



Prior Authorization Approval Criteria

Euflexxa (hyaluronan) ***and all other hyaluronate derivatives, brand and generic***

Generic name:	All derivatives of hyaluronate (hyaluronan, hyaluronic acid, sodium hyaluronate, hylan polymers, etc.)
Brand names:	Euflexxa (hyaluronan), Hyalgan (sodium hylauronate), Orthovisc (hyaluronan), Supartz (sodium hyaluronate), Synvisc (hylan GF 20)
Medication class:	Viscosupplements
FDA-approved uses:	Intra-articular injections for treatment of mild to moderate osteoarthritis of knees.
Usual dose:	One injection weekly (actual amount varies from product to product)
Duration of therapy:	3 to 5 weeks, depending upon the product

Approximate monthly cost:

<i>(Based on ASP 1/1/08)</i>	J7321 Supartz & Hyalgan = \$96.28 per injection; x5 inj = \$481.40
	J7323 Euflexxa = \$104.59 per injection; x3 inj = \$313.77
	J7322 Synvisc = \$168.07 per injection; x3 inj = \$504.96
	J7324 Orthovisc = \$161.67 per injection; x3 inj = \$485.01

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

- If patient meets the criteria for viscosupplement therapy, FCHP will only approve the preferred formulary products (Euflexxa, Supartz, or Hyalgan). Orthovisc, Hyalgan or Synvisc may be approved if the patient has tried and failed or was intolerant to the FCHP preferred products.
- Patient has clinically documented osteoarthritis of the knees
- Efficacy of intra-articular corticosteroid injection lasting less than 6-8 weeks

Criteria for continuation of therapy: There are no data on repeated courses of therapy for Euflexxa and Supartz; there is no evidence of increased adverse drug events in repeated courses of therapy for Hyalgan, Synvisc, and Orthovisc when separated by at least six months.

Cautions:

- Remove any joint effusion present before injecting viscosupplements.
- Do not use concomitantly with quaternary ammonium compounds.
- Do not inject with anesthetics or other medications.
- Do not use in severely inflamed knees.
- Use Hyalgan, Synvisc, Supartz and Orthovisc with caution in patients who are allergic to avian proteins, feathers, or eggs.

Not approved if:

- Patient has not tried and failed NSAIDs or acetaminophen, and corticosteroid injections
- Being requested for joints other than knees
- Patient has any contraindications to the use of product

Special considerations:

- There are no data on safety or efficacy of repeated courses of therapy using Euflexxa or Supartz
- There are no data indicating increased adverse drug events or increased efficacy and no data supporting safety of using repeated courses of Hyalgan, Orthovisc, or Synvisc

Contraindications:

- Do not use in patients with known hypersensitivity to hyaluronate derivatives
- Do not use in the presence of joint infections or skin diseases or infections in the area of the injection site

FCHP Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee approval: _____

Date: _____

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