OVERVIEW
Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) exhibit anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antipyretic activities and are used for a variety of conditions. The mechanism of action of NSAIDs is related to prostaglandin synthetase inhibition. NSAIDs inhibit both cyclooxygenase (COX)-1, and COX-2 isoenzymes at therapeutic doses. In Arthrotec, diclofenac sodium is combined with misoprostol, a gastrointestinal (GI) mucosal protective prostaglandin E1 analog. In Vimovo™, naproxen is combined with esomeprazole magnesium (Nexium®), a PPI. In Duexis®, ibuprofen is combined with famotidine, a histamine H₂-receptor antagonist (H₂-RA). The individual components of the combination products are available separately. Zorvolex™ (diclofenac capsules) and Vivlodex™ (meloxicam capsules) are not interchangeable with other diclofenac and meloxicam products.

POLICY STATEMENT
A step therapy program has been developed to encourage the use of two generic Step 1a products prior to the use of a Step 2a product (Vimovo and Duexis not included). For Vimovo (Step 2b), patients are required to try one prescription naproxen product (Step 1b) and one prescription proton pump inhibitor product (PPI) [Step 1b] prior to Vimovo. For Duexis (Step 2c), patients are required to try one prescription oral ibuprofen product (Step 1c) product and one prescription oral histamine H₂-receptor antagonist (H₂-RA) [Step 1c]. If the step therapy rule is not met for a Step 2 agent (a, b or c) at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the step therapy criteria below. All approvals are provided for 12 months in duration.

AUTOMATION: Patients with a history of two Step 1a drugs within the 130-day look-back period are excluded from step therapy (note: Vimovo and Duexis are not included in this Step). For Vimovo (Step 2b), patients with a history of both one prescription PPI and one naproxen product within the 130-day look-back period are excluded from step therapy. For Duexis (Step 2c), patients with a history of both one prescription H₂-RA and one prescription oral ibuprofen product within the 130-day look-back period are excluded from step therapy.

Generic NSAIDs
Step 1a NSAIDs (generic):
- diclofenac sodium (IR and ER)
- diclofenac potassium
- diclofenac sodium and misoprostol
- diclofenac sodium topical solution 1.5% *
- etodolac (IR and ER)
- fenoprofen
- flurbiprofen
- ibuprofen
- indomethacin (IR and ER)
- ketoprofen (IR and ER)
- ketorolac [tablets]
- meclofenamate
- mefenamic acid
- meloxicam

Step 2a NSAID (brand):
- Anaprox, Anaprox DS
- Feldene
- Piroxicam

Step 2b NSAID (brand):
- Anaprox DS
- Feldene
- Piroxicam
Ansaid
Arthrotec
Cambia
Cataflam
Daypro
Diclofenac sodium 1% topical gel*
Fenoprofen (brand)
Fenortho
Flector Patch*
Indocin
Klofensaid II 1.5%*
Lodine
Mobic
Motrin
Nalfon
Naprelan
Naprosyn, EC-Naprosyn
Pennsaid 1.5% and 2%*
Sprix
Tivorbex
Voltaren XR
Voltaren Gel 1%
Zipsor
Zorvolex
* Denotes topical product

Vimovo
Step 1b (brand or generic):
  Prescription naproxen sodium
  AND
  Prescription dexlansoprazole
  Prescription esomeprazole magnesium
  Prescription esomeprazole strontium
  Prescription lansoprazole
  Prescription omeprazole

Step 2b NSAID:
  Vimovo

Duexis
Step 1c (brand or generic):
  Prescription ibuprofen (oral)
  AND
  Prescription cimetidine (oral)
  Prescription famotidine (oral)

Step 2c NSAID:
  Duexis

CRITERIA

Generic NSAIDs
1. If a patient has tried two different generic prescription-strength NSAIDs for the current condition, then authorization for a brand name NSAID may be given. Note: Celecoxib is accepted as a generic NSAID. Also, over-the-counter (OTC) NSAIDs count as alternatives when the patient used prescription-strength doses.

2. For patients who have difficulty swallowing or cannot swallow, authorization may be given for Sprix, Pennsaid 2%, Flector Patch, Klofensaid II, diclofenac sodium 1% topical gel, or Voltaren Gel if the patient has tried generic diclofenac sodium topical solution 1.5%.

3. For patients with a chronic musculoskeletal pain condition (e.g., OA) who will be applying Pennsaid 2%, Klofensaid II, diclofenac sodium 1% topical gel, or Voltaren Gel to ≤ 3 joints/sites (i.e., hand, wrist, elbow, knee, ankle, or foot each count as one joint site) who are at risk of NSAID-associated toxicity (e.g., patients with a previous GI bleed, history of peptic ulcer disease, impaired renal function, CV disease, hypertension, heart failure, elderly patients with impaired
hepatic function or taking concomitant anticoagulants) authorization for Pennsaid 2%, Klofensaid II, diclofenac sodium 1% topical gel, or Voltaren Gel may be given if the patient has tried generic diclofenac sodium topical solution 1.5%. Significantly lower blood levels are achieved with the topical NSAIDs compared to the oral NSAIDs.

4. For patients ≥ 75 years of age with hand or knee OA, authorization may be given for Pennsaid 2%, Klofensaid II, diclofenac sodium 1% topical gel, or Voltaren Gel if the patient has tried generic diclofenac sodium topical solution 1.5%. The 2012 ACR OA guidelines state that in patients ≥ 75 years of age, topical NSAIDs are preferred over oral NSAIDs for hand and knee OA. 33

**Vimovo**

1. Coverage of Vimovo is recommended if the patient has tried both one prescription proton pump inhibitor (PPI) [e.g., omeprazole, lansoprazole, pantoprazole] and one prescription naproxen product (brand or generic). Coverage of Vimovo is not recommended if the patient has only tried OTC naproxen, other NSAIDs besides naproxen, a COX-2 inhibitor (Celebrex), or OTC PPIs.

**Duexis**

1. Coverage of Duexis is recommended if the patient has tried both one prescription histamine2 receptor antagonist (H2RA) [e.g., famotidine, ranitidine, nizatidine] and one prescription ibuprofen product (brand or generic). Coverage of Duexis is not recommended if the patient has only tried OTC ibuprofen, other NSAIDs besides ibuprofen, a COX-2 inhibitor (Celebrex), or OTC H2RAs.

**References**

- Duexis® tablets [prescribing information]. Deerfield, IL: Horizon Pharma; November 2012.
- Flector® Patch [prescribing information]. Bristol, TN: King Pharmaceuticals; August 2011.
atol in...
- Roth SH, Fuller P. Pooled safety analysis of diclofenac sodium topical solution 1.5% (w/w) in the treatment of osteoarthritis in patients aged 75 years or older. *Clin Interv Aging*. 2012;7:127-137.