VECAMYL™ (mecamylamine)

LENGTH OF AUTHORIZATION: Up to six months

INITIAL REVIEW CRITERIA

Hypertension:
- Diagnosis of moderately severe to severe hypertension AND
- Use of at least 6 other classes of antihypertensives medications within the last 12 months with documented history of failure to achieve blood pressure goals using maximum tolerated doses AND
- Prescriber must verify patient does NOT have any of the following conditions:
  - Coronary insufficiency
  - Recent myocardial infarction
  - Rising/elevated BUN or renal insufficiency
  - Uremia
  - Patient receiving concomitant antibiotics or sulfonamides
  - Glaucoma
  - Organic pyloric stenosis
  - Hypersensitivity to mecamylamine

Autism:
- Patient must have had a trial of two atypical antipsychotics (not at the same time)- e.g. risperidone (Risperdal) aripiprazole (Abilify) , or quetiapine (Seroquel) without satisfactory results AND
- Patient has also attempted augmentation with a mood stabilizer for aggression (e.g. lamotrigine (Lamictal), divalproex (Depakote) or Lithium)

Tourette’s Syndrome:
- The primary treatment modality for Tourette’s syndrome has been with antipsychotic medications that block dopamine receptors. These drugs include haloperidol (Haldol), pimozide (Orap), fluphenazine (Prolixin), and the atypical agent risperidone (Risperdal).
- The alpha-2 agonists, clonidine and guanfacine, are also sometimes used either alone, or in combination with antipsychotics. Fluoxetine (Prozac) has also been used with some success in children with Tourette’s syndrome. Please consider an age appropriate preferred medication.
In regards to the use of mecamylamine (Vecamyl) in the treatment of Tourette’s syndrome larger, controlled studies are warranted and evidence is inconclusive. Safety and efficacy in pediatric patients has not been established.

CONTINUATION OF THERAPY
- Must have recent claims history (within previous 3 months) for Vecamyl and continue to meet criteria listed for initial therapy

DOSSING & ADMINISTRATION:
- The average total daily dose of mecamylamine for the treatment of hypertension is 25 mg, usually given in three divided doses but dose should be individualized based on blood pressure response and individual patient tolerance.
- In children with autism, mecamylamine has been studied at starting doses of 0.5 mg daily with a slow (over 8 weeks) upward titration to 5 mg daily
- Dosage Form: 2.5 mg tablets

References: