



PHARMACY POLICY STATEMENT North Carolina Marketplace

DRUG NAME	Hyaluronic Acid Viscosupplements
BILLING CODE	See table in appendix for list of products and codes
BENEFIT TYPE	Medical
STATUS	Prior Authorization Required

Osteoarthritis is a common chronic joint disorder involving cartilage degradation, bone remodeling, osteophyte formation, and synovial inflammation. These changes lead to pain, stiffness, swelling, and compromised functional capacity of the affected joint. The goal of treatment is to improve pain and mobility. Viscosupplementation is an intra-articular therapy that leverages the physiology of hyaluronic acid, a major component of normal synovial fluid, to restore viscoelasticity and natural protective properties like shock absorption and lubrication of the joint. A multitude of different hyaluronic acid products are available with a variety of properties. They are indicated for the treatment of pain in osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee in patients who have failed to respond adequately to conservative non-pharmacologic therapy and simple analgesics. They have a slower but more durable response than intra-articular steroid injections. Over the years, treatment guidelines have been incongruent in their recommendations, but overall they are considered a safe and effective option in certain situations. It is important to rule out other causes of joint pain such as rheumatoid arthritis, gout, or malignancy.

Hyaluronic acid viscosupplements will be considered for coverage when the following criteria are met:

Osteoarthritis (OA) of the Knee

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is at least 18 years of age; AND
2. Member has a diagnosis of osteoarthritis of the knee confirmed by radiographic evidence such as joint space narrowing, subchondral sclerosis, osteophytes and subchondral cysts; AND
3. Pain interferes with normal daily activity such as walking, standing, or stair climbing; AND
4. Member has tried and failed ALL of the following conservative therapies for at least 3 months:
 - a) Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs):
 - Euflexxa: 2 mL weekly for 3 weeks
 - Durolane: 3 mL one time
 - Gel-One: 3 mL one time
 - Gelsyn-3: 2 mL weekly for 3 weeks



Hyalgan: 2 mL weekly for 3 to 5 weeks
Hymovis: 3 mL weekly for 2 weeks
Monovisc: 4 mL one time
Orthovisc: 2 mL weekly for 3 to 4 weeks
Supartz FX: 2.5 mL weekly for 3 to 5 weeks
Synvisc: 2 mL weekly for 3 weeks
Synvisc-One: 6 mL one time
TriVisc: 2.5 mL weekly for 3 weeks
TriLuron: 2 mL weekly for 3 weeks
Visco-3: 2.5 mL weekly for 3 weeks

If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for 6 months.

For **reauthorization**:

1. Chart notes must show clinically significant improvement of signs and symptoms such as documentation of improved pain scores, improved functional abilities, and/or reduced use of analgesic medications as a result of the treatment to the affected knee; AND
2. Symptoms have recurred and at least 6 months have elapsed since completion of the previous course of viscosupplementation; AND
3. Member has not had a total



TriLuron	sodium hyaluronate	J7332	N
Visco-3	sodium hyaluronate	J7321	N

References:

1. Euflexxa [package insert]. Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; 2016.
2. Durolane [package insert]. Bioventus LLC; 2017.
3. Gel-One [package insert]. Zimmer, Inc.; 2011.
4. Gelsyn-3 [package insert]. Bioventus; 2017.
5. GenVisc 850 [package insert]. OrthogenRx. N.D.
6. Hyalgan [package insert]. Fidia Pharma USA Inc.; 2014.
7. Hymovis [package insert]. Fidia Pharma USA Inc.; 2017.
8. Monovisc [package insert]. Anika Therapeutics Inc.; 2013.
9. Orthovisc [package insert]. Anika Therapeutics. N.d.
10. Supartz FX [package insert]. Bioventus LLC; 2015
11. Synvisc [package insert]. Genzyme Biosurgery; 2014.
12. Synvisc-One [package insert]. Genzyme Biosurgery; 2014.
13. TriVisc. [package insert]. OrthogenRx, Inc.
14. TriLuron. [package insert]. Fidia Pharma USA Inc.; 2019.
15. Visco-3. [package insert]. Bioventus LLC.
16. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons 3.3 (ur)3.5 (sID 61 BDC7 (y0(n)6)1.5 (c)4 t(G)0.5 (enz)-5 (O)6.5 (r)-1.3 0-2