

**Vfend<sup>®</sup>**

**To Initiate a Coverage Review, call 1 800 753-2851**

**Covered Medication**

Voriconazole (*Vfend<sup>®</sup>*)

**What It Does and How It's Used**

- Voriconazole is a triazole antifungal agent used in the treatment of invasive aspergillosis and serious fungal infections that are refractory to other agents. It is also indicated in the treatment of esophageal candidiasis and other *Candida* infections in areas of the abdomen, kidney, bladder wall, skin, and wounds.
- The mechanism of action of voriconazole is the inhibition of fungal cell wall synthesis.
- The initiation of voriconazole therapy is started once the individual can tolerate oral medications. Oral administration usually follows intravenous administration of voriconazole in a hospital setting.
- The use of voriconazole has been associated with liver toxicity and this drug is associated with many drug to drug interactions.

**Rationale for Prior Authorization**

To reduce exposure to cost associated with the use of voriconazole for conditions such as esophageal candidiasis or urinary fungal infections when the use of a less costly antifungal agent may be an option.

**Benefit Design**

Coverage for voriconazole tablets (*Vfend<sup>®</sup>*) is provided immediately without requiring a coverage authorization process in situations where a prescription for a systemic antifungal agent exists in claim history within the previous 12 months.

In situations where a systemic antifungal agent prescription does not exist in claim history during the previous 12 months, coverage is provided for up to 7 days of voriconazole tablets (*Vfend<sup>®</sup>*).

Coverage for more than 7 days treatment is provided through prior authorization in accord with the following criteria.

**Coverage Authorization Criteria**

- Coverage is provided only for the treatment of invasive aspergillosis or other serious systemic fungal infections.
- The prescriber will be informed of the following:
  - Coadministration of voriconazole and rifampin, rifabutin, carbamazepine, long-acting barbiturates, sirolimus, pimozide, quinidine, or ergot alkaloids is contraindicated.
  - Hepatic toxicity related fatalities have occurred with *Vfend<sup>®</sup>*. Discontinue *Vfend<sup>®</sup>* where clinical signs and symptoms of liver disease are present. Adjust dosage in patients with hepatic insufficiency.
  - Vfend<sup>®</sup>* has increased toxicity and is no more effective for treating fungal infections such as esophageal candidiasis vs. other available antifungal agents.
- Coverage duration: 12 months

**References**

Denning D. et al. Efficacy and Safety of Voriconazole in the Treatment of Acute Invasive Aspergillosis. *Clinical Infectious Disease*. 2002; 34:563-71.

Product Information: Voriconazole tablets (*Vfend<sup>®</sup>* - Pfizer) 2006.

Walsh T. et al. Voriconazole compared with liposomal amphotericin B for empirical antifungal therapy in patients with neutropenia and persistent fever. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2002; 341:225-34.