# Clinical Policy: Degarelix Acetate (Firmagon)

Reference Number: LA.PHAR.170
Effective Date: 08.19.22
Last Review Date: ~~04.11.24~~12.14.24 Coding Implications
Line of Business: Medicaid Revision Log

**See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.**

****Please note: This policy is for medical benefit****

**Description**
Degarelix acetate (Firmagon®) is a gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) receptor antagonist.

**FDA Approved Indication(s)**
Firmagon is indicated for treatment of advanced prostate cancer.

**Policy/Criteria**
*Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.*

It is the policy of Louisiana Healthcare Connections that Firmagon is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

**I. Initial Approval Criteria**

**A. Prostate Cancer** (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of prostate cancer;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or urologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Request meets one of the following (a, b, or c):*
   a. Starting dose does not exceed 240 mg given as two injections of 120 mg each;
   b. Maintenance dose does not exceed 80 mg as a single injection per 28 days;
   c. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

**Approval duration: 12 months**

**B. Other diagnoses/indications** (must meet 1 or 2)**:**

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to LA.PMN.255
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy LA.PMN.53

**II. Continued Therapy**

**A. Prostate Cancer** (must meet all)**:**
1. Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connections benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Firmagon for prostate cancer and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following:*
   a. New dose does not exceed 80 mg as a single injection per 28 days;
   b. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

**Approval duration: 12 months**

**B. Other diagnoses/indications** (must meet 1 or 2)**:**
1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to LA.PMN.255
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy LA.PMN.53

## III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

**A.** Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid, or evidence of coverage documents.

## IV. Appendices/General Information

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
GnRH: gonadotropin-releasing hormone
NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network

*Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives*
Not applicable

*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*
- Contraindication(s): previous hypersensitivity reactions to degarelix
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

## V. Dosage and Administration

| Indication | Dosing Regimen | Maximum Dose |
|---|---|---|
| Prostate cancer | Starting dose: 240 mg SC given as two 120 mg injections<br>Maintenance dose: 80 mg SC given as one injection per 28 days | See regimen |

## VI. Product Availability

Vial: 80 mg (20 mg/mL), 120 mg (40 mg/mL)

## VII. References

1. Firmagon Prescribing Information. Parsipanny, NJ: Ferring Pharmaceuticals Inc.; February 2020. Available at https://firmagon.com/. Accessed ~~June 29, 2023~~July 10, 2024.
2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Degarelix acetate. Available at nccn.org. Accessed July 12, ~~2023~~2024.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Prostate cancer (Version ~~1.2023~~4.2024). Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/prostate.pdf. Accessed July 12, ~~2023~~2024.

## Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

| HCPCS Codes | Description |
|---|---|
| J9155 | Injection, degarelix, 1 mg |

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals | Date | LDH Approval Date |
|---|---|---|
| Converted corporate to local policy. | 07.22 | 08.19.22 |
| No significant changes; references reviewed and updated. Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications.<br>Added verbiage this policy is for medical benefit only. | 06.02.23 | 10.05.23 |
| Annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated. | 04.11.24 | 07.10.24 |
| No significant changes; references reviewed and updated. | 12.14.24 | |

**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. LHCC makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and

limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable LHCC administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by LHCC. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. LHCC retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom LHCC has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of LHCC.

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