

To:
Members of Iowa Preferred Drug List committee.
www.iowamedicaidpdl.com

Re: CGRP injectable antibodies.

I am writing regarding coverage by Medicaid of the new CGRP migraine prophylactic injectable therapies.

I have been taking care of the neurological needs of people in Cedar Rapids and the surrounding areas since 2005. I have many patients with migraine headaches and I have used all of the standard prophylactic therapies. I started with pills, added Botox injections 6 years back or so and then the injectables from the day they launched.

I appreciate all three of the injectable options, Aimovig, Ajoovy, and Emgality, and I prescribe all three of them. They have different mechanisms of action. Aimovig antibodies block the CGRP receptors and Ajoovy and Emgality block the CGRP molecules that binds to the CGRP receptors.

I understand that you are in the process of choosing among these three for preferred status vs. non-preferred status requiring the use of another product first. If there must be winners and losers, I propose that you choose one treatment from each mechanism of action. In this case, Aimovig is chosen because of its unique mechanism of action and then either Emgality or Ajoovy which have similar mechanisms of actions. I, of course, would love it if all were of equal preferred status but recognize that the world doesn't work that way.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,