

# Drug Policy

<b>Policy:</b>	<b>azithromycin tablets (Zithromax® - Pfizer Labs, generics)</b>	<b>Annual Review Date:</b>
	<b>azithromycin for oral suspension (Zithromax® - Pfizer Labs, generics)</b>	<b>Last Revised Date: 03/23/2020</b>

## Table

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Medication allowed per 90 days</b>
Zithromax (azithromycin) 100 mg/5 ml for oral suspension, 15 ml	13 bottles (195 ml)
Zithromax (azithromycin) 200 mg/5 ml for oral suspension, 15 ml	7 bottles (105 ml)
Zithromax (azithromycin) 200 mg/5 ml for oral suspension, 22.5 ml	5 bottles (112.5 ml)
Zithromax (azithromycin) 200 mg/5 ml for oral suspension, 30 ml	4 bottles (120 ml)
Zithromax (azithromycin) 250 mg tablet	15 tablets
Zithromax (azithromycin) 500 mg tablet	15 tablets
Zithromax (azithromycin) 1 gm single-dose packet	2 packets
Zithromax (azithromycin) 600 mg tablets	24 tablets

## Overview

The medications listed in table above are approved use in the treatment of several infectious diseases including chronic bronchitis, strep pharyngitis and tonsillitis, acute otitis media, community acquired pneumonia, pelvic inflammatory disease, skin and soft tissue infections, gonorrhea, mycobacterium avium complex in HIV-infected patients .<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this policy is to prevent the stockpiling, misuse and/or overuse of the above medications. The policy provides sufficient medication of the 100 mg/5 ml suspension, 200 mg/5 ml suspension, 250 mg tablets, and 500 mg tablets to treat one episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Zithromax 1 gm single-dose packets and 600 mg tablets have not been identified for use in the treatment of Coronavirus 2019. The policy allows for two 1 gram single-dose packet for an episode of a sexually transmitted disease and allows for 12 weeks of prevention treatment for mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) for the 600 mg tablets. For coverage of additional medication, prior authorization is required.

## AUTOMATION

If the patient has a history of Zithromax (azithromycin) 600 mg tablets within the past 130 days, the claim will adjudicate.

# Drug Policy

## CRITERIA

Approval duration as noted below in criteria.

### **Zithromax 250 mg and 500 mg tablets, generics**

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 90-day period, a one-time override of 15 tablets may be approved.
2. For patients who need treatment for other types infections (NOT Coronavirus 2019), approve the quantity requested.

### **Zithromax (azithromycin) 100 mg/5 ml for oral suspension, 15 ml, generics**

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 90-day period, a one-time override of 13 bottles (195 ml) may be approved.
2. For patients who need treatment for other types infections (NOT Coronavirus 2019), approve the quantity requested.

### **Zithromax (azithromycin) 200 mg/5 ml for oral suspension, 15 ml, generics**

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 90-day period, a one-time override of 7 bottles (105 ml) may be approved.
2. For patients who need treatment for other types infections (NOT Coronavirus 2019), approve the quantity requested.

### **Zithromax (azithromycin) 200 mg/5 ml for oral suspension, 22.5 ml, generics**

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 90-day period, a one-time override of 5 bottles (112.5 ml) may be approved.
2. For patients who need treatment for other types infections (NOT Coronavirus 2019), approve the quantity requested.

### **Zithromax (azithromycin) 200 mg/5 ml for oral suspension, 30 ml, generics**

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 90-day period, a one-time override of 4 bottles (120 ml) may be approved.
2. For patients who need treatment for other types infections (NOT Coronavirus 2019), approve the quantity requested.

### **Zithromax (azithromycin) 1 gram single-dose packet, generics**

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of a sexually transmitted disease in a 90-day period, a one-time override of 2 x 1 gm single-dose packets may be approved.
2. No additional overrides are covered.

### **Zithromax (azithromycin) 600 mg tablets, generics**

1. For patients who are using azithromycin 600 mg tablets for the treatment (not prevention) of mycobacterium avium complex (MAC), thirty (30) tablets per 30 days may be approved for 12 months.
2. No additional overrides are covered.

## REFERENCES

1. Zithromax [prescribing information]. New York, NY: Pfizer Labs; January 2020.
2. Gautret et al. (2020) Hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin as a treatment of COVID-19: results of an open-label non-randomized clinical trial. International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents – In Press 17 March 2020 – DOI: 10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2020.105949.
3. Panel on Opportunistic Infections in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections in adults and adolescents with HIV: recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and

# Drug Policy

Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.  
Accessed March 23, 2020. Available at <http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/guidelines>.

### HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Date
New Policy	Reviewed and approved by TAC.	03/23/2020

This document is subject to the disclaimer found at [https://provider.medmutual.com/tools\\_and\\_resources/Care\\_Management/MedPolicies/Disclaimer.aspx](https://provider.medmutual.com/tools_and_resources/Care_Management/MedPolicies/Disclaimer.aspx) and is subject to change. [https://provider.medmutual.com/TOOLS\\_and\\_RESOURCES/Care\\_Management/ExpressScripts.aspx](https://provider.medmutual.com/TOOLS_and_RESOURCES/Care_Management/ExpressScripts.aspx).