

Ondansetron

Adjudication Guideline

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Table of Contents

1.	Abstract	3
1.1	For Members.....	3
1.2	For Medical Professionals.....	3
2.	Scope	3
3.	Adjudication policy.....	4
3.1	Eligibility / Coverage Criteria.....	5
3.2	Requirements for Coverage.....	5
3.3	Non-coverage.....	5
4.	Denial Codes.....	6
5.	Appendices	6
5.1	References	6
5.2	Revision History	7

1. Abstract

1.1 For Members

Ondansetron is indicated for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and surgery. It is particularly useful for patients who are at risk of severe nausea or vomiting following these treatments. This medication must be taken under medical supervision.

1.2 For Medical Professionals

Ondansetron is primarily indicated for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and surgical procedures.

2. Scope

The scope of this adjudication rule highlights the medical indications and coverage requirements of Ondansetron drug for all health insurance plans administered by Daman as per policy terms and conditions.

Indications:

Ondansetron is a selective 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist used primarily to prevent nausea and vomiting caused by cancer chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and surgery. It can be administered orally or intravenously.

Mechanism of Action:

Receptor Blocking:

Ondansetron selectively inhibits the 5-HT₃ receptors, found in the gastrointestinal tract and the brain's chemoreceptor trigger zone (CTZ).

Peripheral Effects:

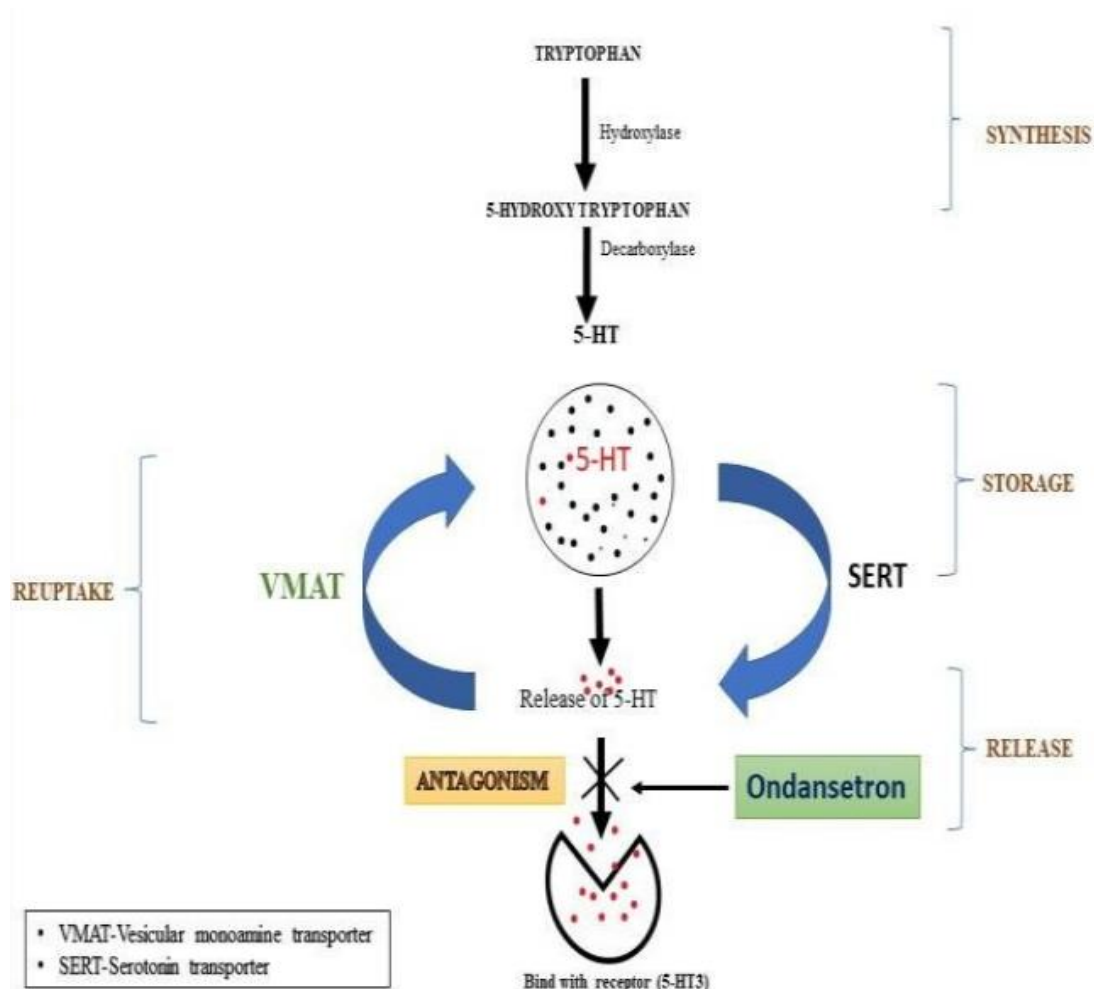
By blocking 5-HT₃ receptors in the gut, ondansetron reduces serotonin-induced nausea and vomiting.

Central Effects:

In the CTZ, the ondansetron prevents nausea and vomiting triggered by stimuli like chemotherapy and radiation.

Tissue Selectivity:

With a high affinity for 5-HT₃ receptors, Ondansetron effectively manages nausea and vomiting while minimizing side effects compared to other antiemetics.



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Figure-No-1-Ondansetron-HCl-mechanism-of-action-present-the-blocking-of-5-HT-by_fig1_370411689

3. Adjudication policy

3.1 Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

Ondansetron is intended for use under the guidance of a healthcare provider.

Ondansetron is recommended for adult and paediatric patients at risk of nausea and vomiting due to chemotherapy, radiotherapy and following gastrointestinal surgery

Initial Approval Criteria:

- Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting (CINV):
 - The patient must have a cancer diagnosis requiring chemotherapy.
 - The chemotherapy regimen should have moderate to high emetogenic potential.
- Prevention of Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting (PONV):
 - The patient is scheduled for surgery with a recognized risk of postoperative nausea and vomiting.
- Prevention of Radiotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting (RINV):
 - The patient is undergoing radiotherapy with a moderate to high risk of nausea and vomiting.
- Management of Gastroenteritis/Colitis:
 - The patient presents with nausea and vomiting due to gastroenteritis or colitis.
- Treatment of Hyperemesis Gravidarum:
 - The patient is between 4 to 20 weeks pregnant and experiencing moderate to severe hyperemesis.

Continuation therapy:

- Members are responding positively to therapy as evidenced by reduced incidence of nausea and vomiting.
- For chemotherapy: Continued use is supported by ongoing moderate to high emetogenic chemotherapy.
- For surgery: Continued use may be considered if patient is at risk of PONV in future surgeries

3.2 Requirements for Coverage

- Kindly code the ICD-10 and the CPT codes to the highest level of specificity

Red flags:

- Ondansetron is not covered for conditions outside of its approved indications (e.g., general nausea unrelated to treatment, vomiting)
- Not covered for patients without a documented risk of moderate to severe nausea and vomiting.

3.3 Non-coverage

- Not covered for visitor plan

4. Denial Codes

- Kindly apply DOH payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, Drugs.

Code	Code Description
MNEC-004	Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice, without additional supporting diagnoses/activities
CODE-010	Activity/diagnosis inconsistent with clinician specialty
NCOV-001	Service(s) is (are) not covered
AUTH-001	Prior-Approval is required and was not obtained
MNEC-005	Service/supply may be appropriate, but too frequent

5. Appendices

5.1 References

[ZOFRAN \(ondansetron hydrochloride\) Label](#)
[Ondansetron 4 mg film-coated tablets - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\)](#)
[National Comprehensive Cancer Network \(NCCN\) Guidelines for Antiemesis, Version 1.2021.](#)
<https://doi.org/10.1213/01.ane.0000295230.55439.f4>
[Radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting: Prophylaxis and treatment - UpToDate](#)
<https://www.rcoq.org.uk/media/y3fen1x1/qtq69-hyperemesis.pdf>
<https://www.somanz.org/content/uploads/2020/07/NVP-GUIDELINE-1.2.20-1.pdf>
<https://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/publication/download/hyperemesis-gravidarum-q6-v5/>
<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1471-0528.17739>

5.2 Revision History

Date	Change(s)
13/05/2025	Release of V1.0

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