



UnitedHealthcare Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacy Programs

Program Number	2026 P 3191-3
Program	Step Therapy
Medication	Crexont™ (carbidopa/levodopa extended-release), Rytary® (carbidopa/levodopa extended-release)*
P&T Approval Date	1/2025, 3/2025, 3/2026
Effective Date	6/1/2026

1. Background:

Crexont (carbidopa/levodopa extended release) and Rytary (carbidopa/levodopa extended release)* are indicated for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease, post-encephalitic parkinsonism, and parkinsonism that may follow carbon monoxide intoxication or manganese intoxication in adults.

Step Therapy programs are utilized to encourage the use of lower cost alternatives for certain therapeutic classes. This program requires a member to try carbidopa/levodopa immediate-release.

2. Coverage Criteria^a:

<p>Authorization</p> <p>A. Crexont or Rytary* will be approved based on the following criterion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. History of suboptimal response, contraindication, or intolerance to one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. carbidopa/levodopa immediate-release (generic Sinemet) b. carbidopa/levodopa controlled-release (generic Sinemet CR) c. carbidopa/levodopa/entacapone (generic Stalevo) <p>Authorization will be issued for 12 months.</p> <p>^a State mandates may apply. Any federal regulatory requirements and the member specific benefit plan coverage may also impact coverage criteria. Other policies and utilization management programs may apply.</p>

* Rytary (brand and authorized generic) is typically excluded from coverage

3. Additional Clinical Programs:

- Notwithstanding Coverage Criteria, UnitedHealthcare may approve initial and re-authorization based solely on previous claim/medication history, diagnosis codes (ICD-10) and/or claim logic. Use of automated approval and re-approval processes varies by program and/or therapeutic class.
- Supply limits may also be in place.

4. References:

1. Crexont [package insert]. Bridgewater, NJ: Amneal Specialty, a division of Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC; February 2025.
2. Rytary [package insert]. Bridgewater, NJ: Amneal Specialty, a division of Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC; August 2025.

Program	Step Therapy – Crexont™ (carbidopa/levodopa extended release), Rytary® (carbidopa/levodopa extended-release)*
Change Control	
1/2025	New program
3/2025	Updated failure to suboptimal response.
3/2026	Annual review. Updated references.