

## pramlintide (Symlin<sup>®</sup>)

**Policy # 00307**

Original Effective Date: 04/24/2013

Current Effective Date: 07/01/2026

*Applies to all products administered or underwritten by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana and its subsidiary, HMO Louisiana, Inc. (collectively referred to as the "Company"), unless otherwise provided in the applicable contract. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.*

*Investigational or experimental services are not covered. This includes any drug, device, procedure, or service provided under the investigational arm of a clinical trial or clinical study. These services are excluded from coverage under benefits.*

### When Services May Be Eligible for Coverage

*Coverage for eligible medical treatments or procedures, drugs, devices or biological products may be provided only if:*

- *Benefits are available in the member's contract/certificate, and*
- *Medical necessity criteria and guidelines are met.*

Based on review of available data, the Company may consider Symlin<sup>®</sup>† (pramlintide) to be **eligible for coverage\*\*** when the below patient selection criterion is met:

#### Patient Selection Criterion

Coverage eligibility will be considered for Symlin (pramlintide) when the following criterion is met:

- Patient has a diagnosis of Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

### When Services Are Considered Investigational

*Coverage is not available for investigational medical treatments or procedures, drugs, devices or biological products.*

Based on review of available data, the Company considers the use of Symlin (pramlintide) for any usage not included in the above patient selection criterion to be **investigational.\***

### Background/Overview

Symlin (pramlintide) is an antihyperglycemic agent that is indicated for patients with Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

### Rationale/Source

This medical policy was developed through consideration of peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval status, nationally accepted standards of medical practice and accepted standards of medical practice in this community, technology evaluation centers, reference to federal regulations, other plan medical policies, and accredited national guidelines.

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Symlin (pramlintide) has the potential to be used off label for weight loss. The purpose of this policy is to limit the use of Symlin (pramlintide) to use in Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. Patient selection criteria are based on information collected in a review of the available data.

## **References**

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4. Ratner RE, Want LL, Fineman MS, et al. Adjunctive therapy with the amylin analogue pramlintide leads to a combined improvement in glycemic and weight control in insulin-treated subjects with type 2 diabetes. *Diabetes Technol Ther*. 2002;4(1):51-61.
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7. Riddle M, Frias J, Zhang B, et al. Pramlintide improved glycemic control and reduced weight in patients with type 2 diabetes using basal insulin. *Diabetes Care*. 2007;30(11):2794-2799.
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12. Smith SR, Aronne LJ, Burns CM, Kesty N et al. Sustained weight loss following 12-month pramlintide treatments as an adjunct to lifestyle intervention in obesity. *Diabetes Care*. 2008;31;1816-1823.

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## **Policy History**

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|            |                                                   |                                 |  |  |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 04/04/2013 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 04/24/2013 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | New Policy.                     |  |  |
| 06/04/2015 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 06/17/2015 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |
| 06/02/2016 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 06/20/2016 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |
| 06/01/2017 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 06/21/2017 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |
| 06/07/2018 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 06/20/2018 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |
| 06/06/2019 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 06/19/2019 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |
| 06/04/2020 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 06/10/2020 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |
| 06/03/2021 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 06/09/2021 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |
| 06/02/2022 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 06/08/2022 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |
| 06/01/2023 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 06/14/2023 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |
| 06/06/2024 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 06/12/2024 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |
| 06/05/2025 | Medical Policy Committee review                   |                                 |  |  |
| 06/11/2025 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |
| 06/04/2026 | Medical Policy Committee review.                  |                                 |  |  |
| 06/10/2026 | Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. | Coverage eligibility unchanged. |  |  |

Next Scheduled Review Date: 06/2027

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\*Investigational – A medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product is Investigational if the effectiveness has not been clearly tested and it has not been incorporated into standard medical practice. Any determination we make that a medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product is Investigational will be based on a consideration of the following:

- A. Whether the medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product can be lawfully marketed without approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and whether such approval has been granted at the time the medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product is sought to be furnished; or
- B. Whether the medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product requires further studies or clinical trials to determine its maximum tolerated dose, toxicity, safety, effectiveness, or effectiveness as compared with the standard means of treatment or diagnosis, must improve health outcomes, according to the consensus of opinion among experts as shown by reliable evidence, including:
  1. Consultation with technology evaluation center(s);
  2. Credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community; or
  3. Reference to federal regulations.

\*\*Medically Necessary (or “Medical Necessity”) - Health care services, treatment, procedures, equipment, drugs, devices, items or supplies that a Provider, exercising prudent clinical judgment, would provide to a patient for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that are:

- A. In accordance with nationally accepted standards of medical practice;
- B. Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, level of care, site and duration, and considered effective for the patient's illness, injury or disease; and
- C. Not primarily for the personal comfort or convenience of the patient, physician or other health care provider, and not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of that patient's illness, injury or disease.

For these purposes, “nationally accepted standards of medical practice” means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, Physician Specialty Society recommendations and the views of Physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas and any other relevant factors.

‡ Indicated trademarks are the registered trademarks of their respective owners.

**NOTICE:** If the Patient’s health insurance contract contains language that differs from the BCBSLA Medical Policy definition noted above, the definition in the health insurance contract will be relied upon for specific coverage determinations.

**NOTICE:** Medical Policies are scientific based opinions, provided solely for coverage and informational purposes. Medical Policies should not be construed to suggest that the Company recommends, advocates, requires, encourages, or discourages any particular treatment, procedure, or service, or any particular course of treatment, procedure, or service.

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**NOTICE:** Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage.

**NOTICE:** If an authorization for an ongoing course of treatment has been provided to a member and the member changes from one health plan to another health plan (e.g., a member moves from carrier A to Louisiana Blue), Louisiana Blue may honor the previous health plan's authorization for the same service under the same type of in-network benefit for a 90-day transition period. Documentation of the authorization for the ongoing course of treatment from the previous health plan must be provided to us by the member or their provider and the services provided for the course of treatment must otherwise be a covered service under the Louisiana Blue health plan. This provision does not apply to medications covered under the plan's pharmacy benefit.