Sample Letter of Medical Necessity for BOTOX® – Prior Authorization Request

It is the provider's responsibility to ensure that the information included in a Letter of Medical Necessity for BOTOX® is accurate and reflective of the patient's medical condition.

[insert physician or practice letterhead]

[insert date]
[insert payer medical director/contact name]
[insert payer organization name]
[insert street address]
[insert city, state, zip code]

Re: [insert patient name]
Date of birth: [insert patient DOB]
Policy ID/Group number: [insert policy ID/group number]
Policyholder: [insert policyholder name]

Dear **[insert payer medical director/contact name]**:

I am a(n) **[insert physician practice area]** writing on behalf of my patient, **[insert patient name]**, to request prior authorization approval and to document the medical necessity of BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA), billed under code J0585 ("injection, onabotulinumtoxinA, 1 Unit") for **[Insert indication from Full Prescribing Information]**.

[Insert summary of clinical studies supporting the medical necessity for BOTOX®, including a summary of adverse events].

[Mr./Mrs./Ms.] [insert patient's last name] is a **[insert age]**-year-old **[male/female]** who has **[insert diagnosis and primary *ICD-10-CM* code]**). **[Mr./Mrs./Ms.] [insert patient's last name]** presented to me on **[insert date]** with **[details such as physical exam results and clinical impressions]**. This condition has **[insert impact on patient]**. **[If other treatments were used prior to BOTOX® neurotoxin, add: Other therapies tried included [list and describe treatment(s); include failure of, contraindication to, or intolerance of.]**

[Mr./Mrs./Ms.] [insert patient's last name] is a candidate for BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA) for **[insert BOTOX® indication]**. To treat **[Mr./Mrs./Ms.] [insert patient's last name]**, I will inject BOTOX® **[describe injections sites / muscles]**. The recommended BOTOX® dose for treating **[insert BOTOX® indication]** is **[insert number]** Units.

[If the patient has received BOTOX® previously, consider including: This patient's response to earlier dose(s) of BOTOX® has been [indicate the status, if applicable]. Based on this outcome,] I plan to treat **[Mr./Mrs./Ms.] [insert patient's last name]** with BOTOX® **[indicate the planned course of treatment and duration]**. My clinical expectations for treatment with BOTOX® are **[indicate expectations]**. Follow-up is expected to involve **[include expected additional evaluations and treatments]**.

I request confirmation that this therapy is a covered benefit based on medical necessity and that associated fees will be covered. Thank you for your review of this information and for your coverage consideration. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at **[insert physician's contact information]**.

Sincerely,
[insert physician's signature]
[insert physician's full name]
[insert address]
[insert telephone number]

Enclosures

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION, INCLUDING BOXED WARNING

WARNING: DISTANT SPREAD OF TOXIN EFFECT

Postmarketing reports indicate that the effects of BOTOX® and all botulinum toxin products may spread from the area of injection to produce symptoms consistent with botulinum toxin effects. These may include asthenia, generalized muscle weakness, diplopia, ptosis, dysphagia, dysphonia, dysarthria, urinary incontinence, and breathing difficulties. These symptoms have been reported hours to weeks after injection. Swallowing and breathing difficulties can be life threatening, and there have been reports of death. The risk of symptoms is probably greatest in children treated for spasticity, but symptoms can also occur in adults treated for spasticity and other conditions, particularly in those patients who have an underlying condition that would predispose them to these symptoms. In unapproved uses, including spasticity in children, and in approved indications, cases of spread of effect have been reported at doses comparable to those used to treat cervical dystonia and spasticity and at lower doses.

Please see Indications and additional Important Safety Information about BOTOX® on following pages.

Indications

Bladder Dysfunction:

Overactive Bladder

BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA) for injection is indicated for the treatment of overactive bladder with symptoms of urge urinary incontinence, urgency, and frequency, in adults who have an inadequate response to or are intolerant of an anticholinergic medication.

Detrusor Overactivity Associated With a Neurologic Condition

BOTOX® is indicated for the treatment of urinary incontinence due to detrusor overactivity associated with a neurologic condition (eg, SCI, MS) in adults who have an inadequate response to or are intolerant of an anticholinergic medication.

Chronic Migraine

BOTOX® is indicated for the prophylaxis of headaches in adult patients with chronic migraine (≥ 15 days per month with headache lasting 4 hours a day or longer).

Important Limitations

Safety and effectiveness have not been established for the prophylaxis of episodic migraine (14 headache days or fewer per month) in 7 placebo-controlled studies.

Spasticity:

Upper Limb Spasticity

BOTOX® is indicated for the treatment of upper limb spasticity in adult patients to decrease the severity of increased muscle tone in elbow, wrist, finger, and thumb flexors (biceps, flexor carpi radialis, flexor carpi ulnaris, flexor digitorum profundus, flexor digitorum sublimis, adductor pollicis, and flexor pollicis longus).

Lower Limb Spasticity

BOTOX® is indicated for the treatment of lower limb spasticity in adult patients to decrease the severity of increased muscle tone in ankle and toe flexors (gastrocnemius, soleus, tibialis posterior, flexor hallucis longus, and flexor digitorum longus).

Important Limitations

Safety and effectiveness of BOTOX® have not been established for the treatment of other upper or lower limb muscle groups or for the treatment of spasticity in pediatric patients under age 18 years. BOTOX® has not been shown to improve upper extremity functional abilities, or range of motion at a joint affected by a fixed contracture. Treatment with BOTOX® is not intended to substitute for usual standard of care rehabilitation regimens.

Cervical Dystonia

BOTOX® is indicated for the treatment of adults with cervical dystonia to reduce the severity of abnormal head position and neck pain associated with cervical dystonia.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

BOTOX® is contraindicated in the presence of infection at the proposed injection site(s) and in individuals with known hypersensitivity to any botulinum toxin preparation or to any of the components in the formulation.

Intradetrusor injection of BOTOX® is contraindicated in patients with overactive bladder or detrusor overactivity associated with a neurologic condition who have a urinary tract infection (UTI). Intradetrusor injection of BOTOX® is also contraindicated in patients with urinary retention and in patients with post-void residual (PVR) urine volume > 200 mL, who are not routinely performing clean intermittent self-catheterization (CIC).

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Lack of Interchangeability Between Botulinum Toxin Products

The potency Units of BOTOX® are specific to the preparation and assay method utilized. They are not interchangeable with other preparations of botulinum toxin products and, therefore, units of biological activity of BOTOX® cannot be compared to nor converted into units of any other botulinum toxin products assessed with any other specific assay method.

Spread of Toxin Effect

See Boxed Warning.

No definitive serious adverse event reports of distant spread of toxin effect associated with BOTOX® for chronic migraine at the labeled doses have been reported.

Serious Adverse Reactions With Unapproved Use

Serious adverse reactions, including excessive weakness, dysphagia, and aspiration pneumonia, with some adverse reactions associated with fatal outcomes, have been reported in patients who received BOTOX® injections for unapproved uses. In these cases, the adverse reactions were not necessarily related to distant spread of toxin, but may have resulted from the administration of BOTOX® to the site of injection and/or adjacent structures. In several of the cases, patients had pre-existing dysphagia or other significant disabilities. There is insufficient information to identify factors associated with an increased risk for adverse reactions associated with the unapproved uses of BOTOX®. The safety and effectiveness of BOTOX® for unapproved uses have not been established.

Hypersensitivity Reactions

Serious and/or immediate hypersensitivity reactions have been reported. These reactions include anaphylaxis, serum sickness, urticaria, soft-tissue edema, and dyspnea. If such a reaction occurs, further injection of BOTOX® should be discontinued and appropriate medical therapy immediately instituted. One fatal case of anaphylaxis has been reported in which lidocaine was used as the diluent, and consequently the causal agent cannot be reliably determined.

Increased Risk of Clinically Significant Effects With Pre-Existing Neuromuscular Disorders

Individuals with peripheral motor neuropathic diseases, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or neuromuscular junction disorders (eg, myasthenia gravis or Lambert-Eaton syndrome) should be monitored when given botulinum toxin. Patients with known or unrecognized neuromuscular disorders or neuromuscular junction disorders may be at increased risk of clinically significant effects including generalized muscle weakness, diplopia, ptosis, dysphonia, dysarthria, severe dysphagia, and respiratory compromise from therapeutic doses of BOTOX® (see *Warnings and Precautions*).

Dysphagia and Breathing Difficulties

Treatment with BOTOX® and other botulinum toxin products can result in swallowing or breathing difficulties. Patients with pre-existing swallowing or breathing difficulties may be more susceptible to these complications. In most cases, this is a consequence of weakening of muscles in the area of injection that are involved in breathing or oropharyngeal muscles that control swallowing or breathing (see *Boxed Warning*).

Please see additional Important Safety Information about BOTOX® on following pages.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS (continued)

Pulmonary Effects of BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA) in Patients With Compromised Respiratory Status Treated for Spasticity or for Detrusor Overactivity Associated With a Neurologic Condition

Patients with compromised respiratory status treated with BOTOX® for spasticity or detrusor overactivity associated with a neurologic condition should be monitored closely.

Bronchitis and Upper Respiratory Tract Infections in Patients Treated for Spasticity

Bronchitis was reported more frequently as an adverse reaction in patients treated for upper limb spasticity with BOTOX® (3% at 251 Units to 360 Units total dose) compared to placebo (1%). In patients with reduced lung function treated for upper limb spasticity, upper respiratory tract infections were also reported more frequently as adverse reactions in patients treated with BOTOX® (11% at 360 Units total dose; 8% at 240 Units total dose) compared to placebo (6%). In adult patients treated for lower limb spasticity, upper respiratory tract infections were reported more frequently as an adverse event in patients treated with BOTOX® (2% at 300 Units to 400 Units total dose), compared to placebo (1%).

Autonomic Dysreflexia in Patients Treated for Detrusor Overactivity Associated With a Neurologic Condition

Autonomic dysreflexia associated with intradetrusor injections of BOTOX® could occur in patients treated for detrusor overactivity associated with a neurologic condition and may require prompt medical therapy. In clinical trials, the incidence of autonomic dysreflexia was greater in patients treated with BOTOX® 200 Units compared with placebo (1.5% versus 0.4%, respectively).

Urinary Tract Infections in Patients With Overactive Bladder

BOTOX® increases the incidence of urinary tract infection. Clinical trials for overactive bladder excluded patients with more than 2 UTIs in the past 6 months and those taking antibiotics chronically due to recurrent UTIs. Use of BOTOX® for the treatment of overactive bladder in such patients and in patients with multiple recurrent UTIs during treatment should only be considered when the benefit is likely to outweigh the potential risk.

Urinary Retention in Patients Treated for Bladder Dysfunction

Due to the risk of urinary retention, treat only patients who are willing and able to initiate catheterization post-treatment, if required, for urinary retention.

In patients who are not catheterizing, post-void residual (PVR) urine volume should be assessed within 2 weeks post-treatment and periodically as medically appropriate up to 12 weeks, particularly in patients with multiple sclerosis or diabetes mellitus. Depending on patient symptoms, institute catheterization if PVR urine volume exceeds 200 mL and continue until PVR falls below 200 mL. Instruct patients to contact their physician if they experience difficulty in voiding as catheterization may be required.

Overactive Bladder

In clinical trials, 6.5% of patients (36/552) initiated clean intermittent catheterization for urinary retention following treatment with BOTOX® 100 Units as compared to 0.4% of patients (2/542) treated with placebo. The median duration of catheterization for patients treated with BOTOX® 100 Units was 63 days (minimum 1 day to maximum 214 days) as compared to a median duration 11 days (minimum 3 days to maximum 18 days) for patients receiving placebo.

Patients with diabetes mellitus treated with BOTOX® were more likely to develop urinary retention than nondiabetics. In clinical trials, 12.3% of patients (10/81) with diabetes developed urinary retention following treatment with BOTOX® 100 Units vs 0% patients (0/69) treated with placebo. In patients without diabetes, 6.3% of patients (33/526) developed urinary retention following treatment with BOTOX® 100 Units vs 0.6% of patients (3/516) treated with placebo.

Detrusor Overactivity Associated With a Neurologic Condition

In clinical trials, 30.6% of patients (33/108) who were not using clean intermittent catheterization (CIC) prior to injection, required catheterization for urinary retention following treatment with BOTOX® 200 Units as compared to 6.7% of patients (7/104) treated with placebo. The median duration of post-injection catheterization for these patients treated with BOTOX® 200 Units (n = 33) was 289 days (minimum 1 day to maximum 530 days) as compared to a median duration of 358 days (minimum 2 days to maximum 379 days) for patients receiving placebo (n = 7).

Among patients not using CIC at baseline, those with multiple sclerosis (MS) were more likely to require CIC post-injection than those with spinal cord injury (SCI).

Human Albumin and Transmission of Viral Diseases

This product contains albumin, a derivative of human blood. Based on effective donor screening and product manufacturing processes, it carries an extremely remote risk for transmission of viral diseases and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). There is a theoretical risk for transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), but if that risk actually exists, the risk of transmission would also be considered extremely remote. No cases of transmission of viral diseases, CJD, or vCJD have ever been identified for licensed albumin or albumin contained in other licensed products.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse reactions to BOTOX® are discussed in greater detail in the following sections: *Boxed Warning*, *Contraindications*, and *Warnings and Precautions*.

Overactive Bladder

The most frequently reported adverse reactions for overactive bladder occurring within 12 weeks of injection include urinary tract infection (BOTOX® 18%, placebo 6%), dysuria (BOTOX® 9%, placebo 7%), urinary retention (BOTOX® 6%, placebo 0%), bacteriuria (BOTOX® 4%, placebo 2%), and residual urine volume (BOTOX® 3%, placebo 0%).

A higher incidence of urinary tract infection was observed in patients with diabetes mellitus treated with BOTOX® 100 Units and placebo than non-diabetics.

The incidence of UTI increased in patients who experienced a maximum post-void residual (PVR) urine volume ≥ 200 mL following BOTOX® injection compared to those with a maximum PVR < 200 mL following BOTOX® injection, 44% vs 23%, respectively.

Please see additional Important Safety Information about BOTOX® on following page.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)
ADVERSE REACTIONS (continued)

Detrusor Overactivity Associated With a Neurologic Condition
The most frequently reported adverse reactions within 12 weeks of BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA) injection for detrusor overactivity associated with a neurologic condition include urinary tract infection (BOTOX® 24%, placebo 17%), urinary retention (BOTOX® 17%, placebo 3%), and hematuria (BOTOX® 4%, placebo 3%).

The following adverse event rates were reported at any time following initial injection and prior to reinjection or study exit (median duration of 44 weeks of exposure): urinary tract infections (49%), urinary retention (17%), constipation (4%), muscular weakness (4%), dysuria (4%), fall (3%), gait disturbance (3%), and muscle spasm (2%).

Chronic Migraine
The most frequently reported adverse reactions following injection of BOTOX® for chronic migraine include neck pain (9%), headache (5%), eyelid ptosis (4%), migraine (4%), muscular weakness (4%), musculoskeletal stiffness (4%), bronchitis (3%), injection-site pain (3%), musculoskeletal pain (3%), myalgia (3%), facial paresis (2%), hypertension (2%), and muscle spasms (2%).

Upper Limb Spasticity
The most frequently reported adverse reactions following injection of BOTOX® for upper limb spasticity include pain in extremity, muscle weakness, fatigue, nausea, and bronchitis.

Lower Limb Spasticity
The most frequently reported adverse reactions following injection of BOTOX® for lower limb spasticity include arthralgia, back pain, myalgia, upper respiratory tract infection, and injection site pain.

Cervical Dystonia
The most frequently reported adverse reactions following injection of BOTOX® for cervical dystonia include dysphagia (19%), upper respiratory infection (12%), neck pain (11%), and headache (11%).

Post Marketing Experience
There have been spontaneous reports of death, sometimes associated with dysphagia, pneumonia, and/or other significant debility or anaphylaxis, after treatment with botulinum toxin. There have also been reports of adverse events involving the cardiovascular system, including arrhythmia and myocardial infarction, some with fatal outcomes. Some of these patients had risk factors including cardiovascular disease. The exact relationship of these events to the botulinum toxin injection has not been established.

DRUG INTERACTIONS
Co-administration of BOTOX® or other agents interfering with neuromuscular transmission (eg, aminoglycosides, curare-like compounds) should only be performed with caution as the effect of the toxin may be potentiated. Use of anticholinergic drugs after administration of BOTOX® may potentiate systemic anticholinergic effects. The effect of administering different botulinum neurotoxin products at the same time or within several months of each other is unknown. Excessive neuromuscular weakness may be exacerbated by administration of another botulinum toxin prior to the resolution of the effects of a previously administered botulinum toxin. Excessive weakness may also be exaggerated by administration of a muscle relaxant before or after administration of BOTOX®.

For more information on BOTOX®, please see the accompanying full Prescribing Information, including Boxed Warning and Medication Guide.

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www.BOTOXMedical.com www.BOTOXONE.com 1-800-44-BOTOX