OVERVIEW

Anabolic steroids have high abuse potential and safety concerns. However, appropriate clinical indications do exist. The word “anabolic” refers to muscle building. Anabolic are used to treat muscle loss, anemia, and hormone related conditions. Anabolics also have androgenic properties which can lead to increased male sex characteristics. Danazol suppresses the pituitary-ovarian axis and has week androgenic activity. For the treatment of hereditary angioedema, danazol corrects primary biochemical abnormalities of HAE by increasing levels of C1 esterase inhibitor and thus increase C4 serum levels.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior approval is recommended for the specified medication to evaluate for cosmetic/athletic enhancement or excluded uses. For testosterone products, please refer to MMO Testosterone Injection, Oral Testosterone, and Pellet Prior Criteria or MMO Topical Testosterone Criteria.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of anabolic drugs or danazol is recommended in those who meet the following criteria:

1. Hereditary angioedema.
2. Endometriosis.
3. Fibrocystic Breast Disease.
4. Adjunctive therapy for weight gain after surgery, chronic infection, severe trauma, patients whom fail to maintain a normal weight without a pathophysiologic reason, to offset protein catabolism associated with corticosteroids, or the relief of bone pain accompanying osteoporosis.
5. Anemia/stimulation of erythropoiesis.
   a. The patient has tried and failed, intolerant, or unable to receive erythropoiesis stimulating agents.
CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Anabolic or danazol will not be covered for the following conditions. (Note: This is not an exhaustive list of Conditions Not Recommended for Approval.)

1. Performance enhancement.

Approval Duration: 365 days (1 year)

REFERENCES