PMID 29655453.

[7] Narayanaswami P, Sanders DB, et al. International Consensus Guidance for Management of Myasthenia Gravis: 2020 Update. Neurology. 2021 Jan 19;96(3):114-122. Epub 2020 Nov 3. PMID: 33144515; PMCID: PMC7884987.

Development of utilization management criteria may also involve research into other state Medicaid programs, other payer policies, consultation with experts and review by the Medicaid Clinical Advisory Committee (CAC). These sources may not be referenced individually unless they are specifically published and are otherwise applicable to the criteria at issue.

## Criteria Change History

| Change Date | Changed By | Description of Change | Version |
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| **Signature** | | | |

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| Change Date | Changed By | Description of Change | Version |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01/20/2023 | CAC | Criteria implementation. | 1 |
| **Signature**<br>William (Bill) Jagiello, DO | |  | |

CAC = Medicaid Clinical Advisory Committee