



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®  
Coverage Policy/Guideline

Name: Nuedexta

Page: 1 of 2

Effective Date: 11/15/2023

Last Review Date: 9/2023

Applies to:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Kids	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky PRMD

### Intent:

The intent of this policy/guideline is to provide information to the prescribing practitioner outlining the coverage criteria for Nuedexta (dextromethorphan hydrobromide/quinidine sulfate) under the patient's prescription drug benefit.

### Description:

Nuedexta is indicated for the treatment of pseudobulbar affect (PBA). PBA occurs secondary to a variety of otherwise unrelated neurologic conditions, and is characterized by involuntary, sudden, and frequent episodes of laughing and/or crying. PBA episodes typically occur out of proportion or incongruent to the underlying emotional state. PBA is a specific condition, distinct from other types of emotional lability that may occur in patients with neurological disease or injury.

### Applicable Drug List:

Nuedexta

### Policy/Guideline:

The requested drug will be covered with prior authorization when the following criteria are met:

- The patient has a diagnosis of pseudobulbar affect (PBA)

**AND**

- The request is NOT for continuation of therapy

**OR**

- The request is for continuation of therapy

**AND**

- The patient has achieved or maintained a decrease in pseudobulbar affect (PBA) episodes since starting the requested drug

### Approval Duration and Quantity Restrictions:

#### Approval:

- Initial: 4 months
- Renewal: 12 months

### References:

1. Nuedexta [package insert]. Aliso Viejo, CA: Avanir Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; June 2019.
2. Lexicomp Online, AHFS DI (Adult and Pediatric) Online. Waltham, MA: UpToDate, Inc.; 2023. <https://online.lexi.com>. Accessed March 2, 2023.



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3. Micromedex (electronic version). Merative, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. Available at: <https://www.micromedexsolutions.com/> (cited: 03/02/2023).
4. Hammond FM, Alexander DN, Cutler AJ et. al. PRISM II: An open-label study to assess effectiveness of dextromethorphan/quinidine for pseudobulbar affect in patients with dementia, stroke or traumatic brain injury. *BMC Neurology* (2016) 16:89.