**Sample Appeals Letter**

Payers vary in their requirements for appealing denials of coverage. See the following page for an example of a letter with information that providers can reference when preparing the appeals letter on their office letterhead. The letter should include the type of information that payers may require to appeal a denial of coverage, such as:

* The patient’s diagnosis
* Information about the treatment that was denied
* Information about your patient’s medical history and prior treatments
* A summary of your clinical assessment and rationale for requesting coverage

This information herein is for informational purposes and for the healthcare provider’s convenience only. It is not intended as legal advice and is not a substitute for a provider’s independent professional judgment. This information is not a guarantee of coverage or payment (partial or full). Healthcare providers should always confirm coverage for individual patients with their insurance providers.

**Please see Important Safety Information on page 3 and INGREZZA full** [**Prescribing Information**](https://www.neurocrine.com/ingrezzapi)**, including Boxed Warning.**

 [*Physician Letterhead*]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Insurance Company] | Re: Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| [Address Line 1] |  Policy ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| [Address Line 2] |  Policy Group: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |  Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

[Date]

Attn: [Medical/Pharmacy Director], [Department]

Dear [Medical/Pharmacy Director]:

I am writing this letter to appeal the denial of coverage for INGREZZA® (valbenazine) capsules on behalf of my patient, [patient’s name], who has a diagnosis of [tardive dyskinesia (G24.01) or Huntington’s chorea (G10)]. Your organization cited [reason for denial] as the reason for denial. Please review the information below that supports use of this medication as approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

INGREZZA is a vesicular monoamine transporter 2 (VMAT2) inhibitor and is FDA approved for the treatment of adults with tardive dyskinesia and Huntington’s chorea.

Based on a clinical assessment of my patient, the patient’s diagnosis, and medical history, INGREZZA was prescribed. Below is a brief summary of [patient’s name]’s medical history and the rationale for treatment with INGREZZA.

**Patient’s Medical History and Treatment Rationale:**

* Patient’s medical history, diagnosis, and current condition (eg, signs, symptoms, functioning): [Provide a brief statement about the patient’s diagnosis and medical history, including any underlying health issues that affect your treatment selection]
* Prior treatments and response to those treatments: [If applicable, provide a list of current and past medications, as well as reasons for not prescribing a medication (eg, contraindications, drug interactions, lack of efficacy) and a summary of patient experience for each medication, including clinical outcome, adverse drug reactions, and length of therapy]
* [Summary as to why, based on your clinical judgment, your patient requires treatment with INGREZZA]

In summary, based on my clinical opinion, INGREZZA is medically necessary and reasonable for [patient’s name]’s medical condition. I trust that the information provided, along with my medical recommendations, will establish the medical necessity of coverage for INGREZZA.

Please contact my office at [office phone number] if I can provide you with any additional information to approve this request.

Sincerely,

[Physician’s name]

[List enclosures as appropriate, (eg, excerpt(s) from patient’s medical record, relevant treatment guidelines, and product Prescribing Information)]

**This page is for your reference only. Content on this page does not need to be sent to the insurance company.**

**Important Information**

**INDICATION & USAGE**

INGREZZA® (valbenazine) capsules is indicated in adults for the treatment of tardive dyskinesia and for the treatment of chorea associated with Huntington’s disease.

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION**

**Depression and Suicidality in Patients with Huntington’s Disease: VMAT2 inhibitors, including INGREZZA, can increase the risk of depression and suicidal thoughts and behavior (suicidality) in patients with Huntington’s disease. Balance the risks of depression and suicidality with the clinical need for treatment of chorea. Closely monitor patients for the emergence or worsening of depression, suicidal ideation, or unusual changes in behavior. Inform patients, their caregivers, and families of the risk of depression and suicidal ideation and behavior and instruct them to report behaviors of concern promptly to the treating physician. Exercise caution when treating patients with a history of depression or prior suicide attempts or ideation, which are increased in frequency in patients with Huntington’s disease.**

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

INGREZZA is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to valbenazine or any components of INGREZZA.

**WARNINGS & PRECAUTIONS**

**Hypersensitivity Reactions**

Hypersensitivity reactions, including cases of angioedema involving the larynx, glottis, lips, and eyelids, have been reported in patients after taking the first or subsequent doses of INGREZZA. Angioedema associated with laryngeal edema can be fatal. If any of these reactions occur, discontinue INGREZZA.

**Somnolence and Sedation**

INGREZZA can cause somnolence and sedation. Patients should not perform activities requiring mental alertness such as operating a motor vehicle or operating hazardous machinery until they know how they will be affected by INGREZZA.

**QT Prolongation**

INGREZZA may prolong the QT interval, although the degree of QT prolongation is not clinically significant at concentrations expected with recommended dosing. INGREZZA should be avoided in patients with congenital long QT syndrome or with arrhythmias associated with a prolonged QT interval. For patients at increased risk of a prolonged QT interval, assess the QT interval before increasing the dosage.

**Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome**

A potentially fatal symptom complex referred to as Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS) has been reported in association with drugs that reduce dopaminergic transmission, including INGREZZA. The management of NMS should include immediate discontinuation of INGREZZA, intensive symptomatic treatment and medical monitoring, and treatment of any concomitant serious medical problems. If treatment with INGREZZA is needed after recovery from NMS, patients should be monitored for signs of recurrence.

**Parkinsonism**

INGREZZA may cause parkinsonism. Parkinsonism has also been observed with other VMAT2 inhibitors. Reduce the dose or discontinue INGREZZA treatment in patients who develop clinically significant parkinson-like signs or symptoms.

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)**

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The most common adverse reaction in patients with tardive dyskinesia (≥5% and twice the rate of placebo) is somnolence.

The most common adverse reactions in patients with Huntington’s disease (>5% and twice the rate of placebo) are somnolence/lethargy/sedation, urticaria, rash, and insomnia.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit MedWatch at [**www.fda.gov/medwatch**](https://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call **1-800-FDA-1088**.

**Please see INGREZZA full**[**Prescribing Information**](https://www.neurocrine.com/ingrezzapi)**, including Boxed Warning.**