I. Medication Description

Forteo is a recombinant form of human parathyroid hormone. It provides the same beneficial effect on the bone and kidney as the native parathyroid hormone (PTH). PTH works by stimulating both bone resorption and formation, to maintain normal bone mass. Age-related PTH level changes can lead to cortical bone loss or hip fractures. Forteo works by stimulating bone formation, therefore increasing bone mass and density.

II. Position Statement

Coverage is determined through a prior authorization process with supporting clinical documentation for every request.

III. Policy

Coverage of Forteo is provided for:

- The treatment of post-menopausal osteoporosis, glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis, or primary/hypogonadal osteoporosis in men AND
- Member must have failed therapy with a bisphosphonate (defined by a fracture while on therapy or worsening bone density) unless such a trial is shown to be inappropriate or contraindicated (i.e., presence of severe osteoporosis [T-scores -3.0 or worse in lumbar spine, femoral neck, or total hip region], history of major osteoporotic fracture, presence of renal insufficiency, etc) AND
- Member has at least one of the following:
  - T-score equal to or worse than -2.5 in the lumbar spine, femoral neck, or total hip region OR
  - A FRAX calculator based 10-year risk of at least 20% for a major osteoporotic fracture (spine, shoulder, hip, or wrist), or a 10-year risk of at least 3% for a hip fracture OR
  - Presence or history of osteoporotic fracture

IV. Quantity Limitations

1 pen per each 28 days will be covered (to accommodate a dose of 20mcg per day)

V. Coverage Duration

Coverage is provided for up to 2 years and cannot be renewed
VI. Coverage Renewal Criteria

n/a

VII. Billing/Coding Information

Forteo Prefilled Pen 20mcg/dose Solution for injection (each pen delivers 28 subcutaneous doses)

VIII. Summary of Policy Changes

- 1/1/12: Requirement of diagnostic DXA scan and/or FRAX calculation added
- 9/15/12: No changes
- 3/15/13: loosened criteria requiring use of bisphosphonate prior to coverage
- 12/15/13: no policy changes
- 1/1/15: no policy changes
- 7/1/15: formulary distinctions made
- 3/15/16: no policy changes
- 1/1/17: no policy changes

IX. References

The preceding policy is a guideline to allow for coverage of the pertinent medication/product, and is not meant to serve as a clinical practice guideline.