

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Clinical Programs</b>	<b>SECTION: 2.12</b>
<b>Program:</b>	<b>Angiotensin Receptor Blockers</b>	

**DESCRIPTION**

In order to assure appropriate prescribing according to JNC-IV guidelines, State Sponsored Programs requires WellPoint Pharmacy Management (WPM) Prior Authorization Center to review requests for angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) prior to being dispensed.

ARBs are indicated for hypertension. Hypertension drug therapy should be initiated with a diuretic or beta blocker unless a concomitant disease state requires other therapy. ARBs have not been shown to be more effective than Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) inhibitors in patients with hypertension and should be reserved for patients who experience adverse reactions or have a contraindication to ACE inhibitors.

<b>Medication</b>	<b>Strength</b>
Atacand	<b>Tablets:</b> 4mg, 8mg, 16mg, 32mg
Atacand HCT	<b>Tablets:</b> 16/12.5mg, 32/12/5mg
Avalide	<b>Tablets:</b> 105/12.5mg, 300/12.5mg
Avapro	<b>Tablets:</b> 150mg, 300mg
Azor	<b>Tablets:</b> 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 40mg
Benicar	<b>Tablets:</b> 5mg, 20mg, 40mg
Cozaar	<b>Tablets:</b> 25mg, 50mg, 100mg
Diovan	<b>Tablets:</b> 80mg, 160mg
Diovan HCT	<b>Tablets:</b> 80/12.5mg, 160/12/5mg
Exforge	<b>Tablets:</b> 5mg, 10mg, 160mg, 320mg
Hyzaar	<b>Tablets:</b> 50/12.5mg, 100/25mg
Lotensin HCT	<b>Tablets:</b> 5/6.25mg
Micardis	<b>Tablets:</b> 40mg, 80mg
Micardis HCT	<b>Tablets:</b> 40/12.5mg, 80/12.5mg
Teveten	<b>Tablets:</b> 400mg, 600mg

**OVERRIDE(S)**

Prior Authorization

**APPROVAL CRITERIA & DURATION:**

Lifetime

An Angiotensin Receptor Blocker may be deemed **MEDICALLY NECESSARY** if:

- Beta blockers and/or diuretics are contraindicated or not medically appropriate due to concomitant disease states, drug interactions, or adverse events AND
- Patient has failed a trial with an ACE inhibitor due to adverse events

**If deemed an emergency situation and the prescriber is NOT available, WPM Prior Authorization of Benefits Center can authorize an override for 72 hours or until the next full business day following a holiday weekend upon request from the dispensing pharmacist.**