



## Prior Authorization Approval Criteria

### *Aplenzin (bupropion hydrobromide)*

**Generic name:** Bupropion hydrobromide  
**Brand name:** Aplenzin  
**Medication class:** Antidepressant  
**FDA-approved uses:** Treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD)  
**Available dosage forms:** 174 mg, 348 mg and 522 mg tablets  
**Usual dose:** Start at 174 mg/day to a target dose of 348 mg/day  
**Approximate monthly cost:** 174mg- \$174.30  
Based on AWP from 2009 348mg- \$229.80  
522mg- \$522.90  
**Duration of therapy:** Indefinite

**Criteria for use** (*bullet points below are all inclusive unless otherwise noted*):

- Clinically diagnosed major depressive disorder (MDD).
- Must have tried and failed generic bupropion
- Must have tried and failed at least one generic SSRI or another antidepressant

**Contraindications:**

- Patients with seizure disorders
- Patients using other bupropion products, including Zyban
- Current or prior diagnosis of bulimia or anorexia nervosa
- Use of MAO inhibitor (stop MAOI at least 2 weeks prior to bupropion use)
- Patients allergic to any of the ingredients of Aplenzin
- Abrupt discontinuation of alcohol, sedatives (including benzodiazepines)

**Not approved if:**

- Patient has any contraindications to the use of Aplenzin.
- Patient does not meet the above-stated criteria.

**Special considerations:**

*Switching From Other Forms of bupropion*

The equivalent doses of *Aplenzin* to bupropion hydrochloride (HCl) are as follows:

*Aplenzin* 174 mg equals bupropion HCl 150 mg

*Aplenzin* 348 mg equals bupropion HCl 300 mg

*Aplenzin* 522 mg equals bupropion HCl 450 mg

FCHP Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted: 09/09/09