

**POLICY:** Hereditary Angioedema – Dawnzera Utilization Management Medical Policy

- Dawnzera™ (donidalorsen subcutaneous injection – Ionis)

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 02/01/2026

**LAST REVISION DATE:** 08/21/2025; selected revision 10/01/2025

**COVERAGE CRITERIA FOR:** All Aspirus Health Plans

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### **OVERVIEW**

Dawnzera, a prekallikrein-directed antisense oligonucleotide, is indicated for **prophylaxis to prevent attacks of hereditary angioedema (HAE)** in adult and pediatric patients  $\geq 12$  years of age.<sup>1</sup>

### **Guidelines**

According to US HAE Association Medical Advisory Board Guidelines (2020), when HAE is suspected based on clinical presentation, appropriate testing includes measurement of the serum C4 level, C1 esterase inhibitor (C1-INH) antigenic level, and C1-INH functional level.<sup>2</sup> Low C4 plus low C1-INH antigenic or functional level is consistent with a diagnosis of HAE types I/II. The decision on when to use long-term prophylaxis cannot be made on rigid criteria but should reflect the needs of the individual patient. First-line medications for HAE I/II include intravenous C1-INH, Haegarda® (C1-INH [human] subcutaneous injection), or Takhzyro® (lanadelumab-flyo SC injection).

According to World Allergy Organization/European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology guidelines (2021), it is recommended to evaluate for long-term prophylaxis at every visit, taking disease activity, burden, and control as well as patient preference into consideration.<sup>3</sup> The following therapies are supported as first-line options for long-term prophylaxis: plasma-derived C1-INH (87% agreement), Takhzyro (89% agreement), and Orladeyo® (berotralstat capsules) [81% agreement]. With regard to plasma-derived C1-INH, it is noted that Haegarda provided very good and dose-dependent preventative effects on the occurrence of HAE attacks; the subcutaneous route may provide more convenient administration and maintain improved steady-state plasma concentrations compared with the intravenous route. Of note, androgens are not recommended in the first-line setting for long-term prophylaxis. Recommendations are not made regarding long-term prophylaxis in HAE with normal C1-INH.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Prior Authorization is recommended for medical benefit coverage of Dawnzera. Approval is recommended for those who meet the **Criteria** and **Dosing** for the listed indication. Extended approvals are allowed if the patient continues to meet the Criteria and Dosing. Requests for doses outside of the established dosing documented in this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis by a clinician (i.e., Medical Director or Pharmacist). All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Dawnzera as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, approval

requires Dawnzera to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated. A patient who has previously met initial therapy criteria for Dawnzera for the requested indication under the Coverage Review Department and is currently receiving the requested therapy is only required to meet the continuation therapy criteria (i.e., currently receiving Dawnzera). If past criteria have not been met under the Coverage Review Department and the patient is currently receiving Dawnzera, initial therapy criteria must be met.

**Documentation:** Documentation will be required where noted in the criteria as **[documentation required]**. Documentation may include, but is not limited to, chart notes, laboratory records, and prescription claims records.

**Automation:** None.

### RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Dawnzera is recommended in those who meet the following criteria:

#### FDA-Approved Indication

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**1. Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) Due to C1 Inhibitor (C1-INH) Deficiency – Prophylaxis.** Approve Dawnzera for 1 year if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

A) Initial therapy. Approve if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):

- i. Patient is  $\geq 12$  years of age; AND
- ii. Patient has HAE type I or type II as confirmed by the following diagnostic criteria (a and b):  
Note: A diagnosis of HAE with normal C1-INH (also known as HAE type III) does NOT satisfy this requirement.
  - a) Patient has low levels of functional C1-INH protein ( $< 50\%$  of normal) at baseline, as defined by the laboratory reference values **[documentation required]**; AND
  - b) Patient has lower than normal serum C4 levels at baseline, as defined by the laboratory reference values **[documentation required]**; AND
- iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist/immunologist or a physician who specializes in the treatment of HAE or related disorders; OR

B) Patient is Currently Receiving Dawnzera. Approve if the patient meets ALL of the following (i, ii, and iii):

Note: If the patient is currently receiving the requested therapy but has not previously received approval of Dawnzera for this indication through the Coverage Review Department, review under criteria for Initial Therapy.

- i. Patient has a diagnosis of HAE type I or type II **[documentation required]**; AND  
Note: A diagnosis of HAE with normal C1-INH (also known as HAE type III) does NOT satisfy this requirement.
- ii. According to the prescriber, the patient has had a favorable clinical response since initiating Dawnzera prophylactic therapy compared with baseline (i.e., prior to initiating prophylactic therapy); AND  
Note: Examples of a favorable clinical response include decrease in HAE acute attack frequency, decrease in HAE attack severity, or decrease in duration of HAE attacks.
- iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an allergist/immunologist or a physician who specializes in the treatment of HAE or related disorders.

**Dosing.** Approve 80 mg administered as a subcutaneous injection not more frequently than every 4 weeks.

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**CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL**

Coverage of Dawnzera is not recommended in the following situations:

- 1. Concomitant Use with Other Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) Prophylactic Therapies.** Dawnzera has not been studied in combination with other prophylactic therapies for HAE, and combination therapy for long-term prophylactic use is not recommended. Patients may use other medications, including Cinryze® (C1 esterase inhibitor [human] intravenous infusion), for on-demand treatment of acute HAE attacks, and for short-term (procedural) prophylaxis.  
Note: Examples of other HAE prophylactic therapies include Andembry® (garadacimab subcutaneous injection), Cinryze® (C1 esterase inhibitor [human] intravenous infusion), Haegarda® (C1 esterase inhibitor [human] subcutaneous injection), Orladeyo® (berotralstat capsules), and Takhzyro® (lanadelumab-flyo subcutaneous injection).
- 2.** Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

**REFERENCES**

1. Dawnzera™ subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Carlsbad, CA: Ionis; August 2025.
2. Busse PJ, Christiansen SC, Riedl MA, et al. US HAEA Medical Advisory Board 2020 guidelines for the management of hereditary angioedema. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract.* 2021;9(1):132-150.e3.
3. Maurer M, Magerl M, Betschel S, et al. The international WAO/EAACI guideline for the management of hereditary angioedema: the 2021 revision and update. *Allergy.* 2022;77(7):1961-1990.

**HISTORY**

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
New Policy	--	08/21/2025
Aspirus P&T Review	Policy reviewed and approved by Aspirus P&T committee. Annual review process	12/08/2025
Selected Revision	<b>Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) Due to C1 Inhibitor (C1-INH) Deficiency – Prophylaxis:</b> In reference to low levels of functional C1-INH protein levels, changed from “(≤ 50% of normal)” to “(< 50% of normal)”.	10/01/2025