Harvard Pilgrim Health Care | TUFTS Health Plan

Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines:

Short Bowel Syndrome Agents: Gattex® (teduglutide), Zorbtive® (somatropin)

Effective: April 14, 2026

Guideline Type	☒ Prior Authorization ☐ Non-Formulary ☐ Step-Therapy ☐ Administrative

Applies to:

Commercial Products

☒ Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Commercial products; Fax: 617-673-0988

☒ Tufts Health Plan Commercial products; Fax: 617-673-0988

Public Plans Products

☒ Tufts Health Direct – A Massachusetts Qualified Health Plan (QHP) (a commercial product); Fax: 617-673-0988

Note: While you may not be the provider responsible for obtaining prior authorization, as a condition of payment you will need to ensure that prior authorization has been obtained.

Overview

Food and Drug Administration – Approved Indications

Gattex (teduglutide) is a glucagon-like peptide-2 analog indicated for the treatment of adults and pediatric patients 1 (one) year of age and older with Short Bowel Syndrome who are dependent on parenteral support.

Zorbtive (somatropin) is a human growth hormone indicated for the treatment of Short Bowel Syndrome in patients receiving specialized nutritional support.

Clinical Guideline Coverage Criteria

The plan may authorize coverage of Gattex or Zorbtive for Members when all of the following criteria are met:

1. Documented diagnosis of Short Bowel Syndrome

AND

2. Documentation the patient is dependent on parenteral support (e.g., parenteral nutrition, intravenous infusions)

Limitations

1. Authorizations for Zorbtive will be limited to one (1) month.
2. For a non-formulary medication request, please refer to the Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines for Formulary Exceptions and submit a formulary exception request to the plan as indicated.

Codes

None

References

1. Zorbtive (somatropin) [prescribing information]. Rockland, MA: Serono Inc; November 2003.
2. Gattex (teduglutide) [prescribing information]. Lexington, MA: Shire-NPS Pharmaceuticals, Inc; September 2025.

Approval And Revision History

September 13, 2022: Reviewed by the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee.

- July 11, 2023: No changes
- June 11, 2024: No changes (eff 6/11/24)
- April 8, 2025: Updated coverage criteria for parental nutrition requirements for Zorbtive to mirror Gattex (eff 5/1/25)
- April 14, 2026: Administrative update to remove CareLink from the Medical Necessity Guideline template.

Background, Product and Disclaimer Information

Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines have been developed for determining coverage for plan benefits and are published to provide a better understanding of the basis upon which coverage decisions are made. The plan makes coverage decisions on a case-by-case basis considering the individual member's health care needs. Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines are developed for selected therapeutic classes or drugs found to be safe, but proven to be effective in a limited, defined population of patients 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. The plan revises and updates Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines annually, or more frequently if new evidence becomes available that suggests needed revisions.

For self-insured plans, coverage may vary depending on the terms of the benefit document. If a discrepancy exists between a Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guideline and a self-insured Member’s benefit document, the provisions of the benefit document will govern.

Treating providers are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. The use of this policy is not a guarantee of payment or a final prediction of how specific claim(s) will be adjudicated. Claims payment is subject to member eligibility and benefits on the date of service, coordination of benefits, referral/authorization and utilization management guidelines when applicable, and adherence to plan policies and procedures and claims editing logic.