

## SAMPLE OUTLINE OF LETTER OF APPEAL—RMS/RRMS

[Date]

[Health plan name]

ATTN: [Department]

[Medical/pharmacy director name (if available)]

[Health plan address]

[City, State ZIP]

[Patient's name]

[Date of birth]

[Case ID number]

[Dates of service]

Re: Appeal of Denial of MAYZENT® (siponimod) tablets 0.25 mg - 2 mg

Dear [Medical/pharmacy director name],

I am writing to request reconsideration of your denial of coverage for MAYZENT, which I have prescribed for the patient referenced above. I have read and acknowledged your policy for responsible management of drugs for multiple sclerosis (MS). Your reason(s) for the denial [is/are] [reason(s) for the denial].

Based on the patient's condition and medical history, as well as my experience treating patients with [relapsing multiple sclerosis (RMS)/relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS)] [ICD-10 code], I believe the appropriate and medically necessary treatment in this case is MAYZENT. Please see my clinical reasoning below for prescribing MAYZENT to my patient.

### Patient's diagnosis and medical history in support of the appeal

[Patient's name] is [a/an] [age]-year-old [male/female] patient who has been diagnosed with [RMS/RRMS] as of [date]. [He/She] has been in my care since [date].

[Include supporting information as requested by the plan in their denial letter and any clinical attributes of MAYZENT that are relevant to the patient. Additional information that may be supportive in the case are:

- Breakthrough disease activity, including relapses and/or magnetic resonance imaging brain lesions
- MS treatments that the patient has tried and failed, including interferon therapy
- Activities of daily living affected by current MS disease
- Underlying health issues
- Intolerable side effects]

History of previous therapies for MS \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for discontinuation of previous therapies \_\_\_\_\_

Duration of previous therapies \_\_\_\_\_

### Summary

This is my [level of request] prior authorization appeal. A copy of the [level of denial] denial letter is included along with medical notes in response to the denial. In my professional opinion, and considering [patient's name]'s history and condition, I believe treatment with MAYZENT is appropriate and medically necessary. If you have any further questions about this matter, please contact me at [physician's phone number] or via e-mail at [physician's e-mail]. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Physician's signature]

Enclosures

[List and attach additional documents, which may include a denial letter, Letter of Medical Necessity, prescribing information, clinical notes/medical records, FDA approval letter, or clinical practice guidelines.]

The Indication and Important Safety Information are below and do not need to be sent to the insurance company.

## **INDICATION**

MAYZENT® (siponimod) is indicated for the treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS), to include clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing-remitting disease, and active secondary progressive disease, in adults.

## **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION**

### **Contraindications:**

- Patients with a CYP2C9\*3/\*3 genotype
- In the last 6 months, experienced myocardial infarction, unstable angina, stroke, TIA, decompensated heart failure requiring hospitalization, or Class III/IV heart failure
- Presence of Mobitz type II second-degree, third-degree atrioventricular block, or sick sinus syndrome, unless patient has a functioning pacemaker

**Infections:** MAYZENT may increase risk of infections with some that are serious in nature. Life-threatening and rare fatal infections have occurred.

Before starting MAYZENT, review a recent complete blood count (CBC) (ie, within 6 months or after discontinuation of prior therapy). Delay initiation of treatment in patients with severe active infections until resolved. Employ effective treatments and monitor patients with symptoms of infection while on therapy. Consider discontinuing treatment if patient develops a serious infection.

Cases of fatal cryptococcal meningitis (CM) were reported in patients treated with another sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) receptor modulator. Rare cases of CM have occurred with MAYZENT. If CM is suspected, MAYZENT should be suspended until cryptococcal infection has been excluded. If CM is diagnosed, appropriate treatment should be initiated.

No cases of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) were reported in MAYZENT clinical trials; however, they have been observed in patients treated with another sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) receptor modulator and other multiple sclerosis (MS) therapies. If PML is suspected, treatment should be discontinued.

Cases of herpes viral infection, including one case of reactivation of varicella zoster virus leading to varicella zoster meningitis, have been reported. Patients without a confirmed history of varicella zoster virus (VZV) or without vaccination should be tested for antibodies before starting MAYZENT. If VZV antibodies are not present or detected, then VZV immunization is recommended and MAYZENT should be initiated 4 weeks after vaccination.

Use of live vaccines should be avoided while taking MAYZENT and for 4 weeks after stopping treatment.

Caution should be used when combining treatment (ie, anti-neoplastic, immune-modulating, or immunosuppressive therapies) due to additive immune system effects.

**Macular Edema:** In most cases, macular edema occurred within 4 months of therapy. Patients with history of uveitis or diabetes are at an increased risk. Before starting treatment, an ophthalmic

evaluation of the fundus, including the macula, is recommended and at any time if there is a change in vision. The use of MAYZENT in patients with macular edema has not been evaluated; the potential risks and benefits to the individual patient should be considered.

**Bradycardia and Atrioventricular Conduction Delays:** Prior to initiation of MAYZENT, an ECG should be obtained to determine if preexisting cardiac conduction abnormalities are present. In all patients, a dose titration is recommended for initiation of MAYZENT treatment to help reduce cardiac effects.

MAYZENT was not studied in patients who had:

- In the last 6 months, experienced myocardial infarction, unstable angina, stroke, TIA, or decompensated heart failure requiring hospitalization
- New York Heart Association Class II-IV heart failure
- Cardiac conduction or rhythm disorders, including complete left bundle branch block, sinus arrest or sino-atrial block, symptomatic bradycardia, sick sinus syndrome, Mobitz type II second-degree AV-block or higher-grade AV-block (either history or observed at screening), unless patient has a functioning pacemaker
- Significant QT prolongation (QTc greater than 500 msec)
- Arrhythmias requiring treatment with Class Ia or Class III anti-arrhythmic drugs

Reinitiation of treatment (initial dose titration, monitoring effects on heart rate and AV conduction [ie, ECG]) should apply if  $\geq 4$  consecutive daily doses are missed.

**Respiratory Effects:** MAYZENT may cause a decline in pulmonary function. Spirometric evaluation of respiratory function should be performed during therapy if clinically warranted.

**Liver Injury:** Elevation of transaminases may occur in patients taking MAYZENT. Before starting treatment, obtain liver transaminase and bilirubin levels. Closely monitor patients with severe hepatic impairment. Patients who develop symptoms suggestive of hepatic dysfunction should have liver enzymes checked, and MAYZENT should be discontinued if significant liver injury is confirmed.

**Increased Blood Pressure:** Increase in systolic and diastolic pressure was observed about 1 month after initiation of treatment and persisted with continued treatment. During therapy, blood pressure should be monitored and managed appropriately.

**Fetal Risk:** Based on animal studies, MAYZENT may cause fetal harm. Women of childbearing potential should use effective contraception to avoid pregnancy during and for 10 days after stopping MAYZENT therapy.

**Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES):** Rare cases of PRES have been reported in patients receiving a sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) receptor modulator. Such events have not been reported for patients treated with MAYZENT in clinical trials. If patients develop any unexpected neurological or psychiatric symptoms, a prompt evaluation should be considered. If PRES is suspected, MAYZENT should be discontinued.

**Unintended Additive Immunosuppressive Effects From Prior Treatment or After Stopping MAYZENT:** When switching from drugs with prolonged immune effects, the half-life and mode of action of these drugs must be considered to avoid unintended additive immunosuppressive effects.

Initiating treatment with MAYZENT after treatment with alemtuzumab is not recommended.

After stopping MAYZENT therapy, siponimod remains in the blood for up to 10 days. Starting other therapies during this interval will result in concomitant exposure to siponimod.

Lymphocyte counts returned to the normal range in 90% of patients within 10 days of stopping therapy. However, residual pharmacodynamic effects, such as lowering effects on peripheral lymphocyte count, may persist for up to 3-4 weeks after the last dose. Use of immunosuppressants within this period may lead to an additive effect on the immune system, and therefore, caution should be applied 3-4 weeks after the last dose of MAYZENT.

**Severe Increase in Disability After Stopping MAYZENT:** Severe exacerbation of disease, including disease rebound, has been rarely reported after discontinuation of an S1P receptor modulator. The possibility of severe exacerbation of disease should be considered after stopping MAYZENT treatment, thus patients should be monitored upon discontinuation.

**Most Common Adverse Reactions:** Most common adverse reactions (>10%) are headache, hypertension, and transaminase increases.

**[Please click here for the MAYZENT full Prescribing Information, including Medication Guide.](#)**

MAYZENT is a registered trademark of Novartis AG.

