

		<b>AETNA BETTER HEALTH®</b> <b>Coverage Policy/Guideline</b>	
Name: Nuedexta		Page: 1 of 2	
Effective Date: 5/1/2025		Last Review Date: 3/2025	
Applies to:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Kids	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky PRMD

### Intent:

The intent of this policy/guideline is to provide information to the prescribing practitioner outlining the coverage criteria for Nuedexta (dextromethorphan hydrobromide/quinidine sulfate) under the patient's prescription drug benefit.

### Description:

Nuedexta is indicated for the treatment of pseudobulbar affect (PBA). PBA occurs secondary to a variety of otherwise unrelated neurologic conditions, and is characterized by involuntary, sudden, and frequent episodes of laughing and/or crying. PBA episodes typically occur out of proportion or incongruent to the underlying emotional state. PBA is a specific condition, distinct from other types of emotional lability that may occur in patients with neurological disease or injury.

### Applicable Drug List:

Nuedexta

### Policy/Guideline:

The requested drug will be covered with prior authorization when the following criteria are met:

- The patient has a diagnosis of pseudobulbar affect (PBA)
- AND**
  - The request is NOT for continuation of therapy
- OR**
  - The request is for continuation of therapy
- AND**
  - The patient has achieved or maintained a decrease in pseudobulbar affect (PBA) episodes since starting the requested drug

### Approval Duration and Quantity Restrictions:

#### Approval:

- Initial: 4 months
- Renewal: 12 months

### References:

- Nuedexta [package insert]. Aliso Viejo, CA: Avanir Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; June 2019.
- Lexicomp Online, AHFS DI (Adult and Pediatric) Online. Waltham, MA: UpToDate, Inc.; 2024. <https://online.lexi.com>. Accessed February 28, 2024.



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3. Micromedex® (electronic version). Merative, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. Available at: <https://www.micromedexsolutions.com/> (cited: 02/28/2024).
4. Hammond FM, Alexander DN, Cutler AJ, et. Al. PRISM II: An open-label study to assess effectiveness of dextromethorphan/quinidine for pseudobulbar affect in patients with dementia, stroke or traumatic brain injury. *BMC Neurol.* 2016;16:89.