



Calcitriol Information

Information for Insurance Carriers to Cover Calcitriol (Rocaltrol™) under Prescription Programs

Patients with Hypoparathyroidism have problems maintaining their serum calcium levels in the normal range due to a lack of parathyroid hormone. Consequently, they become Hypocalcemic, which can cause a variety of debilitating symptoms including tingling, muscle spasms, muscle weakness, seizures, diarrhea and fatigue.

When present in normal concentrations, parathyroid hormone stimulates the production of the hormonally active form of Vitamin D, termed Calcitriol (also known as 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D3), in the kidney. Calcitriol is crucial in the maintenance of normal serum levels of calcium and phosphorous. Patients with Hypoparathyroidism cannot make adequate amounts of Calcitriol as they lack sufficient parathyroid hormone, and they therefore become Hypocalcemic. Rocaltrol™ is the hormonally active form of vitamin D, and is not a nutritional supplement or vitamin in the strict sense. It is not the same as ordinary vitamin D, but is a standard and medically accepted treatment for patients with Hypoparathyroidism. Often insurance companies consider Calcitriol (Rocaltrol™) to be simply a vitamin and therefore, not an essential medication. Patients with Hypoparathyroidism cannot make Calcitriol, and under these circumstances administration of Calcitriol (Rocaltrol™) is life-saving. Calcitriol (Rocaltrol™) is available only by prescription and is not a substitute for nutritional Vitamin D.

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