

## Policies Repository



**Policy Title** Quetiapine fumarate (Seroquel XR®)

**Policy Number** FS.CLIN.71

*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, age, gender or quantity edits. 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** **Quetiapine fumarate (Seroquel XR®)** is indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia.

The use of quetiapine fumarate (Seroquel XR®) requires prior authorization (ie, clinical pharmacy and/or Medical Director review).

**Policy Description**

**Quetiapine fumarate (Seroquel XR®)** is an atypical antipsychotic with an unknown mechanism of action. Quetiapine fumarate (Seroquel XR®) is thought to exert its effect via dopamine type 2 (D2) and serotonin type 2 (5HT2) antagonism. Quetiapine fumarate (Seroquel XR®) is an extended-release product and should be administered once daily. The original immediate release formulation of quetiapine fumarate has been available since 1997 and is currently a preferred agent. There have been no clinical studies to demonstrate that the extended release formulation of quetiapine fumarate is more effective than the immediate release version of quetiapine fumarate in the treatment of schizophrenia.

**Policy Guideline Inclusion**

**Quetiapine fumarate (Seroquel XR®)** is approved when there is a documentation of a diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder and **one** of the following:

- Documentation of a trial and failure of, or contraindication to, at least one of the following medications:
  - Aripiprazole (Abilify®)
  - Risperidone (Risperdal®)
  - Quetiapine fumarate immediate-release (Seroquel®)
  - An olanzapine-containing product
- Documentation of stabilization from an institutional setting
- Documentation of current stabilization

**Policy Guideline Exclusion**

**Quetiapine fumarate (Seroquel XR®)** is denied when **any** of the following exclusion criteria are present:

- No documentation of a diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder
- No documentation of a trial and failure of, or contraindication to, at least one of the following medications:
  - Aripiprazole (Abilify®)
  - Risperidone (Risperdal®)
  - Quetiapine fumarate immediate-release (Seroquel®)
  - An olanzapine-containing product
- No documentation of stabilization from an institutional setting
- No documentation of current stabilization

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**Policy List of Applicable Drugs**

Brand Name	Generic Name
Seroquel XR	Quetiapine fumarate

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**Dosing and Administration**

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

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**Policy References**

Facts & Comparisons. Seroquel XR®. [Facts & Comparisons Web site]. Available at: <http://www.factsandcomparisons.com>. Accessed June 3, 2009.

Kahn RS, Schulz SC, Palazov VD, et al. Efficacy and tolerability of once-daily extended release quetiapine fumarate in acute schizophrenia: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 2007;68(6):832-842.

Seroquel XR®. [Micromedex Web site]. Available at: <http://www.micromedex.com> [via subscription only]. Accessed June 3, 2009.

Seroquel XR® [package insert]. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; 2009. Also available online at: <http://www1.astrazeneca-us.com/pi/seroquelxr.pdf>. Accessed June 3, 2009.

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**Policy Link to Related Policies**


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