

## Policies Repository



**Policy Title** Cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) Inhibitors and Meloxicam (Mobic®)

**Policy Number** FS.CLIN.46

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**Policy** **Cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) inhibitors** can be used to treat various pain disorders in individuals who cannot tolerate, or who have contraindications to, non-selective non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). **Meloxicam (Mobic®)**, a preferential inhibitor of the COX-2 enzyme, is indicated to treat the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis and a variety of other pain disorders.

The use of all COX-2 inhibitors and meloxicam (Mobic®) require prior authorization (ie, clinical pharmacy and/or Medical Director review).

**Policy Description** **Cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) inhibitors and meloxicam (Mobic®)** fall into a broad class of agents called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Since COX-2 inhibitors bind selectively to the COX-2 enzyme and not the COX-1 enzyme, these drugs are unique from traditional NSAIDs. Meloxicam (Mobic®), a preferential inhibitor of the COX-2 enzyme, exhibits greater inhibitory activity against COX-2 than COX-1; its selectivity is claimed to confer a lower propensity for adverse gastrointestinal effects compared with traditional NSAIDs.

Blocking the COX-2 enzyme has been shown to impede the production of the chemical messengers (prostaglandins) that cause the pain and swelling associated with arthritis inflammation.

**Policy Guideline Inclusion** CELECOXIB (CELEBREX®)  
**Celecoxib (Celebrex®)** is approved when **one** of the following inclusion criteria is met:

- Documentation of familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)
- Documentation of the trial and failure or contraindication with a meloxicam-containing product and **one** of the following:



Drug	Osteoarthritis	Rheumatoid Arthritis	Primary Dysmenorrhea	Acute Pain	Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP)	Migraines	Sulfa Allergy Exists	Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) or Aspirin Allergy
Celebrex®	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Mobic®	X	X		X				X

COX-2 Inhibitors	
Brand Name	Generic Name
Celebrex	celecoxib

Preferential Inhibitor of COX-2	
Brand Name	Generic Name
Mobic	meloxicam

## Dosing and Administration

Refer to the specific manufacturer's prescribing information for administration and dosage details, contraindications, and Black Box warnings.

## Policy References

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Hawkey C, Kahan A, Steinbruck K, et al. Gastrointestinal tolerability of meloxicam compared to diclofenac in osteoarthritis patients. International MELISSA Study Group (Meloxicam Large-Scale International Study Safety Assessment). *Br J Rheumatol*. 1998;37(9):937-945.

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Yocum D, Fleischmann R, Dalgin P, et al. Safety and efficacy of meloxicam in the treatment of osteoarthritis: A 12-week, double-blind, multiple-dose, placebo-controlled trial. The Meloxicam Osteoarthritis Investigators. *Arch Int Med*. 2000;160(19):2947-2954.

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#### Policy Link to Related Policies

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