



INLAND EMPIRE HEALTH PLAN

Dear IEHP Provider,

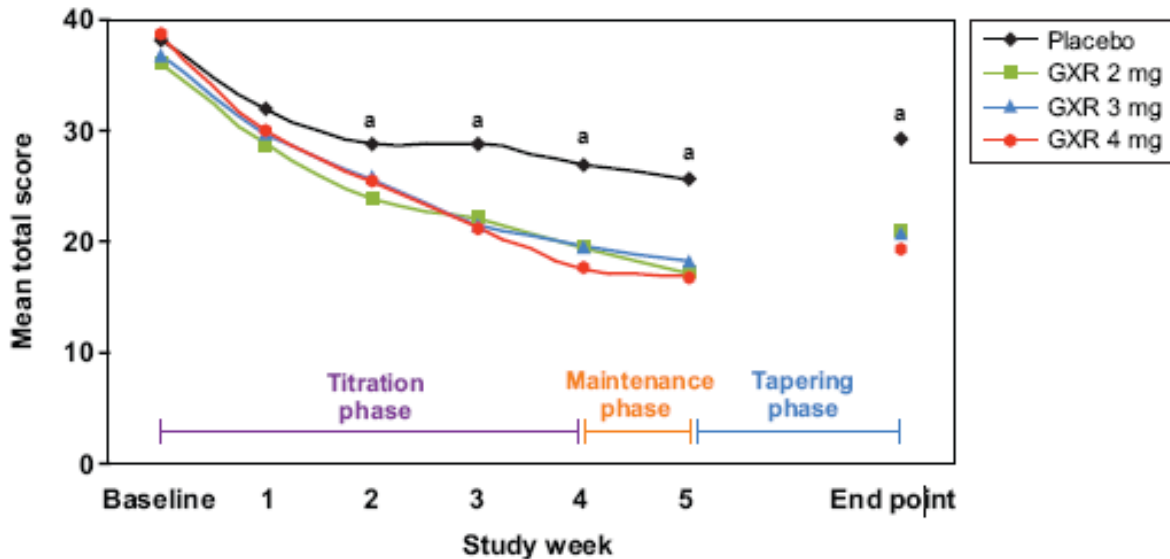
This letter provides important information about INTUNIV® (guanfacine) and IEHP policy/criteria in relation to its FDA approved indication for ADHD.

---Important Drug Information---

INTUNIV is a selective alpha2A-adrenergic receptor agonist indicated for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Intuniv has the same mechanism of action as Tenex (guanfacine), which is available as generic. Although they share the same MOA, immediate-release guanfacine and Intuniv cannot be substituted on a mg for mg basis as Intuniv provides about 50% of the dose provided by immediate release guanfacine. Intuniv’s bioavailability is 46%, whereas the bioavailability of immediate release guanfacine is 80%. The T1/2 (half-life) is ~18 hours for Intuniv compared to 16 hours with immediate release guanfacine. The peak plasma concentration occurs ~2.6 hours after administration with the immediate release compared to ~5 hours for Intuniv. There currently are no head-to-head studies comparing immediate release guanfacine to extended release guanfacine in ADHD patients. Also, both guanfacine immediate release and Intuniv have shown efficacy in treating ADHD in placebo controlled trials. Tenex (guanfacine) is not currently FDA approved for ADHD.

Figure 1- Mean Total Score improvement in ADHD symptoms for Intuniv



Biederman et al. Pediatrics. 2008; 121 (1) e73.

303 E. Vanderbilt Way, Suite 400, San Bernardino, CA 92408
Tel (909) 890-2049 Fax (909) 890-2058
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---IEHP Formulary Criteria---

The current IEHP criteria was developed and reviewed by the IEHP Pharmacy and Therapeutics Subcommittee. Based on the pharmacology and pharmacokinetics studies, Intuniv has been shown to exhibit similar characteristics compared to guanfacine immediate release and will be reserved for members who have shown failure to first line stimulants and generic guanfacine.

Intuniv Criteria:

- Member must try and fail (3) first line formulary stimulants first; then
- Member may utilize generic guanfacine at BID dosing OR Intuniv

Formulary Stimulants	Non-Formulary Stimulants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Adderall, Adderall XR (dextroamphetamine)● Concerta (methylphenidate)● Dexedrine (dextroamphetamine)● Metadate CD, Metadate ER (methylphenidate)● Ritalin, Ritalin LA (methylphenidate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Daytrana (methylphenidate)● Focalin, Focalin XR (dexmethylphenidate)● Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine)

We welcome any recommendations and comments regarding the formulary. Please call us at (909) 890-2067, with your questions and/or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Inland Empire Health Plan
Pharmaceutical Services Department

Reference:

1. Chappell P, Riddle M, Scahill L, et al: Guanfacine treatment of comorbid attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and Tourette's syndrome: preliminary clinical experience. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 1995; 34(9):1140-1146.
2. Intuniv Package Insert. Shire Pharmaceuticals. Wayne, PA 2009
3. Scahill L, Chappell PB, Kim YS, et al: A placebo-controlled study of guanfacine in the treatment of children with tic disorders and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2001; 158:1067-1074.
4. Tenex Package Insert. A H Robins. St. David, PA revised received 6/92., 11/89.

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