

hyaluronate and derivatives

Commercial Medical Benefit Drug Policy

Sodium hyaluronate: Durolane, Euflexxa, GelSyn-3, GenVisc 850, Hyalgan, Synjoynt, Supartz FX, Triluron, Trivisc, Visco-3

Hyaluronan and derivatives: Hymovis, Monovisc, Orthovisc

Hylan polymers: Synvisc, Synvisc One, Gel One

Place of Service

Office Administration

Outpatient Facility Infusion Administration

Infusion Center Administration

Drug Details

USP Category: MISCELLANEOUS THERAPEUTIC AGENTS

Mechanism of Action: Intra-articular viscosupplementation with hyaluronic acid, high molecular weight fractions of purified natural sodium hyaluronate, and cross-linked polymers of hyaluronan known as hylans are aimed at

HCPCS:

J7318:Hyaluronan or derivative, durolane, for intra-articular injection, 1 mg

J7320:Hyaluronan or derivative, genvisc 850, for intra-articular injection, 1 mg

J7321:Hyaluronan or derivative, hyalgan, supartz or visco-3, for intra-articular injection, per dose

J7322:Hyaluronan or derivative, hymovis or hymovis one, for intra-articular injection, 1 mg

J7323:Hyaluronan or derivative, euflexxa, for intra-articular injection, per dose

J7324:Hyaluronan or derivative, orthovisc, for intra-articular injection, per dose

J7325:Hyaluronan or derivative, synvisc or synvisc-one, for intra-articular injection, 1 mg

J7326:Hyaluronan or derivative, gel-one, for intra-articular injection, per dose

J7327:Hyaluronan or derivative, monovisc, for intra-articular injection, per dose

J7328:Hyaluronan or derivative, gelsyn-3, for intra-articular injection, 0.1 mg

J7329:Hyaluronan or derivative, trivisc, for intra-articular injection, 1 mg

J7331:Hyaluronan or derivative, synjoynt, for intra-articular injection, 1 mg

J7332:Hyaluronan or derivative, triluron, for intra-articular injection, 1 mg

How Supplied:

Durolane: 60 mg/3 mL, pre-filled syringe

Euflexxa: 20 mg/2 mL, pre-filled syringe

Orthovisc: 30 mg/2 mL, pre-filled syringe

Hyalgan: 20 mg/2 mL, vials and prefilled syringe

Hymovis: 24 mg/3 mL, pre-filled syringe

Gel One: 30 mg/3 mL, pre-filled syringe

Gelsyn-3: 16.8 mg/2 mL, pre-filled syringe

GenVisc 850: 25 mg/3 mL, pre-filled syringe

Monovisc: 88 mg/4 mL, pre-filled syringe

Supartz/Supartz FX: 25 mg/2.5 mL, pre-filled syringe

Synjoynt: 20 mg/2 mL pre-filled syringe

Synvisc: 16 mg/2 mL, pre-filled syringe

Synvisc One: 48 mg/6 mL, pre-filled syringe

Triluron: 20 mg pre-filled syringe and solution

Trivisc: 25 mg/2.5 mL, solution

Visco-3: 25 mg/2.5 mL, pre-filled syringe

The following does not meet the safety and efficacy criteria established by Blue Shield of California's Pharmacy & Therapeutics committee and is not covered:

- Hyaluronic acid for the treatment of pain in osteoarthritis of the knee
 - There is a lack of definitive treatment benefit despite a large quantity of literature, and given the biases present in the available evidence, it is unlikely there is a treatment benefit that is clinically meaningful.
 - The evidence for viscosupplements includes randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and systematic reviews of RCTs. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, functional outcomes, and treatment-related morbidity. Many RCTs have been published over the last two decades. While outcomes of these RCTs have been mixed, the RCT evidence base is characterized by studies showing small treatment effects of IA hyaluronan injections. In many cases, these trials are at risk of bias, and it cannot be determined with certainty whether there is a true treatment effect or whether the reported differences are due to bias. Meta-analyses of RCTs have also had mixed findings. Some meta-analyses estimating the magnitude of treatment benefit have concluded that there is no clinically significant benefit.
 - The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) strongly recommends against its use, citing lack of efficacy, while the American College of Rheumatology/Arthritis Foundation (ACR/AF) conditionally recommends against its use, due to limited evidence of benefit.

Practice Guideline	Consensus statements on use of hyaluronic acid injections
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hyaluroinc acid is not recommended for routine use in symptomatic knee osteoarthritis• Strength of recommendation: Moderate*• Rationale: There is lack of consistent findings for or against its use.
American College of Rheumatology/Arthritis Foundation (ACR/AF), 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conditionally recommend against for use in knee osteoarthritis• Strength of recommendation: Conditionally against*• Rationale: After review that the best evidence fails to establish a benefit and that harm may be associated with these injections.

** The strength of a recommendation reflects the quality of evidence and the level of certainty that benefit outweighs the harm of an intervention. Graded recommendations from each guideline are as follows: AAOS - strong, moderate, limited, inconclusive, and consensus; ACR/AF – strongly recommended, conditionally recommended, strongly against, conditionally against, no recommendation.*

Special Instructions and Pertinent Information

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) to ensure the member has met all medical necessity requirements.

The member's specific benefit may impact drug coverage. Other utilization management processes, and/or legal restrictions may take precedence over the application of this clinical criteria.

For billing purposes, drugs must be submitted with the drug's assigned HCPCS code (as listed in the drug policy) and the corresponding NDC (national drug code). An unlisted, unspecified, or miscellaneous code should not be used if there is a specific code assigned to the drug.

References

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2. AHFS. Available by subscription at <http://www.lexi.com>
3. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Management of Osteoarthritis of the Knee (Non-Arthroplasty) Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline (2021). Available at: [oak3cpg.pdf \(aaos.org\)](https://www.aaos.org)
4. Buel A, Narducci DM. Osteoarthritis Management: Updated Guidelines from the American College of Rheumatology and Arthritis Foundation (2021); *Am Fam Physician*; 103(2): 120-121
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6. Durolane (sodium hyaluronate) Prescribing Information. Bioventus, Durham, NC: 9/2019.
7. Euflexxa (sodium hyaluronate) Prescribing Information. Ferring Pharmaceuticals Inc., Parsippany, NJ: 7/2016.
8. Gel-One (cross-linked hyaluronate) Prescribing Information. Seikagaku Corporation, Tokyo, Japan: 5/2011.
9. Gelsyn-3 (sodium hyaluronate) Prescribing Information. Bioventus, Durham, NC: 9/2019.
10. GenVisc 850 (sodium hyaluronate) Prescribing Information. OrthogenRx Inc., Doylestown, PA: 11/2019.
11. Hyalgan (sodium hyaluronate) Prescribing Information. Fidia Pharma, Parsippany, NJ: 8/2017.
12. Hymovis (hyaluronic acid derivative) Prescribing Information. Fidia Pharma USA Inc; Florham Park, NJ: 6/2021.
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14. Kolasinski SL, Neogi T, Hochberg MC, et al. 2019 American College of Rheumatology/Arthritis Foundation Guideline for the Management of Osteoarthritis of the Hand, Hip, and Knee. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2020 Feb;72(2):220-233. Available at: <https://www.rheumatology.org/Portals/0/Files/Osteoarthritis-Guideline-Early-View-2019.pdf>
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16. Orthovisc (hyaluronan) Prescribing Information. Anika Therapeutics Inc, Bedford, MA: 11/2022.
17. Osteoarthritis Research Society International. Guidelines for the Non-Surgical Management of knee, hip, and polyarticular osteoarthritis, 2019. Available at: [https://www.oarsijournal.com/article/S1063-4584\(19\)31116-1/pdf](https://www.oarsijournal.com/article/S1063-4584(19)31116-1/pdf)
18. Peck J, Slovek A, Miro P, et al. A Comprehensive Review of Viscosupplementation in Osteoarthritis of the Knee. *Orthop Rev (Pavia)*. 2021 Jul 10;13(2):25549. doi: 10.52965/001c.25549.
19. Supartz FX (sodium hyaluronate) Prescribing Information. Bioventus, Durham, NC: 4/2015.

20. Synvisc (hylan G-F 20) Prescribing Information. Genzyme Corporation, Ridgefield, NJ: 1/2025.
21. Synvisc One (hylan G-F 20) Prescribing Information. Genzyme Corporation, Ridgefield, NJ: 1/2025.
22. Triluron (sodium hyaluronate) Prescribing Information. Fidia Pharma USA Inc., Florham Park, NJ: 7/2019.
23. TriVisc (sodium hyaluronate) Prescribing Information. OrthogenRx Inc., Doylestown, PA: 11/2019.
24. Visco-3 (sodium hyaluronate) Prescribing Information. Zimmer, Warsaw, IN: 4/2017.

Review History

Date of Last Annual Review: 4Q2025

Changes from previous policy version:

- No clinical change following annual review

*Blue Shield of California Medication Policy to Determine Medical Necessity
Reviewed by P&T Committee*