DUOPA PRIOR AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA  
(carbidopa/levodopa enteral suspension)

Duopa (carbidopa/levodopa) is an enteral intestinal infusion of carbidopa and levodopa indicated for the treatment of motor fluctuations in people with advanced Parkinson’s disease.

In Parkinson’s disease, the spontaneous emptying of the stomach becomes delayed and unpredictable which can affect the timing of when orally administered drugs leave the stomach and are absorbed in the small intestine, therefore delaying time of onset. The intestinal infusion allows the bypass of the stomach to eliminate this problem.

The following criteria must be met for approval of Duopa:
- Diagnosis of advanced Parkinson’s Disease
- Presence of complicated motor fluctuations
- Inadequate control with optimal medical therapy which includes oral levodopa/carbidopa AND a dopamine agonist AND either a Catechol-O-methyl transferase (COMT) inhibitor OR a monoamine oxidase B (MAO)-B inhibitor
  - Must have a PEG-J (percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy with jejunal extension) tube in place
  - Duopa is administered by a CADD-legacy 1400 portable infusion pump
  - Must have a supply of oral carbidopa-levodopa immediate release (IR) tablets on hand for emergency use

Duopa is administered over a 16-hour infusion period. The daily dose is determined by individualized patient titration. The maximum recommended daily dose of Duopa is 2000 mg of the levodopa component (one cassette per day), administered over 16 hours. At the end of the daily 16-hour infusion, members will disconnect the pump from the PEG-J and take their night-time dose of oral immediate-release carbidopa-levodopa tablets.

Duopa cassettes require refrigeration for storage, but should be used at room temperature. The cassettes are for single-use only and should not be used for longer than 16 hours, even if some drug product remains. An opened cassette should not be re-used. The PEG-J should be disconnected from the pump at the end of the daily 16 hours administration period and flushed with room temperature potable water with a syringe.

If approval for Duopa coverage is given, approval for the AbbVie PEG, J tubing and ancillary supplies is also given.

When approved, Duopa must be obtained through our specialty pharmacy.