

Alvimopan Criteria for Use March 2021

VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services, Medical Advisory Panel, and VISN Pharmacist Executives

The following recommendations are based on medical evidence, clinician input, and expert opinion. The content of the document is dynamic and will be revised as new information becomes available. The purpose of this document is to assist practitioners in clinical decision-making, to standardize and improve the quality of patient care, and to promote cost-effective drug prescribing. THE CLINICIAN SHOULD USE THIS GUIDANCE AND INTERPRET IT IN THE CLINICAL CONTEXT OF THE INDIVIDUAL PATIENT. INDIVIDUAL CASES THAT ARE EXCEPTIONS TO THE EXCLUSION AND INCLUSION CRITERIA SHOULD BE ADJUDICATED AT THE LOCAL FACILITY ACCORDING TO THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES OF ITS P&T COMMITTEE AND PHARMACY SERVICES.

Exclusion Criteria

Patient should NOT receive alvimopan if ANY exclusion criterion is met.

- Complete bowel obstruction or having surgery for correction of complete bowel obstruction
- Patients scheduled for total colectomy, ileostomy, colostomy, pancreatic anastomosis or gastric anastomosis.
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Therapeutic doses of opioids for more than 7 consecutive days immediately prior to taking alvimopan
- Intrathecal or epidural opioids or anesthetics are scheduled to be used during surgery
- Recent treatment with alvimopan in current episode of care (No studies evaluated safety and efficacy of more than one treatment course.)
- Situations where pre-operative dose cannot be administered
- Severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh C)
- End-stage renal disease
- Any non-FDA approved indication (Alvimopan Shared System REMS—see [Specialty Distribution Meds, Alvimopan](#))

Inclusion Criteria

All criteria must be met.¹

- Undergoing surgery that includes partial bowel resection with primary anastomosis (including resection of intra-abdominal organs with large or small bowel resection / anastomoses, e.g. radical cystectomy)
- Intravenous postoperative opioid pain management is planned

1 Particular consideration should be given to patients considered at risk for prolonged post operative ileus (PPOI):

- a. Prior occurrence of PPOI after any surgical procedure.
- b. Anticipation of extensive (over 2 hours) adhesiolysis associated with a small or large bowel resection.
- c. Significant en bloc resection of intraabdominal organs including large or small bowel.

Revised: January 2023 (fixed link; version remains March 2021). March 2021 (2016 version revised to generic alvimopan [corrections to January 2021 version]; reformatted for Cerner including removal of hypersensitivity exclusion). Previous revisions: January 2021, October 2016. Original: April 2009. Contact: Francine Goodman, PharmD, BCPS, National Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager, VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (12PBM)

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