

Epoprostenol (Flolan[®], Veletri[®])

Place of Service

Home Infusion Administration
Outpatient Facility Administration
Infusion Center Administration
Office Administration

HCPCS: J1325 per 0.5 mg

Condition(s) listed in policy (see criteria for details)

- [Pulmonary arterial hypertension WHO Group I](#)

AHFS therapeutic class: Vasodilating Agents (Respiratory Tract)

Mechanism of action: Epoprostenol is the pharmaceutical form of a naturally-occurring prostaglandin commonly referred to as prostacyclin. Epoprostenol (prostacyclin) is a vasodilator and an inhibitor of platelet aggregation.

(1) Special Instructions and pertinent Information

Covered under the Medical Benefit, please submit clinical information for prior authorization review via fax.

(2) Prior Authorization/Medical Review is required for the following condition(s)

All requests for Flolan[®]/ Veletri[®] (epoprostenol) must be sent for clinical review and receive authorization prior to drug administration or claim payment.

Pulmonary arterial hypertension

1. WHO Group I classification

Covered Doses

Continuous infusion titrated to effect. 2 ng/kg/min until dose-limiting pharmacologic effects are elicited or until a tolerance limit to drug is established

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

I27.0 [Primary], I27.2, I27.89 [Secondary]

(3) The following condition(s) DO NOT require Prior Authorization/Preservice

All requests for Flolan[®]/ Veletri[®] (epoprostenol) must be sent for clinical review and receive authorization prior to drug administration or claim payment.

(4) This Medication is NOT medically necessary for the following condition(s)

Blue Shield's research indicates there is inadequate clinical evidence to support off-label use of this drug for the following conditions (Health and Safety Code 1367.21):

- Use of aerosolized/ nebulized forms of Flolan, Veletri or generic epoprostenol

Coverage for a Non-FDA approved indication, requires that criteria outlined in Health and Safety Code § 1367.21, including objective evidence of efficacy and safety are met for the proposed indication.

Please refer to the Provider Manual and User Guide for more information.

(5) Additional Information

How supplied:

Flolan: 0.5mg, 1.5mg (Single-use vials)

Veletri: 0.5mg, 1.5mg vials (Single-use vials)

- **NEBULIZED FORMULATIONS:** The administration of Flolan, Veletri, or generic epoprostenol via nebulization is investigational. The aerosolized/ nebulized form is compounded and not commercially available.

Clinical classification of pulmonary hypertension (6th World Symposium on Pulmonary Hypertension)

1 PAH
1.1 Idiopathic PAH
1.2 Heritable PAH
1.3 Drug- and toxin-induced PAH (table 3)
1.4 PAH associated with:
1.4.1 Connective tissue disease
1.4.2 HIV infection
1.4.3 Portal hypertension
1.4.4 Congenital heart disease
1.4.5 Schistosomiasis
1.5 PAH long-term responders to calcium channel blockers
1.6 PAH with overt features of venous/capillaries (PVOD/PCH) involvement
1.7 Persistent PH of the newborn syndrome
2 PH due to left heart disease
2.1 PH due to heart failure with preserved LVEF
2.2 PH due to heart failure with reduced LVEF
2.3 Valvular heart disease
2.4 Congenital/acquired cardiovascular conditions leading to post-capillary PH
3 PH due to lung diseases and/or hypoxia
3.1 Obstructive lung disease
3.2 Restrictive lung disease
3.3 Other lung disease with mixed restrictive/obstructive pattern
3.4 Hypoxia without lung disease
3.5 Developmental lung disorders
4 PH due to pulmonary artery obstructions (table 6)
4.1 Chronic thromboembolic PH
4.2 Other pulmonary artery obstructions
5 PH with unclear and/or multifactorial mechanisms (table 7)

5.1 Haematological disorders
5.2 Systemic and metabolic disorders
5.3 Others
5.4 Complex congenital heart disease

(6) References

- Abman SH, Hansmann G, Archer, SL, et al. Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension Guidelines from the American Heart Association and American Thoracic Society. *Circulation* 2015; 132:2037-2099. DOI: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000000329
- AHFS® therapeutic class: Vasodilating Agent. Available by subscription at <http://www.lexi.com>
- DrugDex®. Available by subscription at <http://www.micromedexsolutions.com/home/dispatch>
- Flolan® (epoprostenol sodium) [Prescribing Information]. Triangle Park, NC: GlaxoSmithKline Research; 8/2021.
- Gatzoulis A, Krowka M, Williams PG, et al. Haemodynamic definitions and updated clinical classification of pulmonary hypertension *European Respiratory Journal* 2019, 53 (1) 1-13.
- McLaughlin, VV, Archer, SL, Badesch, DB, et al. ACCF/AHA 2009 expert consensus document on pulmonary hypertension: a report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation Task Force on Expert Consensus Documents and the American Heart Association: developed in collaboration with the American College of Chest Physicians, American Thoracic Society, Inc., and the Pulmonary Hypertension Association. *Circulation* 2009;119(16):2250-94.
- Humbert M, Kovacs G, Hoeper M, et al. 2022 ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension: Developed by the task force for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Respiratory Society (ERS). Endorsed by the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) and the European Reference Network on rare respiratory distress (ERN-LUNG). *European Heart Journal*, 2022; 43 (38): 3618-3731. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehac237>
- Klinger JR, Elliott CG, Levine DJ, et al. Therapy for pulmonary arterial hypertension in adults: update of the CHEST guideline and expert panel report. *Chest* 2019; 155:565-586.
- Taichman DB, Ornelas J, Chung L, et al. Pharmacologic therapy for pulmonary arterial hypertension in adults: CHEST guideline and expert panel report. *Chest*. 2014;146(2):449-75.
- Veletri® (epoprostenol) [Prescribing Information]. South San Francisco, CA: Actelion Pharmaceuticals US Inc.; 10/2020.

(7) Policy Update

Date of last review: 4Q2023

Date of next review: 4Q2024

Changes from previous policy version:

- No clinical change to policy following routine annual review.

*BSC Drug Coverage Criteria to Determine Medical Necessity
Reviewed by P&T Committee*