

# Viscosupplements



## Pharmacy Coverage Policy

**Effective Date:** January 01, 2024  
**Revision Date:** January 22, 2025  
**Review Date:** January 15, 2025  
**Line of Business:** Medicaid - Louisiana  
**Policy Type:** Prior Authorization

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### Products Affected

Durolane intra-articular syringe  
Euflexxa intra-articular syringe Gel-One intra-articular syringe Gelsyn-3 intra-articular syringe GenVisc 850 intra-articular syringe Hyalgan intra-articular syringe Hyalgan intra-articular solution Hymovis intra-articular syringe Monovisc intra-articular syringe ORTHOVISC intra-articular syringe Supartz FX intra-articular syringe SynoJoynt intra-articular syringe Synvisc intra-articular syringe Synvisc-One intra-articular syringe Triluron intra-articular syringe TriVisc intra-articular syringe Visco-3 intra-articular syringe

### Listed Indications

[Osteoarthritis](#)

### Osteoarthritis

#### Does the member meet all of the following criteria?

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Criteria #1 | <u>Has documented symptomatic osteoarthritis of the knee and therapy is limited to the knee</u>   |
| Criteria #2 | <u>Has had previous treatment, contraindication, or intolerance with TWO of the following: Durolane, Euflexxa, Gelsyn-3, Supartz FX.*</u><br><u>*Prior therapy requirement applies to: Gel-One, GenVisc 850, Hyalgan, Hymovis, Monovisc, Orthovisc, SynoJoynt, Synvisc, Synvisc-One, Triluron, TriVisc, Visco-3</u> |
| Criteria #3 | <u>If the request is for re-treatment, at least 6 months have elapsed since the last treatment cycle</u>  |

#### Approval Duration

|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Initial</u> | <u>plan year duration</u> |
| <u>Renewal</u> | <u>plan year duration</u> |

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### Background

This is a prior authorization policy for Viscosupplements (Durolane, Euflexxa, Gel-One, Gelsyn-3, GenVisc 850, Hyalgan, Hymovis, Monovisc, Orthovisc, SupartzFX, SynoJoynt, Synvisc, Synvisc-One, Triluron, TriVisc, Visco-3)

Viscosupplements (Durolane, Euflexxa, Gel-One, Gelsyn-3, GenVisc 850, Hyalgan, Hymovis, Monovisc, Orthovisc, SupartzFX, SynoJoynt, Synvisc, Synvisc-One, Triluron, TriVisc, and Visco-3) are indicated for:

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- the treatment of pain in osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee in patients who have failed to respond adequately to conservative non-pharmacologic therapy and simple analgesics (e.g., acetaminophen)

### **Osteoarthritis of the knee**

The incidence of knee osteoarthritis in the United States is estimated at 240 per 100,000 people annually. Risk factors increase with age, particularly in women, who make up about 80% of OA patients despite being half of the general population. Symptoms include joint pain, stiffness, and difficulty with movement. Older adults with OA visit physicians more frequently and experience greater functional limitations than their peers. Recommended treatment options include Intrarticular (IA) glucocorticoid injection, oral and topical NSAID, and oral treatments including acetaminophen, duloxetine, and tramadol. Treatment aims to relieve pain and improve function.

Viscosupplementation involves injecting Hyaluronan (HA) into the knee joint to restore the viscoelasticity of synovial fluid. HA, also known as hyaluronic acid, is a natural polysaccharide in connective tissues. Sodium hyaluronate is its water-soluble salt form. These terms are used interchangeably. Viscosupplementation products vary by molecular weight and formulation, with higher molecular weights demonstrating better anti-inflammatory effects and pain relief. Cross-linked formulations last longer and require fewer doses. Currently, guidelines do not recommend viscosupplementation for knee osteoarthritis.

#### Contraindications:

- Do not use to treat patients with knee joint infections, infections, or skin disease in the area of the injection site.

Viscosupplements are available as:

#### Single-dose products:

\*Gel-One PFS: 10mg/ml

- Cross-linked, Viscoelastic, high molecular weight

\*Synvisc-One PFS: 48mg/6 mL

- Hylan G-F 20: elastoviscous fluid containing cross-linked polymers of HA

Durolane PFS: 20mg/ml

- Cross-linked, high molecular weight

Monovisc PFS: 22mg/4ml

- Partially cross-linked, high molecular weight

#### Multi-dose products:

Viscoelastic, high molecular weight:

- Euflexxa PFS: 10mg/ml
- Gen-Visc850 PFS: 10 mg/ml
- \*Orthovisc PFS: 30mg/2 ml
- Hymovis set of two PFS: 24mg/3ml
- \*SupartzFX PFS: 10mg/ml

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- SynoJoynt PFS: 10mg/ml
- \*Synvisc PFS: 16mg/2ml
- TriVisc PFS: 25mg/2.5ml
- \*Visco-3 PFS: 10mg/ml

### High molecular weight:

- \*Hyalgan PFS and vials: 10mg/ml
- \*Triluron PFS and vials: 10mg/ml

### Low molecular weight:

- GelSyn-3 PFS: 8.4mg/ml

### Recommended dosing and administration:

- Safety and effectiveness of use in joints other than the knee has not been established.
- Some injections are derived from avian products and should not be administered to patients with known allergies to poultry, eggs, or feathers.\*
- Some injections are derived from bacterial fermentation and should not be administered to patients with known allergy to bacterial proteins.
- Treatment Cycle Durations:
  - Durolane - one injection
  - Euflexxa - three injections; given one week apart
  - Gel-One - one injection
  - Gelsyn-3 - three injections; given one week apart
  - Genvisc850 - five injections; given one week apart
  - Hyalgan - three to five injections; given one week apart
  - Hymovis - two injections; given one week apart
  - Monovisc - one injection
  - Orthovisc: - three to four injections; given one week apart
  - Supartz FX - five injections; given one week apart
  - Synojoint - three injections; given one week apart
  - Synvisc - three injections; given one week apart
  - Synvisc-One - one injection
  - Triluron - three injections; given one week apart
  - TriVisc - three injections; given one week apart
  - Visco-3 - three injections; given one week apart

Please see product package insert(s) for full prescribing information.

## Provider Claim Codes

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For medically billed requests, please visit [www.humana.com/PAL](http://www.humana.com/PAL). Select applicable Preauthorization and Notification List(s) for medical and procedural coding information.

### Medical Terms

Gel-One; Gelsyn-3, GenVisc 850; Hyalgan; Hymovis; Monovisc; Orthovisc; SupartzFX, Synojoint; Synvisc; Synvisc-One; Triluron; TriVisc; Visco-3; Hyaluronate; Hyaluronan; Sodium Hyaluronate; Hylan G-F 20; Osteoarthritis; Intra-articular injection

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