OKLAHOMA Health Care Authority | Serving Oklahomans through SoonerCare

August 30, 2024

RE: Prior Authorization of Riluzole Tablets – Effective September 16, 2024

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) is engaged in an effort to improve the safety and quality of care for SoonerCare members receiving the medication riluzole tablets (brand name: Rilutek®), which were prescribed for various off-label diagnoses. The goal is to bring the care for these members into closer alignment with accepted best practice recommendations. Accomplishing this goal requires changes to the coverage criteria. SoonerCare will end coverage without prior authorization (PA) as of September 16, 2024, and the updated approval criteria are included below.

The decision to end coverage of riluzole for off-label diagnoses was based on weighing the risks and benefits of the medication for diagnoses other than for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). ALS is the only diagnosis the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved for riluzole. Members who are receiving riluzole from a neurologist or other specialist with expertise in the treatment of ALS and have a documented diagnosis of ALS within the past year in their SoonerCare claims history have been approved for continued therapy. For treatment of various off-label conditions, the research studies' results were mixed and did not justify the use of riluzole in consideration of its risks with questionable benefits.

Members who may be affected by this change in policy have been sent a letter notifying them and advising them to contact their prescriber for further evaluation and diagnosis confirmation. Prescribers have also been sent a letter notifying them of this change and providing them with a list of their affected members. Members currently utilizing riluzole tablets for off-label diagnoses will be allowed to continue therapy for 1 month (starting August 16, 2024) to facilitate a medication taper. Riluzole tablets should be discontinued prior to September 16, 2024.

Rilutek® (Riluzole Oral Tablet) Approval Criteria:

1. An FDA approved diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); and
2. Must be prescribed by a neurologist or other specialist with expertise in the treatment of ALS (or an advanced care practitioner with a supervising physician who is a neurologist or other specialist with expertise in the treatment of ALS); and
3. A quantity limit of 60 tablets per 30 days will apply

Thank you for the service you provide to Oklahomans insured by SoonerCare!