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).

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.

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

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

### Policy List of Applicable Drugs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand Name</th>
<th>Generic Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seroquel XR</td>
<td>Quetiapine fumarate</td>
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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.

### Policy References