Brineura® (Cerliponase Alfa)

Policy Number: 2026D0065N
Effective Date: November 1, 2026

➲ Instructions for Use

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Community Plan Policy

- Brineura® (Cerliponase Alfa)

Application

UnitedHealthcare Commercial

This Medical Benefit Drug Policy applies to UnitedHealthcare Commercial benefit plans.

UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange

This Medical Benefit Drug Policy applies to Individual Exchange benefit plans.

Coverage Rationale

➲ See Benefit Considerations

Brineura is proven for slowing the loss of ambulation in pediatric patients with late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis (LINCL) type 2 (CLN2), also known as tripeptidyl peptidase 1 (TPP1) deficiency.

Brineura is medically necessary for slowing the loss of ambulation in pediatric patients with late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis (LINCL) type 2 (CLN2), also known as tripeptidyl peptidase 1 (TPP1) deficiency, when all of the following criteria are met:

- For **initial therapy**, **all** of the following:
  - **One** of the following:
    - Diagnosis of late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis type 2 (CLN2) by a neurologist with expertise in the diagnosis of CLN2; **or**
    - Diagnosis of late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis type 2 (CLN2) by a physician in consultation with a neurologist with expertise in the diagnosis of CLN2

    and
  - **All** of the following scores on the clinical scoring system for LINCL:
    - Combined score of 3 to 6 in the motor and language domains; **and**
    - Score of at least 1 in the motor domain; **and**
    - Score of at least 1 in the language domain

    and
  - **One** of the following:
    - Brineura is prescribed by a neurologist with expertise in the treatment of CLN2; **or**

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        - Brineura is prescribed by a physician in consultation with a neurologist with expertise in the treatment of CLN2

      and
    - Brineura is to be administered intraventricularly by, or under the direction of, healthcare professionals experienced in performing intraventricular infusions via an intracerebroventricular catheter; **and**
    - Dosing is in accordance with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)–approved labeling; **and**
    - Initial authorization will be for no more than 12 months
- For **continuation of therapy**, **all** of the following:
    - **One** of the following:
        - Diagnosis of late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis type 2 (CLN2) by a neurologist with expertise in the diagnosis of CLN2; **or**
        - Diagnosis of late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis type 2 (CLN2) by a physician in consultation with a neurologist with expertise in the diagnosis of CLN2

      and
    - Patient has a score of 1 or higher in the motor domain of the clinical scoring system for LINCL; **and**
    - **One** of the following:
        - Brineura is prescribed by a neurologist with expertise in the treatment of CLN2; **or**
        - Brineura is prescribed by a physician in consultation with a neurologist with expertise in the treatment of CLN2

      and
    - Brineura is to be administered intraventricularly by, or under the direction of, healthcare professionals experienced in performing intraventricular infusions via an intracerebroventricular catheter; **and**
    - Dosing is in accordance with the FDA-approved labeling; **and**
    - Reauthorization will be for no more than 12 months

Brineura (cerliponase alfa) is unproven and not medically necessary for other forms of neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis.

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other policies and guidelines may apply.

HCPCS Code	Description
J0567	Injection, cerliponase alfa, 1 mg

Diagnosis Code	Description
E75.4	Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis

Background

Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis type 2 (CLN2) is a neurodegenerative lysosomal storage disorder caused by deficient activity of the enzyme tripeptidyl peptidase-1 (TPP1). Deficiency in TPP1 activity results in the accumulation of lysosomal storage materials normally metabolized by this enzyme in the central nervous system (CNS), leading to progressive decline in motor function. CLN2 is autosomal recessive and pediatric-onset, and is characterized by seizures, language delay, movement disorders, motor deterioration, dementia, blindness, and early death. A clinical scoring system for late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinoses has been developed as a method for quantitative description of clinical courses over time. Within CLN2, two forms of disease evolution exist; classical CLN2 is where symptoms start earlier, between the ages of 3 and 5 years and the symptoms evolve faster. Non-classical CLN2 has a much slower disease evolution and symptoms appear as behavioral disorders, movement disorders and ataxia rather than seizures and blindness.

Cerliponase alfa (rhTTP1), a proenzyme, is taken up by target cells in the CNS and is translocated to the lysosomes through the cation independent mannose-6-phosphate receptor (CI-MPR, also known as M6P/IGF2 receptor). Cerliponase alfa is activated in the lysosome and the activated proteolytic form of rhTPP1 cleaves tripeptides from the N-terminus of proteins.

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Benefit Considerations

Some Certificates of Coverage allow for coverage of experimental/investigational/unproven treatments for life-threatening illnesses when certain conditions are met. The member specific benefit plan document must be consulted to make coverage decisions for this service. Some states mandate benefit coverage for off-label use of medications for some diagnoses or under some circumstances when certain conditions are met. Where such mandates apply, they supersede language in the benefit document or in the medical or drug policy.

Clinical Evidence

Proven

Ceroid Lipofuscinosis Type 2 (CLN2)/Tripeptidyl Peptidase 1 (TPP1) Deficiency

Cerliponase alfa is indicated to slow the loss of ambulation in children of all ages with late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis type 2 (CLN2), also known as tripeptidyl peptidase 1 (TPP1) deficiency.

In a multicenter, open-label study, Schulz A. et al. evaluated the effect of intraventricular infusion of cerliponase alfa every 2 weeks in pediatric patients with CLN2. The primary outcome compared the duration until a 2-point decline in the score on the motor and language domains of the CLN2 Clinical Rating Scale in study patients to the rate of decline in 42 historical controls. In addition, the rate of decline in the motor-language score was compared between the two groups. Of the 24 patients enrolled, 23 constituted the efficacy population. The median time until a 2-point decline in the motor-language score was not reached for treated patients and was 345 days for historical controls. The mean (±SD) unadjusted rate of decline in the motor-language score per 48-week period was 0.27 ±0.35 points in treated patients and 2.12 ±0.98 points in 42 historical controls (mean difference, 1.85; $p < 0.001$). Common adverse events included convulsions, pyrexia, vomiting, hypersensitivity reactions, and failure of the intraventricular device. Infections developed in the intraventricular device for administration in 2 patients, required antibiotic treatment and device replacement. The authors conclude that intraventricular infusion of cerliponase alfa in patients with CLN2 disease resulted in less decline in motor and language function than that in historical controls.

Clinical evidence for the safety and efficacy of cerliponase alfa for the treatment of late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis type 2 (CLN2) was demonstrated in a prospective phase 1/2 open-label dose-escalation study and extension. The objective of the study was to evaluate the safety and tolerability of cerliponase alfa administered to patients with CLN2 disease by intraventricular administration. There were 5 study centers involved. Patients were treated with intraventricular infusion of cerliponase alfa with doses ranging from 30 to 300 mg every 14 days in the dose escalation study and were maintained at 300 mg every 14 days in the extension study. The primary endpoint was response rate, defined as the absence of an unreversed two-point decline or score of zero in the CLN2 score at 48 weeks. 24 patients were enrolled, with 23 patients completing the study. By motor/language CLN2 scores measured from baseline, 87% (20/23) of treated patients responded to treatment, defined as an absence of an unreversed two-point decline or score of zero by Week 48, compared to an expected response rate of 50% (p-value = 0.0002). Sixty-five percent of treated patients experienced no progression in their CLN2 score. Of all points lost, approximately 80% occurred within four months of treatment initiation. The proportion of patients with a response to treatment was 87% at Week 48 and 63% at Week 96.

Twenty-one international experts from seven different specialties developed guidelines on the diagnosis, clinical assessments, treatment, and management for CLN2 disease patients that were published in 2021. From a consensus statement in these guidelines, it is stated that initiation of long-term ERT with cerliponase alfa at 300 mg (or age-appropriate) dose every other week through intraventricular infusion is suggested in non-classical TPP1 deficiency patients after confirmed diagnosis and agreement between parents and provider, as long as no contraindications to therapy exist. Furthermore, initiation of long-term ERT with cerliponase alfa at 300 mg (or age-appropriate) dose every other week through intraventricular infusion is recommended in classical CLN2 patients with the potential to benefit from this therapy.

The efficacy of Brineura for the treatment of CLN2 disease in all children, either symptomatic or presymptomatic, is supported by data from Study 190-203, a phase 2, open-label, multicenter trial evaluating Brineura treatment over the span of approximately three years in children aged 1-6 years at baseline, including eight children less than 3 years of age.[8] Results from Study 190-203 demonstrated that intraventricular-administered Brineura slowed the decline in motor function and delayed disease onset in children with CLN2 disease, including those who were under 3 years of age. In addition to confirming that treatment initiated after 3 years of age significantly slows the progression of CLN2 disease, data also demonstrated early treatment initiation before 3 years of age may result in delaying disease onset. Study 190-203 used the CLN2 Clinical Rating Scale to assess for decline in the motor domain in children. The domain measures

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ambulation, with normal function being a score of three and no function being a score of zero. Decline was defined in the study as having a sustained two-point loss or score of zero that is irreversible. In the children below 3 years of age treated with Brineura, none (0%) had a two-point decline or score of zero in the motor score by the final assessment (week 169). Seven of the eight treated children were matched to 18 untreated children from a natural history cohort. Among the natural history comparators, 11 children (61%) experienced an unreversed two-point decline or score of zero by the final assessment. From baseline to final assessment, all seven matched Brineura-treated children below 3 years of age maintained a motor score of three, which represents a grossly normal gait, signifying a delay in disease onset.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

This section is to be used for informational purposes only. FDA approval alone is not a basis for coverage.

Brineura (cerliponase alfa) is a hydrolytic lysosomal N-terminal tripeptidyl peptidase indicated to slow the loss of ambulation in pediatric patients with neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis type 2 (CLN2), also known as tripeptidyl peptidase 1 (TPP1) deficiency.

References

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Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes

11/01/2026	**Template Update**
	• Transferred content to shared policy template that applies to both UnitedHealthcare Commercial and Individual Exchange benefit plans
	• Added *Application* section to indicate this policy applies to:
	  ○ UnitedHealthcare Commercial benefit plans
	  ○ Individual Exchange benefit plans
	Supporting Information
	• Archived previous policy versions 2025D0065M and IEXD0065.09

Instructions for Use

This Medical Benefit Drug Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced as the terms of the member specific benefit plan may differ from the standard plan. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document governs. Before using this policy, check the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable federal or state mandates. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its policies and guidelines as necessary. This Medical Benefit Drug Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

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This Medical Benefit Drug Policy may also be applied to Medicare Advantage plans in certain instances. In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage guidance, CMS allows a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to create its own coverage determinations, using objective evidence-based rationale relying on authoritative evidence (Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5).

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual® criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. UnitedHealthcare Medical Benefit Drug Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.

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