Betason® (interferon beta-1b) is approved for the treatment of patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis, including those patients who have experienced a first clinical episode with MRI features consistent with multiple sclerosis (MS). The mechanism of action for the therapeutic effect in MS is unknown. Adverse reactions include headache, fever, nausea, lymphopenia, pain, peripheral edema, weakness, and injection site reactions.

### Recommended authorization criteria

#### Preferred agents: Avonex, Rebif, Copaxone

#### Non-preferred agents: Betason, Extavia

- One preferred injectable must be tried before a non-preferred agent will be approved.

- Interferon beta-1b should be prescribed by, or in consultation with, a neurologist.

#### FDA-approved indication

1. **Multiple sclerosis (MS).** Approve if the patient meets one of the following:
   a. The patient has a diagnosis of a relapsing form of MS
   
   OR

   b. The patient has experienced an attack and is at risk of MS

- Continued approval requires evidence of clinical benefit (decrease in the number of relapses or corticosteroids required).

#### Exclusions (Limitations)

1. Non-relapsing forms of MS.
2. Concurrent use with other disease-modifying agents used for MS.
3. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.
References