

**NC Medicaid
Outpatient Pharmacy
Prior Approval Criteria
Gattex**

Effective Date: January 25, 2021

Amended Date: August 12, 2026

Therapeutic Class Code: D6I

Therapeutic Class Description: SBS- Glucagon-Like Peptide-2 Analogs

Medication
Gattex

Eligible Beneficiaries

NC Medicaid (Medicaid) beneficiaries shall be enrolled on the date of service and may have service restrictions due to their eligibility category that would make them ineligible for this service.

EPSDT Special Provision: Exception to Policy Limitations for Beneficiaries under 21

Years of Age 42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r) [1905(r) of the Social Security Act]

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the state Medicaid agency to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid beneficiaries under 21 years of age **if the service is medically necessary health care** to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition [health problem] identified through a screening examination (includes any evaluation by a physician or other licensed clinician). This means EPSDT covers most of the medical or remedial care a child needs to improve or maintain his/her health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems. Medically necessary services will be provided in the most economic mode, as long as the treatment made available is similarly efficacious to the service requested by the beneficiary's physician, therapist, or other licensed practitioner; the determination process does not delay the delivery of the needed service; and the determination does not limit the beneficiary's right to a free choice of providers.

EPSDT does not require the state Medicaid agency to provide any service, product, or procedure

- a. that is unsafe, ineffective, or experimental/investigational.
- b. that is not medical in nature or not generally recognized as an accepted method of medical practice or treatment.

Service limitations on scope, amount, duration, frequency, location of service, and/or other specific criteria described in clinical coverage policies may be exceeded or may not apply as long as the provider's documentation shows that the requested service is medically necessary "to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition" [health problem]; that is, provider documentation shows how the service, product, or procedure meets all EPSDT criteria, including to correct or improve or maintain the beneficiary's health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

EPSDT and Prior Approval Requirements

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- a. If the service, product, or procedure requires prior approval, the fact that the beneficiary is under 21 years of age does **NOT** eliminate the requirement for prior approval.
- b. **IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about EPSDT and prior approval is found in the *Basic Medicaid and Billing Guide*, sections 2 and 6, and on the EPSDT provider page. The Web addresses are specified below.

Basic Medicaid Billing Guide: <https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/providers/provider-manuals.html>

EPSDT provider page: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid/get-started/find-programs-and-services-right-you/medicaid-benefit-children-and-adolescents>

Criteria for Initial Coverage of Gattex:

- Beneficiary is 1 year of age and older; AND
- Beneficiary has diagnosis of short bowel syndrome, AND
- Beneficiary has been dependent on parenteral nutrition for at least 12 months; AND
- Beneficiary is receiving parenteral nutrition at least 3 times weekly

Criteria for Continuation of Coverage of Gattex:

- Beneficiary is continuing to receive parenteral nutrition while taking the requested agent

References

1. Gattex [package insert]. Lexington, MA; Shire-NPS; May 2019. Updated September 2025.

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Criteria Change Log

01/25/2021	Criteria effective date
08/12/2026	Criteria Review. No changes made.