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## 5.50.006

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<b>Section:</b>	Prescription Drugs	<b>Effective Date:</b>	October 1, 2023
<b>Subsection:</b>	Gastrointestinal Agents	<b>Original Policy Date:</b>	April 3, 2015
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**Last Review Date:** September 8, 2023

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## Opioid Antagonist Drug Class

### Description

Movantik (naloxegol), Relistor (methylnaltrexone bromide), Symproic (naldemedine)

### Background

Opioids are a class of drugs used in the management of pain. A common side effect of opiates is decreased gastrointestinal motility which leads to constipation. Movantik, Relistor and Symproic are opioid receptor antagonists used to treat the constipating side effects of opioids. When administered at the recommended dose levels, Movantik, Relistor and Symproic bind at the mu-opioid receptor in the peripheral tissues such as the gastrointestinal tract, thereby decreasing the constipating side effects of opioids without impacting the opioid effects on the central nervous system (1-3).

### Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications:

**Movantik** is an oral opioid antagonist indicated for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation (OIC) in adult patients with chronic non-cancer pain, including patients with chronic pain related to prior cancer or its treatment who do not require frequent (e.g. weekly) opioid dosage escalation (1).

**Relistor**, both the oral and injectable formulations, is an opioid antagonist and is indicated for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation (OIC) in adult patients with chronic non-cancer

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pain, including patients with chronic pain related to prior cancer or its treatment who do not require frequent (e.g., weekly) opioid dosage escalation (2).

**Symproic** is an opioid antagonist indicated for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation (OIC) in adult patients with chronic non-cancer pain, including patients with chronic pain related to prior cancer or its treatment who do not require frequent (e.g., weekly) opioid dosage escalation (3).

**Relistor injectable** is indicated for the treatment of OIC in adults with advanced illness or pain caused by active cancer who require opioid dosage escalation for palliative care (2).

Movantik, Relistor and Symproic have not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class C). Therefore, Movantik, Relistor and Symproic are not recommended for use in patients with severe hepatic impairment (1-3).

Rare cases of gastrointestinal (GI) perforation have been reported in advanced illness patients with conditions that may be associated with localized or diffuse reduction of structural integrity in the wall of the GI tract. Relistor should be used with caution in patients with known or suspected lesions of the GI tract (2). Movantik, Relistor and Symproic are contraindicated in patients with known or suspected gastrointestinal obstruction (1-3).

Movantik is also contraindicated in patients using strong CYP3A4 inhibitors concomitantly because these drugs can significantly increase exposure to Movantik which may precipitate opioid withdrawal symptoms (1).

Cases of severe abdominal pain and/or diarrhea have been reported in patients taking over 25mg of Movantik. Monitor patients for the development and discontinue therapy if severe symptoms occur (1).

The safety and effectiveness of Movantik, Relistor and Symproic in patients below the age of 18 years have not been established (1-3).

### **Related policies**

Amitiza, Ibsrela, Linzess, Motegrity, Trulance

### **Policy**

*This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.*

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Movantik, Relistor and Symproic may be considered **medically necessary** if the conditions indicated below are met.

Movantik, Relistor and Symproic may be considered **investigational** for all other indications.

## Prior-Approval Requirements

**Age** 18 years of age or older

### Diagnoses

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

#### **Movantik and Symproic**

1. Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) with chronic non-cancer pain
2. Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) with chronic pain related to prior cancer or its treatment and does **NOT** require frequent opioid dosage increases

#### **Relistor (tablets and injectable)**

1. Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) with chronic non-cancer pain
2. Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) with chronic pain related to prior cancer or its treatment and does **NOT** require frequent opioid dosage increases

#### **Relistor Injectable only**

1. Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) in adult patients with advanced illness or pain caused by active cancer who require opioid dosage escalation for palliative care

**AND ALL** of the following:

- a. Inadequate response to laxative therapy
- b. Absence of gastrointestinal obstruction
- c. Absence of severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class C)
- d. **NO** dual therapy with other legend constipation medications (see Appendix 1)

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## Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

**Age** 18 years of age or older

### Diagnoses

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

#### **Movantik and Symproic**

1. Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) with chronic non-cancer pain
2. Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) with chronic pain related to prior cancer or its treatment and does **NOT** require frequent opioid dosage increases

#### **Relistor (tablets and injectable)**

1. Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) with chronic non-cancer pain
2. Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) with chronic pain related to prior cancer or its treatment and does **NOT** require frequent opioid dosage increases

#### **Relistor Injectable only**

1. Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) in adult patients with advanced illness or pain caused by active cancer who require opioid dosage escalation for palliative care

**AND ALL** of the following:

- a. Absence of gastrointestinal obstruction
- b. Absence of severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class C)
- c. **NO** dual therapy with other legend constipation medications (see Appendix 1)

### [Policy Guidelines](#)

#### **Pre - PA Allowance**

None

#### **Prior - Approval Limits**

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**Duration** 12 months

### **Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits**

Same as above

#### **Rationale**

#### **Summary**

Movantik, Relistor and Symproic are opioid receptor antagonists used to treat opioid-induced constipation in adult patients. Movantik, Relistor and Symproic is indicated for patients with chronic non-cancer pain. Injectable Relistor is also indicated for patients with advanced illness who are receiving palliative care. Movantik, Relistor and Symproic have not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class C). Therefore, these three medications are not recommended for use in patients with severe hepatic impairment. Movantik, Relistor and Symproic are contraindicated in patients with known or suspected gastrointestinal obstruction. The safety and effectiveness of Movantik, Relistor and Symproic in patients below the age of 18 years have not been established (1-3).

Prior approval is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of Movantik, Relistor and Symproic while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

#### **References**

1. Movantik [package insert]. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; April 2020.
2. Relistor [package insert]. Tarrytown, NY: Progenics Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; April 2020.
3. Symproic [package insert]. Raleigh, NC: BioDelivery Sciences International, Inc.; May 2020.

#### **Policy History**

Date	Action
April 2015	New addition to PA
June 2015	Annual editorial review and reference update
September 2016	Annual editorial review and reference update Addition of no dual therapy with another opioid antagonist and the Relistor oral and the addition of the age to renewal section Policy number change from 5.09.06 to 5.50.06
March 2017	Annual review
April 2017	Addition of Symproic
July 2017	Annual review

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March 2018	Annual editorial review and reference update Addition of no dual therapy with other legend constipation medications (see Appendix 1)
October 2018	Addition of advanced illness requirement to opioid-induced constipation diagnoses
November 2018	Annual editorial review and reference update. Addition of Relistor indication for OIC related to prior cancer pain or its treatment and does not require frequent opioid dosage increases
February 2019	Addition of Relistor injectable indication of OIC in patients with advanced illness or pain caused by active cancer who require opioid dosage escalation for palliative care
March 2019	Annual review
June 2019	Annual review and reference update
July 2019	Removed advanced illness requirement for OIC due to non-cancer pain diagnoses per FEP
September 2019	Annual review and reference update
December 2019	Annual review
March 2020	Annual review
July 2020	Addition of indication for Movantik and Symproic: Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) with chronic pain related to prior cancer or its treatment and does NOT require frequent opioid dosage increases
September 2020	Annual review and reference update
September 2021	Annual review
July 2022	Addition of lsbrela to Appendix 1
September 2022	Annual review and reference update
September 2023	Annual review

## Keywords

**This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on September 8, 2023 and is effective on October 1, 2023.**

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## Appendix 1 - List of Legend Constipation Medications

Generic Name	Brand Name
linaclotide	Linzess
lubiprostone	Amitiza
methylnaltrexone	Relistor
naldemedine	Symproic
naloxegol	Movantik
plecanatide	Trulance
prucalopride	Motegrity
tenapanor	Ibsrela