Sample Letter of Appeal for a Denied Prior Authorization Request
[To be completed by prescriber and printed on letterhead]

[Date]
[Name of Health Insurance Company]
[Attn:]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

Re: Appeal for reconsideration for PRIALT® (ziconotide) solution, intrathecal

Infusion Patient: [Patient Name]
Group/Policy Number: [Number]
Payer Reference Number:

Dear [Insert contact name or department]:

I am writing to request a review of a denial of prior authorization for [PATIENT NAME]. The request was denied based on Medical Necessity. It is my contention that the patient meets Medical Necessity as defined in your Medical Policy for intrathecal PRIALT (ziconotide).

Patient Medical History and Diagnosis:
[PATIENT NAME] is a(n) [AGE]-year-old [MALE/FEMALE] diagnosed with [DIAGNOSIS]. [NAME OF PATIENT] has been in my care since [DATE]. As a result of [DIAGNOSIS], my patient [ENTER BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PATIENT HISTORY]. Additionally, [PATIENT] has tried [PREVIOUS THERAPIES] and [OUTCOMES]. The attached medical records document [PATIENT NAME]'s clinical condition and medical necessity for treatment with PRIALT.

Based on the above facts, I am confident that you will agree that PRIALT is indicated and medically necessary for this patient. Our plan is to trial the patient on PRIALT and monitor their response. Based on the results of the trial, we will determine whether the patient is a good candidate for PRIALT.

Please reconsider coverage of PRIALT on [PATIENT NAME]'s behalf and approve PRIALT for treatment. Please refer to the enclosed Prescribing Information for PRIALT. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call me at [PHYSICIAN TELEPHONE NUMBER]. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
[PHYSICIAN NAME]
[PROVIDER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER]

Enclosures: [Attach as appropriate]

INDICATION

PRIALT® (ziconotide) solution, intrathecal infusion is indicated for the management of severe chronic pain in adult patients for whom intrathecal (IT) therapy is warranted, and who are intolerant of or refractory to other treatment, such as systemic analgesics, adjunctive therapies, or IT morphine.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

BOXED WARNING: NEUROPSYCHIATRIC ADVERSE REACTIONS

- **PRIALT is contraindicated in patients with a preexisting history of psychosis. Severe psychiatric symptoms and neurological impairment may occur during treatment with PRIALT. Monitor all patients frequently for evidence of cognitive impairment, hallucinations, or changes in mood or consciousness. Discontinue PRIALT therapy in the event of serious neurological or psychiatric signs or symptoms.**

CONTRAINDICATIONS

PRIALT is contraindicated in patients with:

- A known hypersensitivity to ziconotide or any of its formulation components.
- A medical condition that would render intrathecal administration hazardous to the use of intrathecal analgesia such as the presence of infection at the microinfusion injection site, uncontrolled bleeding diathesis, and spinal canal obstruction that impairs circulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).
- A pre-existing history of psychosis.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Cognitive and Neuropsychiatric Adverse Reactions (see BOXED WARNING)

- PRIALT may cause or worsen depression, with the risk of suicide in susceptible patients.
- Patients with pretreatment for psychiatric disorders may be at an increased risk of psychiatric disturbances.
- Cognitive impairment such as confusion (particularly in the elderly ≥65 years), memory impairment, speech disorder, aphasia, thinking abnormal, and amnesia, along with decreased alertness/unresponsiveness, may appear gradually after several weeks of treatment. Reduce the dose of PRIALT or discontinue the use of PRIALT if signs or symptoms of cognitive impairment develop but consider other contributing causes. The cognitive effects of PRIALT are generally reversible within 2 weeks after drug discontinuation.
- PRIALT therapy can be interrupted or discontinued abruptly without evidence of withdrawal effects in the event of serious neurological or psychiatric signs or symptoms.
- Concomitant use of central nervous system (CNS) depressants with PRIALT may have additive effects and require dosage adjustments.

Reduced Level of Consciousness and Driving, Operating Machinery

- In clinical trials, 2% of PRIALT-treated patients became unresponsive or stuporous. Patients are at higher risk for depressed levels of consciousness with concomitant use of antiepileptics, neuroleptics, sedatives, or diuretics.
- PRIALT has been associated with cognitive impairment and decreased alertness/unresponsiveness. Caution patients against engaging in hazardous activities that require complete mental alertness or motor coordination.
- If reduced levels of consciousness occur, discontinue PRIALT until the event resolves, consider other etiologies (e.g., meningitis), and discontinue other CNS-depressant drugs as clinically appropriate.

Elevation of Serum Creatine Kinase

- In clinical trials, 40% of patients had serum creatine kinase (CK) levels above the upper limit of normal (ULN) and 11% had CK levels >3 times the ULN. Monitor serum CK levels periodically. In the event of new neuromuscular symptoms, evaluate patients clinically and obtain CK measurements. If symptoms continue and CK levels remain elevated or continue to rise, reduce the dose, or discontinue the use of PRIALT.

Withdrawal From Opiates

- PRIALT is not an opiate and cannot prevent or relieve the symptoms associated with the withdrawal of opiates.

MOST COMMON ADVERSE REACTIONS

The most frequently reported adverse reactions (≥25%) in clinical trials were dizziness, nausea, confusional state, and nystagmus. Slower titration of PRIALT may result in fewer serious adverse reactions and discontinuations for adverse reactions.

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.FDA.gov/medwatch. You may also contact ESTEVE Pharmaceuticals, S.A. at 1-888-306-6259 or drugsafety.us@esteve.com.

Please see accompanying Full Prescribing Information, including BOXED WARNING.

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