



AmeriHealth.

Policy Title Cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release (Amrix®)

Policy Number FS.CLIN.64

Application of pharmacy policy is determined by benefits and contracts. Benefits may vary based on product line, group, or contract. Some medications may be subject to precertification and age, gender or quantity restrictions. Individual member benefits must be verified.

This pharmacy policy document describes the status of pharmaceutical information and/or technology at the time the document was developed. Since that time, new information relating to drug efficacy, interactions, contraindications, dosage, administration routes, safety, or FDA approval may have changed. If the Medical/Pharmacy Reviewer is aware of any new information on the subject of this document, please provide it promptly to the Medical/Pharmacy Policy Department. This information may include new FDA approved indications, withdrawals or other FDA alerts. This type of information is relevant not only when considering whether this policy should be updated, but also when applying it to current requests for coverage.

Members are advised to use participating pharmacies in order to receive the highest level of benefits.

Policy **Cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release (Amrix®)** is a skeletal muscle relaxant indicated for adjunct treatment to rest and physical therapy for relief of muscle spasm associated with acute, painful musculoskeletal conditions.

The use of cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release (Amrix®) requires prior authorization (i.e., clinical pharmacy and/or Medical Director review).

Policy description **Cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release (Amrix®)** relieves skeletal muscle spasm of local origin without interfering with muscle function and acts primarily at the brain stem within the central nervous system as opposed to the spinal cord. It Influences both gamma and alpha motor systems by reducing tonic somatic motor activity. The original immediate release formulation of cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride has been available since 1990 and is currently a preferred agent. There have been no clinical studies to demonstrate that the extended release formulation of cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride is more effective than the immediate release version of cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride for muscle spasms.

Policy guideline inclusion **Cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release (Amrix®)** is approved when all of the following inclusion criteria are met:

- Documentation of a trial and failure of generic cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release

Policy guideline exclusion **Cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release (Amrix®)** is approved when all of the following inclusion criteria are met:

- No documentation of a trial and failure of generic cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release

Policy List of Applicable Drugs	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Brand Name</th> <th>Generic Name</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Amrix</td> <td>cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Brand Name	Generic Name	Amrix	cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release
Brand Name	Generic Name				
Amrix	cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release				
Dosing and administration	Refer to the specific manufacturer's prescribing information for administration and dosage details for each specific agent.				
Policy references	<p>Chou R, Peterson K. Drug Class Review on Skeletal Muscle Relaxants [Final Report] May 2005. Oregon Health & Science University. Drug Effectiveness Review Project [available at http://www.ohsu.edu/drugeffectiveness/reports/final.cfm] [The link to this reference is not longer active].</p> <p>Amrix™(cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release capsules). In: Facts and Comparisons [online through Facts and Comparisons Online]. Indy, IN: Walter Kluwer Health Inc. Accessed September 9, 2011.</p> <p>Amrix™(cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release capsules). In: Drugdex [online through Micromedex Healthcare Series]. Greenwood Village, CO: Thomson Micromedex. Accessed September 9, 2011.</p> <p>Amrix™(cyclobenzaprine hydrochloride extended-release capsules) [package insert]. Frazer, PA: Cephalon, Inc.; 2008.</p>				
Policy link to related policies					
Version effective date	October 1, 2011				

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