

## Payment Policy | Oral Anti-Emetics



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12|07|2010  
**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 08|20|2013

### OVERVIEW

An anti-emetic drug is used to reduce or prevent nausea and vomiting.

### PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior Authorization is not required.

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### BlueCHiP for Medicare

Oral antiemetics are covered under Part B **ONLY** under the following circumstances:

- when provided by the facility/physician administering chemotherapy as a full replacement for an intravenous Anti-emetic drug as part of a Cancer Chemotherapeutic regimen. (This includes situations where the patient's dosage will extend beyond the day of chemotherapy (i.e. three drug combination antiemetics))

In all other situation, oral antiemetics are covered under the member's Part D benefit.

#### All other Products

Oral antiemetic drugs are self administered and covered under the pharmacy benefit.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

None.

### BACKGROUND

An anti-emetic drug is most commonly used for nausea associated with chemotherapy or radiotherapy. The medication is typically given before administration of the treatment in order to block the chemicals from activating the brain's nausea center. Anti-emetics may be taken orally, by injection, or by suppository.

### COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate benefit booklet, subscriber agreement, or subscriber agreement for the applicable benefits/coverage.

### CODING

The following codes are covered for BlueCHiP for Medicare members as a Part B benefit:

J8498, J8501, J8540, J8597, Q0161, Q0162, Q163, Q0164, Q0165, Q166, Q0167, Q0168, Q0169, Q0173, Q0174, Q0175, Q0177, Q0180, Q0181, S0119

### RELATED POLICIES

None

## PUBLISHED

Provider Update	Nov 2013
Provider Update	Jan 2013
Provider Update	Jan 2012
Provider Update	Feb 2011

## REFERENCES

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