



**Aprepitant (Emend®)**

**Revision: 2**

**Policy Number: M-0049**

**Last Update: 6/4/2014**

Payment will not be made for any use of these drugs outside of the criteria without prior authorization. The member may not be billed unless the member explicitly agrees in writing to be responsible for the charges in accordance with the contract/provider manual. Prior authorization will only be given if the provider demonstrates the intended use meets Medicare coverage guidelines.

**Coverage Guidelines:**

**FDA**

- In combination with other antiemetic agents for the:
  - Prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of highly emetogenic cancer chemotherapy (HEC) including high-dose cisplatin
  - Prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of moderately emetogenic cancer chemotherapy (MEC)

**Coding Information:**

HCPCS Code(s)

J8501	Aprepitant, oral, 5 mg
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**Indications:**

The evidence is adequate to conclude that the use of the oral anti-emetic 3-drug combination of aprepitant (Emend®), a 5-HT3 antagonist, and dexamethasone is reasonable and necessary for a specified patient population. We have defined the patient population for which the use of the oral anti-emetic 3-drug combination of aprepitant (Emend®), a 5-HT3 antagonist, and dexamethasone is reasonable and necessary as only those patients who are receiving one or more of the following anti-cancer chemotherapeutic agents:

- Alemtuzumab
- Azacitidine
- Bendamustin



- Carboplatin
- Carmustine
- Cisplatin
- Clofarabine
- Cyclophosphamide
- Cytarabine
- Dacarbazine
- Daunorubicin
- Doxorubicin
- Epirubicin
- Idarubicin
- Ifosfamide
- Irinotecan
- Lomustine
- Mechlorethamine
- Oxaliplatin
- Streptozocin

**Limitations:**

Emend is prescribed with an oral 5-HT3 receptor antagonist and oral dexamethasone. Covers oral antiemetics that are:

- Used as a full therapeutic replacement for an IV antiemetic that otherwise would have been administered at the time of chemotherapy treatment.
- Administered within 2 hours before and 48 hours after administration of the chemotherapy drug.



- Prescribed for a patient receiving 1 or more of the following anticancer chemotherapeutic agents listed above.

**Background:**

Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) can range from mild to severe, with the most severe cases resulting in dehydration, malnutrition, metabolic imbalances, and potential withdrawal from future chemotherapy treatments. The incidence and severity of CINV are influenced by the specific chemotherapeutic agent(s) used; dosage, schedule and route of administration; and drug combinations. Patient specific risk factors such as sex, age, history of motion sickness, and prior exposure to chemotherapeutic agents can also have an effect on CINV incidence and severity. Progress has been made in reducing CINV, although it can still be hard to control symptoms that occur more than a day after chemotherapy, during repeat cycles of chemotherapy, and when chemotherapy is given on more than one day or in very high doses. No single anti-emetic agent is completely effective in all patients. As noted above, many factors influence the incidence and severity of CINV, with the specific chemotherapeutic agent as the primary factor to consider when deciding which anti-emetic to administer. Aprepitant (Emend®) is the first Food and Drug Administration-approved drug of its type. Aprepitant has been proposed to function in combination with other oral anti-emetics for a specified population of Medicare patients receiving highly emetogenic chemotherapy.

Emend is given for 3 days as part of a regimen that includes a corticosteroid and a 5-HT3 receptor antagonist. The recommended dosage of EMEND is 125 mg orally 1 hour before chemotherapy treatment (Day 1) and 80 mg once daily in the morning on Days 2 and 3.

**Definitions:**

HCPCS Code—Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System - A system of letter and number codes assigned to procedures, medications, supplies and equipment used for pricing and billing.

ICD-9 Code—International Classification of Disease, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. A standardized classification of disease, injuries, and causes of death, by etiology and anatomic localization and codified into a 6-digit number, which allows clinicians, statisticians, politicians, health planners and others to speak a common language, both US and internationally.

**References:**

1. National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Aprepitant for Chemotherapy-Induced Emesis (110.18) (Version 1). Available at: <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=309&ncdver=1&bc=AgAAgAAAAAA&>. Accessed December 5, 2013.



2. Emend [Package Insert]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck; 2006. Available at: [http://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi\\_circulars/e/emend/emend\\_pi.pdf?WT.mc\\_id=N02N3/](http://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/e/emend/emend_pi.pdf?WT.mc_id=N02N3/) Accessed December 5, 2013.
3. Emend Micromedex. Available at: [http://www.thomsonhc.com/micromedex2/librarian/ND\\_T/evidencexpert/ND\\_PR/evidencexpert/CS/024C5D/ND\\_AppProduct/evidencexpert/DUPLICATIONSHIELDSYNC/F765FD/ND\\_PG/evidencexpert/ND\\_B/evidencexpert/ND\\_P/evidencexpert/PFActionId/evidencexpert.DisplayDrugpointDocument?docId=927719&contentSetId=100&title=Aprepitant&servicesTitle=Aprepitant&topicId=dosingAndIndicationsSection&subtopicId=fdaSection](http://www.thomsonhc.com/micromedex2/librarian/ND_T/evidencexpert/ND_PR/evidencexpert/CS/024C5D/ND_AppProduct/evidencexpert/DUPLICATIONSHIELDSYNC/F765FD/ND_PG/evidencexpert/ND_B/evidencexpert/ND_P/evidencexpert/PFActionId/evidencexpert.DisplayDrugpointDocument?docId=927719&contentSetId=100&title=Aprepitant&servicesTitle=Aprepitant&topicId=dosingAndIndicationsSection&subtopicId=fdaSection). Accessed December 5, 2013.
4. CMS Manual System Pub. 100-03 Medicare National Coverage Determinations (Transmittal 40): Coverage of Aprepitant for Chemotherapy-Induced Emesis. Available at: <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R40NCD.pdf>. Accessed December 5, 2013.
5. CMS Manual System Pub. 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing (Transmittal 590): Aprepitant for Chemotherapy-Induced Emesis. Available at: <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R590CP.pdf>. Accessed December 5, 2013.
6. Local Coverage Determination Oral Antiemetic Drugs (Replacement for Intravenous Antiemetics). (L11560). Available at : [http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=11560&ContrlId=140&ver=47&ContrVer=2&articleId=25511&CtrctrSelected=140\\*2&Date=01%2f01%2f2012&DocId=A25511&IsPopup=y&](http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=11560&ContrlId=140&ver=47&ContrVer=2&articleId=25511&CtrctrSelected=140*2&Date=01%2f01%2f2012&DocId=A25511&IsPopup=y&). Accessed June 4, 2014.

**Document History:**

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