

## PHARMACY POLICY – 5.01.545


## Cialis® (tadalafil) for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia

Effective Date: Dec. 1, 2018  
Last Revised: Nov. 21, 2018  
Replaces: N/A

RELATED MEDICAL POLICIES:  
5.01.522 Advanced Therapies for Pharmacological Treatment of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

Select a hyperlink below to be directed to that section.

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## Introduction

Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) is the medical term for an enlarged prostate. BPH is a noncancerous condition caused by prostate cells that keep multiplying. Over time, the excess prostate tissue puts pressure on the tube that carries urine and semen out of the body. As more pressure is applied, urinary difficulties often develop. These can include a weak or slow stream, a sense that the bladder isn't completely empty, and/or needing to urinate frequently and urgently. Cialis® was originally developed to treat erectile dysfunction (difficulty in achieving and keeping an erection). However, it was discovered that Cialis also addresses symptoms of BPH. This policy describes when Cialis may be approved for BPH. Using Cialis for erectile dysfunction is not covered.

**Note:** The Introduction section is for your general knowledge and is not to be taken as policy coverage criteria. The rest of the policy uses specific words and concepts familiar to medical professionals. It is intended for providers. A provider can be a person, such as a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or dentist. A provider also can be a place where medical care is given, like a hospital, clinic, or lab. This policy informs them about when a service may be covered.

## Policy Coverage Criteria

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Documentation in the form of chart notes/medical records must be provided with prior authorization review for the agents described below.

Indication	Medical Necessity
<p><b>Treatment for symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH)</b></p>	<p><b>Cialis® (tadalafil) may be considered medically necessary as second line treatment for symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).</b></p> <p><b>Cialis® (tadalafil) may be considered medically necessary when ALL of the following conditions are met:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient has a diagnosis of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH)</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient has previously failed, had inadequate response to or failed to tolerate a generic alpha blocker (terazosin, tamsulosin, doxazosin, or alfuzosin)</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient has previously failed, had inadequate response to or failed to tolerate, Proscar® (finasteride), Avodart® (dutasteride), or Rapaflo® (silodosin)</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescription is for either 2.5mg or 5mg taken once daily.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Cialis (tadalafil) is also available in 10mg and 20mg tablets for use as needed. These are indicated ONLY for treatment of erectile dysfunction, not BPH.</p>

Indication	Contract Exclusion
<p><b>Erectile dysfunction in patients without BPH</b></p>	<p><b>All other uses of Cialis® (tadalafil) for conditions not outlined in this policy are considered investigational.</b></p>

Indication	Investigational
<p><b>All other indications</b></p>	<p><b>Use of Cialis® (tadalafil) for all other indications is considered investigational.</b></p>



**Note:** Tadalafil is available as Adcirca® in different strengths for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). For these patients, refer to the pulmonary arterial hypertension guidelines contained in a separate medical policy (see [Related Policies](#)).

## Coding

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N/A

## Related Information

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### Benefit Application

This policy applies to all lines of business. Language pertaining specifically to contractual exclusion of tadalafil is applicable only to benefits that exclude coverage for treatment of erectile dysfunction.

This policy is managed through the Pharmacy benefit.

## Evidence Review

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### Description

Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) is a condition characterized by epithelial and stromal cell proliferation (enlargement) of the prostate gland. BPH and BPH-related lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) are age-dependent, with BPH being one of the top 10 most commonly diagnosed conditions in men over 50 years of age. The estimated prevalence of LUTS secondary to BPH in Caucasian Americans between the ages of 50 and 79 in 2000 was 42%. In a European cross sectional study of men >40 years of age attending urology clinics, the prevalence of LUTS secondary to BPH was 56% and erectile dysfunction was 40%. These conditions are also frequently comorbid in the same men. In BPH, as the prostate gland enlarges it may constrict the urethra and/or the bladder wall may thicken and become irritable resulting in lower urinary



tract symptoms such as diminished urine stream, intermittency, straining, polyuria, nocturia, urinary urgency, and inability to empty the bladder.

Three classes of drugs are currently recommended by the AUA for the treatment of BPH: alpha adrenergic antagonists, 5-alpha reductase inhibitors, and anticholinergics. The approval of tadalafil for BPH occurred after the latest AUA management update; consequently its use for BPH is not addressed. The mechanism of action of alpha adrenergic antagonists is blockade of alpha-1 receptors in the prostate, bladder, and urethra which relaxes smooth muscle in these tissues and improves urine flow and symptoms associated with BPH. It is important to note that drugs in this class do not reduce prostate size. 5-Alpha reductase inhibitors interfere with testosterone's stimulatory effect on prostate enlargement and therefore do reduce prostate size.

Alpha-1 adrenergic antagonists are generally considered a preferred first-line treatment option for patients with moderate to severe LUTS secondary to BPH. However, prazosin and phenoxybenzamine are not recommended due to a lack of evidence of effectiveness. Use of 5-alpha reductase inhibitors is recommended for patients with moderate to severe LUTS and demonstrated increased prostatic volume, prostate specific antigen (as a proxy for volume), and/or prostatic enlargement on digital rectal exam. These agents are not recommended for the treatment of LUTS in men without prostatic enlargement. Combination therapy with an alpha adrenergic antagonist and a 5-alpha reductase inhibitor has been shown to provide greater symptom relief and reduction in disease progression (prostate enlargement) compared with an agent from either class alone.

## Rationale

The clinical efficacy of tadalafil 5 mg once daily for lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) suggestive of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) was primarily established in 3 similarly designed multinational, 12-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials. Two of these studies were conducted in men with LUTS suggestive of BPH (Porst, 2011 and Roehrborn, 2008) and one was specific to men with comorbid BPH and erectile dysfunction (Egerdie, 2011). The primary efficacy endpoint in all 3 trials was change from baseline in total International Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS). The IPSS assesses severity of the spectrum of symptoms associated with BPH. The comorbid ED study had a co-primary endpoint that was change from baseline in the erectile function domain score of International Index of Erectile Function (IIEF-EF). All 3 trials consistently showed a statistically and clinically significant improvement in these surrogate outcomes after 12-weeks. While these studies were not specifically designed to evaluate the following endpoints, nocturia and objective urodynamic measures (peak urinary flow and postvoid residual volume) were consistently not improved.



A 1-year, open-label, safety extension of the registrational Roehrborn (2008) study suggests efficacy for LUTS secondary to BPH is maintained longer-term (Donatucci, 2011). Two other preliminary RCTs also consistently support the short-term (12-week) efficacy of tadalafil 5 mg once daily for LUTS secondary to BPH with or without comorbid ED.

Results from one unpublished, multinational, 12-week, randomized, double-blind, double dummy, placebo-controlled trial with a parallel tamsulosin (FLOMAX) 0.4 mg once daily arm were recently posted on clinicaltrials.gov (NCT00970632). While this study was not designed to compare the two active drugs, tadalafil 5 mg once daily appeared to provide similar improvements to that of tamsulosin (FLOMAX) 8 in men with LUTS suggestive of BPH. As might be expected, tadalafil appeared superior to the alpha-blocker for treatment of comorbid erectile dysfunction.

One prospective, open-label, uncontrolled study was identified on literature search that examined the efficacy and safety of add-on tadalafil at the approved 5 mg daily dose combined with an alpha-blocker (tamsulosin [FLOMAX] 0.2 mg or alfuzosin [UROXATRAL] 10 mg) for 12-weeks in 158 Korean men with concurrent LUTS-BPH and ED. Total IPSS and IIEF-5 were significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) improved with combination therapy, but Qmax and PVR did not, compared to baseline low-dose alpha-blocker monotherapy.

The registrational RCTs show tadalafil 5 mg once daily to be well tolerated for the short-term treatment of LUTS suggestive of BPH with or without comorbid ED. Overall, adverse events were infrequent and the majority (>95%) were mild to moderate in severity. No unexpected adverse events occurred. No clinically significant changes in vitals or electrocardiogram were observed. Rates of myocardial infarction appeared similar to that of placebo in the same population, with the caveat that these trials were of short duration (12 weeks). In short-term (12-week) clinical trials, incidence of a positive orthostatic test was similar in tadalafil-treated and placebo-treated LUTS-BPH patients, about 20%. No priapism was reported.

A long-term (1-year) safety extension in the target population found no new or greater frequency of any adverse events, serious adverse events, or discontinuation for adverse events compared to double-blind short-term (12-week) treatment (Donatucci, 2011).

Two open-label safety extension trials of tadalafil 5 mg once daily in men with ED also showed the drug to be well tolerated for up to 2 years. No unexpected adverse events were observed. No deaths or serious adverse events, cardiovascular or otherwise, were attributed to study drug.

No sudden hearing or vision losses (non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy [NAION]) were reported in short- or long-term clinical trials for LUTS secondary to BPH.



In the unpublished, multinational, 12-week, randomized, double-blind, double dummy, placebo-controlled trial with the parallel tamsulosin 0.4 mg once daily arm (NCT00970632), incidence of adverse events, serious adverse events, and discontinuation for adverse events appeared similar between tadalafil (CIALIS) 5 mg, tamsulosin (FLOMAX) 0.4 mg, and placebo once daily in men with LUTS-BPH with or without ED.

A prospective, multicenter, randomized, open-label, parallel-group study (Yoshida et al. 2017) compared the efficacy and safety of silodosin versus tadalafil in 192 patients with LUTS-BPH. The primary efficacy endpoint was change in IPSS total symptom score before and after Period 1 treatment (Week 4). Both silodosin and tadalafil demonstrated statistically significant improvement from baseline (Week 0) IPSS total symptom score, with a mean  $\pm$  SD change of  $-10.1 \pm 6.4$  ( $P < 0.0001$ ) and  $-8.0 \pm 6.3$  ( $< 0.0001$ ), respectively. The difference between silodosin and tadalafil was statistically significant ( $P = 0.0277$ ). In addition, silodosin demonstrated a significantly greater decrease in symptoms of incomplete emptying, weak stream, and nocturia than tadalafil ( $P = 0.0254$ ,  $P = 0.0067$ , and  $P = 0.0387$ ). Adverse drug reactions occurred more frequently with silodosin (23.4%) than tadalafil (8.4%), but no serious adverse reactions were observed in both arms. Nervous system disorders (i.e., dizziness and headache) and gastrointestinal disorders (i.e. soft feces) were reported in both arms, but orthostatic hypotension ( $n = 2$ ), nasal congestion ( $n = 4$ ), ejaculation disorder ( $n = 6$ ), and retrograde ejaculation ( $n = 5$ ) were only reported in the silodosin arm.

### ***2014 Update***

Updated per literature search 7/1/13 to 10/31/14. No changes required.

### ***2015 Update***

Updated per literature search 11/1/14 to 9/15/15. There was no information which prompted a change in the policy statements. Rapaflo was added as a qualifier to coverage of Cialis along with Proscar and Avodart. Verbiage also updated to call them out separately from the generic alpha blockers.



## ***2016 Update***

A literature search was conducted between 04/01/15 and 12/06/16. No information was found which would prompt a change in the existing policy statements.

## ***2017 Update***

A literature search was conducted between 07/01/16 and 11/01/17. No information was found which would prompt a change in the existing policy statements.

## ***2018 Update***

A literature search was conducted between 11/01/17 and 10/31/18. No information was found which would prompt a change in the existing policy statements. Tadalafil was studied in a placebo-controlled phase 3 RCT in patients 7-14 years of age with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Tadalafil failed to show benefit in reducing rate of ambulatory decline.

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## History

Date	Comments
08/12/13	New policy. Add to Prescription Drug section.
12/17/14	Annual Review. Policy updated with literature review. No change in policy statements.
10/13/15	Annual Review. Added Rapaflo as a qualifier to coverage of Cialis along with Proscar and Avodart. Verbiage also updated to call them out separately from the generic alpha blockers. Policy statements unchanged.
01/01/17	Annual Review, approved December 13, 2016. No changes to Policy Criteria.
12/01/17	Annual Review, approved November 21, 2017. No changes to the Policy Criteria. One study was added to the Reference List.
07/01/18	Interim Review, approved June 5, 2018. Added requirement of documentation in the form of chart notes/medical records for medical necessity review of medications within this policy.
12/01/18	Annual Review, approved November 21, 2018. No changes. Added reference to a failed trial in patients with DMD.





**Disclaimer:** This medical policy is a guide in evaluating the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. The Company adopts policies after careful review of published peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines and local standards of practice. Since medical technology is constantly changing, the Company reserves the right to review and update policies as appropriate. Member contracts differ in their benefits. Always consult the member benefit booklet or contact a member service representative to determine coverage for a specific medical service or supply. CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). ©2018 Premera All Rights Reserved.

**Scope:** Medical policies are systematically developed guidelines that serve as a resource for Company staff when determining coverage for specific medical procedures, drugs or devices. Coverage for medical services is subject to the limits and conditions of the member benefit plan. Members and their providers should consult the member benefit booklet or contact a customer service representative to determine whether there are any benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. This medical policy does not apply to Medicare Advantage.



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**አማርኛ (Amharic):**

ይህ ማስታወቂያ አስፈላጊ መረጃ ይዟል። ይህ ማስታወቂያ ስለ ማመልከቻዎ ወይም የ Premera Blue Cross ሽፋን አስፈላጊ መረጃ ሊኖረው ይችላል። በዚህ ማስታወቂያ ውስጥ ቁልፍ ቀናት ሊኖሩ ይችላሉ። የጤና ሽፋንዎን ለመጠበቅና በአስፋፈል እርዳታ ለማግኘት በተውሰኑ የጊዜ ገደቦች እርምጃ መውሰድ ይገባዎት ይሆናል። ይህን መረጃ እንዲያገኙ እና የለምንም ክፍያ በቋንቋዎ እርዳታ እንዲያገኙ መሰታወቅ አለዎት። በስልክ ቁጥር 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357) ይደውሉ።

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