



Dear Physicians,

FHCP is experiencing a large number of requests for Reclast (zoledronic acid) for members who are unable to tolerate, have failed, or have contraindications to oral bisphosphonates.

Reclast is not on the FHCP formulary.

Our formulary IV bisphosphonate is Boniva injection (Ibandronate) which is given every 3 months in an FHCP Infusion Center.

Many of the requests for Reclast would qualify for coverage of Boniva.

Please submit a referral request to the FHCP Central Referrals Department for IV Boniva if the patient meets the criteria below. Boniva injection is dosed every 3 months given as 3mg slow IV push over 15-30 seconds.

Boniva IV carries the same contraindication, and warnings as other bisphosphonates (Hypocalcemia, Stage IV CKD, Osteonecrosis of the Jaw).

Prior Authorization Protocol:

Boniva Infusion (Ibandronate) - This medication is indicated for treatment of Osteoporosis. It is a parenteral bisphosphonate given by IV infusion every 3 months.

- Patient must have contraindication or intolerance to oral bisphosphonates such as esophageal stricture.
- Not for use in patients with severe renal impairment (Crcl<30 ml/min)
- Medical history and studies are reviewed in Referrals and if approved will notify pharmacy.

Note:

Treatment failures of oral bisphosphonates as indicated by worsening densitometry studies, or continued fractures, in the absence of secondary causes (Vitamin D deficiency, Hyperthyroidism, Hyperparathyroidism) will also be candidates for prior authorization of Boniva Injection.

Thank you for considering Boniva prior to Reclast.

Sincerely,
Wendy Myers, MD
Chief Medical Officer, FHCP