



Prior Authorization Approval Criteria
Department of Pharmacy Services

Generic Name: All derivatives of Hyaluronate (hyaluronan, hyaluronic acid, sodium hyaluronate, hylan polymers, etc.)

Brand Names: Euflexxa, Hyalgan, Orthovisc, Supartz, Synvisc

Medication Class: Viscosupplements

FDA Approved Uses: Intra-articular injections for treatment of mild to moderate osteoarthritis of knees

Available Dosage Forms: Intra-articular injection to the knees

Usual Dose: One injection weekly (actual amount varies from product to product)

Duration of Therapy: Three to five weeks, depending on the product

Approximate Cost (ASP 2008):

J7321 Supartz and Hyalgan	ASP as of 1/1/08= \$96.28 per injection	x5 inj = \$481.40
J7323 Euflexxa	ASP as of 1/1/08=\$104.59 per injection	x3 inj = \$313.77
J7322 Synvisc	ASP as of 1/1/08=\$168.07 per injection	x3 inj = \$504.96
J7324 Orthovisc	ASP as of 1/1/08=\$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 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

Monitoring: Advise patients of likely side effects (injection site reactions)

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

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

P&T Approval: _____ Date: _____