Clinical Policy: Avanafil (Stendra)

Reference Number: CP.CPA.323
Effective Date: 06.01.18
Last Review Date: 08.25
Line of Business: Commercial

Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Avanafil (Stendra®) is a phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Stendra is indicated for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED).

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that avanafil and Stendra are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Erectile Dysfunction (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of ED;
2. Age ≥ 21 years;
3. Failure of generic Viagra® (sildenafil 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If request is for brand Stendra, member must use generic avanafil, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Stendra is not prescribed concurrently with nitrates (e.g., Nitrodur®, Nitrobid®, Nitrostat®, Isordil®, Ismo®);
6. Stendra is not prescribed concurrently with guanylate cyclase stimulators, such as riociguat (Adempas®);
7. Dose does not exceed health plan-approved quantity limit and both of the following (a and b):
   a. One tablet per day;
   b. 200 mg per day.

Approval duration: Benefit Renewal Date (quantity limits are plan specific)

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
   a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial; or

b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial; or

2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Erectile Dysfunction (must meet all)**:**

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
   a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
   b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B);*
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for brand Stendra, member must use generic avanafil, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed health plan-approved quantity limit and both of the following (a and b):
   a. One tablet per day;
   b. 200 mg per day.

Approval duration: Benefit Renewal Date (quantity limits are plan specific)

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
   a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial; or
   b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off-label use policy – CP.CPA.09 for commercial or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key
ED: erectile dysfunction
FDA: Food and Drug Administration

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives
This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
sildenafil (Viagra®)	50 mg PO 1 hour (0.5 - 4 hours) before sexual activity	100 mg/day

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications / Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): administration to patients using any form of organic nitrate, administration with guanylate cyclase stimulators such as riociguat and vericiguat, hypersensitivity
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
ED	100 mg PO as early as 15 minutes prior sexual activity	200 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

Tablets: 50 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg

VII. References

1. Stendra Prescribing Information. Cranford, NJ: Metuchen Pharmaceuticals, LLC.; October 2022. Available at: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2022/202276s020lbl.pdf. Accessed April 21, 2025.
2. Guay, AT, et al. American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists Medical Guidelines for Clinical Practice for the Evaluation and Treatment of Male Sexual Dysfunction: A Couple's Problem-2003 Update. Endocrine Practice, 2003; 9(1): 77-95
3. Lue TF. Drug therapy: Erectile dysfunction. N Engl J Med 2000;342:1802.
4. Steele, D. Drugs causing sexual dysfunction and their alternatives: A Reference Tool. Urol Nurs. 1989 Oct-Dec;9(6):10-12.
5. Burnett AL, Nehra A, Breau RH, et al. Erectile Dysfunction: American Urological Association Guideline 2018. Available at: https://www.auanet.org/guidelines-and-quality/guidelines/erectile-dysfunction-(ed)-guideline. Accessed May 5, 2025.

6. Micromedex® Healthcare Series [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colo: Thomson Healthcare. Updated periodically. Accessed May 5, 2025.
7. Kloner RA, Burnett AL, Miner M, et al. Princeton IV consensus guidelines: PDE5 inhibitors and cardiac health. The Journal of Sexual Medicine. February 2024; 21(2): 90–116.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
3Q 2021 annual review: modified minimum age from 18 to 21 years per age limit programming; references reviewed and updated.	04.06.21	08.21
3Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	04.19.22	08.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	09.23.22	
3Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; updated contraindications per prescribing information; references reviewed and updated.	04.14.23	08.23
3Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	05.02.24	08.24
Per SDC request, added redirection to generic for brand Stendra requests.	03.24.25	
3Q 2025 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	04.21.25	08.25

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. "Health Plan" means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions. Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members, and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.