



5.75.002

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<b>Section:</b>	Prescription Drugs	<b>Effective Date:</b>	January 1, 2025
<b>Subsection:</b>	Neuromuscular Drugs	<b>Original Policy Date:</b>	December 18, 2009
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**Last Review Date:** December 13, 2024

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## Dysport

### Description

#### Dysport (abobotulinum toxin A)

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#### Background

Dysport (abobotulinum toxin A) is an acetylcholine release inhibitor and a neuromuscular blocking agent. Dysport acts as a neuromuscular blocking agent that works by preventing the release of neurotransmitters. This produces a paralyzing effect of the surrounding area of injection. Dysport, like Botox and Myobloc, is a botulinum toxin. Although Botox and Dysport are both botulinum type-A toxins, they are not interchangeable. The two drugs have distinct dosing differences (1).

#### Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications: Dysport is an acetylcholine release inhibitor and a neuromuscular blocking agent indicated for: (2)

1. The treatment of adults with cervical dystonia
2. The temporary improvement in the appearance of moderate to severe glabellar lines associated with procerus and corrugator muscle activity in adult patients <65 years of age
3. The treatment of spasticity in patients 2 years of age and older

Dysport has a boxed warning regarding the distant spread of toxin effect. The effects of Dysport and all botulinum toxin products may spread from the area of injection to produce symptoms consistent with botulinum toxin effects. These symptoms have been reported hours to weeks after injection. Swallowing and breathing difficulties that can be life threatening and there have been reports of death. The risk of symptoms is probably greatest in patients who have underlying conditions that would predispose them to these symptoms (2).

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## Off-Label Uses:

Dysport is recommended for additional compendial indications for spasticity (upper and lower limbs) due to multiple causes (i.e., cerebral palsy, stroke, multiple sclerosis and post-traumatic brain and spinal cord injury) in both adults and children as well as benign essential blepharospasm (3-4).

Safety and effectiveness have not been established in patients under the age of 18 years of age for cervical dystonia and blepharospasm (2).

Cosmetic indications are excluded from coverage.

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## **Related policies**

Botox, Myobloc, Xeomin

## **Policy**

*This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.*

Dysport may be considered **medically necessary** if the conditions indicated below are met.

Dysport may be considered **investigational** for all other indications.

## **Prior-Approval Requirements**

**Age** No age restriction

### **Diagnosis**

Patient must have the following:

1. Upper and/or lower limb spasticity

**AND** the following:

1. **NO** dual therapy with other botulinum toxins

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**Age** 18 years of age or older

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## Diagnoses

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Cervical dystonia (spasmodic torticollis)
2. Blepharospasm

**AND** the following:

1. **NO** dual therapy with other botulinum toxins

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## Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

Same as above

## Policy Guidelines

### Pre - PA Allowance

None

### Prior - Approval Limits

**Duration** 12 months

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## Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Same as above

## Rationale

### Summary

Dysport (abobotulinum toxin A) is an acetylcholine release inhibitor and a neuromuscular blocking agent. Dysport, like Botox and Myobloc, is a botulinum toxin. Although Botox and Dysport are both botulinum type-A toxins, they are not interchangeable. Dysport has a boxed warning regarding the distant spread of toxin effect after injection (2).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of Dysport while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

### References

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1. Simonetta Moreau M, Cauhepe C, Magues JP, Senard JM. A double-blind, randomized, comparative study of Dysport vs. Botox in primary palmar hyperhidrosis. *Br J Dermatol.* 2003 Nov;149(5):1041-5.
2. Dysport. [package insert]. Wrexham, LL 13 9UF, UK: Ipsen Biopharm Ltd.; September 2023.
3. Love SC, Novak I, Kentish M, et al. Botulinum toxin assessment, intervention and after-care for lower limb spasticity in children with cerebral palsy: international consensus statement. *Eur J Neurol.* 2010 Aug;17 Supple 2:9-37.
4. Truong D, Comella C, Fernandez HH, et al. Efficacy and safety of purified botulinum toxin type A (Dysport) for the treatment of benign essential blepharospasm: a randomized, placebo-controlled, phase II trial. *Parkinsonism Relat Disord.* 2008;14(5):207-14.

## Policy History

Date	Action
October 2011	Addition to PA
December 2012	Annual editorial review
September 2014	Annual editorial review and reference update
September 2015	Annual review
February 2016	Addition of new indication of upper limb spasticity Addition of off label use for spasticity (upper and lower limbs) due to multiple causes i.e., cerebral palsy, stroke, multiple sclerosis and post-traumatic brain and spinal cord injury
March 2016	Annual review Policy changed from 5.12.02 to 5.75.02
August 2016	Addition of lower limb spasticity and Blepharospasm
December 2016	Annual editorial review Addition of no dual therapy with other botulinum toxins Removal of clarifying examples of spasticity
September 2017	Annual review and reference update
September 2018	Annual review and reference update
September 2019	Annual review and reference update
September 2020	Annual editorial review and reference update
March 2021	Annual review
March 2022	Annual review
March 2023	Annual review and reference update. Changed policy number to 5.75.002
December 2023	Annual review
March 2024	Annual review and reference update

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June 2024      Annual review  
December 2024      Annual review

[Keywords](#)

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**This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on December 13, 2024 and is effective on January 1, 2025.**