

Pharmacy Management Drug Policy

SUBJECT: Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell (CAR-T) Therapy

POLICY NUMBER: PHARMACY-103

EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/26/2022

LAST REVIEW DATE: 11/15/2022

If the member's subscriber contract excludes coverage for a specific service or prescription drug, it is not covered under that contract. In such cases, medical or drug policy criteria are not applied. Medical or drug policies apply to commercial and Health Care Reform products only when a contract benefit for the specific service exists.

DESCRIPTION:

Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell (CAR-T) therapy is a type of adoptive cellular therapy where T cells are engineered to detect and destroy diseased cells. There are six (6) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved CAR-T therapies available for the treatment of hematological malignancies:

Trade Name	Chemical Name	Target	FDA Approved Indication(s)
Abecma	idecabtagene vicleucel	B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma after four or more prior lines of therapy, including an immunomodulatory agent, a proteasome inhibitor, and an anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody
Breyanzi	lisocabtagene maraleucel	CD19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> indicated for the treatment of adult patients with large B-cell lymphoma, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified (including DLBCL arising from indolent lymphoma), high-grade B-cell lymphoma, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, and follicular lymphoma grade 3B who have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> refractory disease to first-line chemoimmunotherapy or relapse within 12 months of first line chemoimmunotherapy refractory disease to first-line chemoimmunotherapy or relapse after first-line chemoimmunotherapy and are not eligible for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) due to comorbidities or age relapsed or refractory disease after two or more lines of systemic therapy
Carvykti	ciltacabtagene autoleucel	B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma, after four or more prior lines of therapy, including a proteasome inhibitor, an immunomodulatory agent, and an anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody
Kymriah	tisagenlecleucel	CD19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> indicated for the treatment of patients up to 25 years of age with B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) that is refractory or in second or later relapse indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory (r/r) large B-cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, high grade B-cell lymphoma and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory (r/r) follicular lymphoma (FL) after two or more lines of systemic therapy
Tecartus	brexucabtagene autoleucel	CD19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory mantle cell lymphoma (MCL)

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)
Yescarta	axicabtagene ciloleucel	CD19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> indicated for the treatment of adult patients with large B-cell lymphoma that is refractory to first-line chemoimmunotherapy or that relapses within 12 months of first-line chemoimmunotherapy indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, high grade B-cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma (FL) after two or more lines of systemic therapy

Prior Authorization criteria listed in this policy is based on FDA labeled indication or NCCN level of evidence 1 or 2A. For requests that do not meet the policy criteria defined below, please refer to the Off-Label Use of FDA Approved Drugs policy.

POLICY GUIDELINES:

- This policy is subject to frequent revisions as new medications come onto the market. Some drugs will require prior authorization prior to approve language being added to the policy.
- Supportive documentation of previous drug use must be submitted for any criteria which require trial of a preferred agent if the preferred drug is not found in claims history.
- Dose and frequency should be in accordance with the FDA label or recognized compendia (for off-label uses). When services are performed in excess of established parameters, they may be subject to review for medical necessity.
- Not all contracts cover all Medical Infusible drugs. Refer to specific contract/benefit plan language for exclusions of Injectable Medications.
- For contracts where Insurance Law § 4903(c-1), and Public Health Law § 4903(3-a) are applicable, if trial of preferred drug(s) is the only criterion that is not met for a given condition, and one of the following circumstances can be substantiated by the requesting provider, then trial of the preferred drug(s) will not be required.
 - The required prescription drug(s) is (are) contraindicated or will likely cause an adverse reaction or physical or mental harm to the member;
 - The required prescription drug is expected to be ineffective based on the known clinical history and conditions and concurrent drug regimen;
 - The required prescription drug(s) was (were) previously tried while under the current or a previous health plan, or another prescription drug or drugs in the same pharmacologic class or with the same mechanism of action was (were) previously tried and such prescription drug(s) was (were) discontinued due to lack of efficacy or effectiveness, diminished effect, or an adverse event;
 - The required prescription drug(s) is (are) not in the patient's best interest because it will likely cause a significant barrier to adherence to or compliance with the plan of care, will likely worsen a comorbid condition, or will likely decrease the ability to achieve or maintain reasonable functional ability in performing daily activities;
 - The individual is stable on the requested prescription drug. The medical profile of the individual (age, disease state, comorbidities), along with the rationale for deeming stability

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as it relates to standard medical practice and evidence-based practice protocols for the disease state will be taken into consideration.

- The above criteria are not applicable to requests for brand name medications that have an AB rated generic. We can require a trial of an AB-rated generic equivalent prior to providing coverage for the equivalent brand name prescription drug.
6. Unless otherwise indicated within drug specific criteria, the drugs listed in this policy are administered by a healthcare professional and therefore are covered under the medical benefit.

APPROVAL TIME PERIODS

Line of Business	Approval timeframe
Commercial, Exchange, and SafetyNet (Medicaid, HARP, CHP, Essential Plan)	6 months
Medicare	6 months

CURRENT CAR-T THERAPIES:

DRUG NAME (Medical benefit)
Authorization Criteria
Abecma (idecabtagene vicleucel) - Medical
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Must be prescribed by a Hematologist or Oncologist at a Certified Treatment Center AND Must be ≥ 18 years of age AND Must have a diagnosis of relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma AND Must have measurable disease, defined as having at least one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Serum M-protein greater or equal to 1.0 g/dL OR Urine M-protein greater or equal to 200 mg/24 h OR Serum free light chain (FLC) assay: involved FLC level greater or equal to 10 mg/dL (100 mg/L) provided serum FLC ratio is abnormal AND Must have received at least 4 prior lines of therapies including an anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody (daratumumab, isatuximab-irfc), a proteasome inhibitor (bortezomib, carfilzomib, ixazomib), AND an immunomodulatory agent (lenalidomide, pomalidomide) AND Retreatment with idecabtagene vicleucel (Abecma) or any other chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy has not been proven to be safe and effective. Retreatment is considered Experimental/Investigational when any FDA approved CAR T therapy, or any other CAR T therapy still under investigation, has been previously administered. Patients approved for Abecma will also receive approval of Actemra (tocilizumab) for a period of 6 months. If severe or life-threatening cytokine-release syndrome is suspected (CRS), administer Actemra (tocilizumab) as either 12 mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients < 30kg or 8 mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients ≥ 30kg Prior authorization for Abecma will apply regardless of the site of administration (applies to both the inpatient and outpatient setting) <p>HCPCS: Q2055</p>
Breyanzi (lisocabtagene maraleucel) - Medical
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Must be prescribed by a Hematologist or Oncologist at a Certified Treatment center AND Must be ≥ 18 years of age AND Must have a diagnosis of large B-cell lymphoma including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified (including DLBCL arising from indolent lymphoma), high-grade

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B-cell lymphoma, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, and follicular lymphoma grade 3B
AND

4. Must meet one of the following:
 - a. Must be used for relapsed or refractory disease after two or more lines of systemic therapy
 - i. Must have received previous treatment with BOTH an anthracycline and a CD20-targeted agent (e.g., a rituximab containing product) **OR**
 - b. Must be used for disease that is refractory to first-line chemoimmunotherapy or relapse within 12 months of first-line chemoimmunotherapy
 - i. Must have received previous treatment with BOTH an anthracycline and a CD20-targeted agent (e.g., a rituximab containing product) **OR**
 - c. Must be used for disease that is refractory to first-line line chemoimmunotherapy or relapse after first-line chemoimmunotherapy and are not eligible for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) due to comorbidities or age
 - i. Must have received previous treatment with BOTH an anthracycline and a CD20-targeted agent (e.g., a rituximab containing product)
5. Must have biopsy confirmed CD19-positive disease post-treatment with prior CD19-targeted therapy **OR** must not have been previously treated with CD19-targeted therapy **AND**
6. Retreatment with lisocabtagene maraleucel (Breyanzi) or any other chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy has not been proven to be safe and effective. Retreatment is considered Experimental/Investigational when any FDA approved CAR T therapy, or any other CAR T therapy still under investigation, has been previously administered.
7. Breyanzi will not be approved for a diagnosis of primary central nervous system lymphoma
8. Patients approved for Breyanzi will also receive approval of Actemra (tocilizumab) for a period of 6 months. If severe or life-threatening cytokine-release syndrome is suspected (CRS), administer Actemra (tocilizumab) as either 12 mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients < 30kg or 8 mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients ≥ 30kg
9. Prior authorization for Breyanzi will apply regardless of the site of administration (applies to both the inpatient and outpatient setting)

HCPCS: Q2054

Carvykti (ciltacabtagene autoleucel) - Medical

1. Must be prescribed by a Hematologist or Oncologist at a Certified Treatment Center **AND**
2. Must be ≥ 18 years of age **AND**
3. Must have a diagnosis of **relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma AND**
4. Must have measurable disease, defined as having at least one of the following:
 - a. Serum M-protein greater or equal to 1.0 g/dL **OR**
 - b. Urine M-protein greater or equal to 200 mg/24 h **OR**
 - c. Serum free light chain (FLC) assay: involved FLC level greater or equal to 10 mg/dL (100 mg/L) provided serum FLC ratio is abnormal **AND**
5. Must have received at least 4 prior lines of therapies including an anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody (daratumumab, isatuximab-irfc), a proteasome inhibitor (bortezomib, carfilzomib, ixazomib), **AND** an immunomodulatory agent (lenalidomide, pomalidomide) **AND**
6. Retreatment with ciltacabtagene autoleucel (Carvykti) or any other chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy has not been proven to be safe and effective. Retreatment is considered Experimental/Investigational when any FDA approved CAR T therapy, or any other CAR T therapy still under investigation, has been previously administered.
7. Patients approved for Carvykti will also receive approval of Actemra (tocilizumab) for a period of 6 months. If severe or life-threatening cytokine-release syndrome is suspected (CRS), administer

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Actemra (tocilizumab) as either 12 mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients < 30kg or 8 mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients ≥ 30kg

8. Prior authorization for Carvykti will apply regardless of the site of administration (applies to both the inpatient and outpatient setting)

Kymriah (tisagenlecleucel) - Medical

1. Must be prescribed by a Hematologist or Oncologist at a Certified Treatment center **AND**
2. Must have meet one of the following:
 - a. Must have a diagnosis of **CD19-positive B-Cell Precursor Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)** with morphological disease in the bone marrow (> 5% blasts) **AND**
 - i. Must be ≤ 25 years of age **AND**
 - ii. Must have refractory disease, be in second or later bone marrow relapse, or have bone marrow relapse after allogenic stem cell transplant
 - a) Members with Philadelphia chromosome positive B-ALL must have failure of at least 2 tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKI) [Sprycel (dasatinib), Gleevec (imatinib), Iclusig (ponatinib), Tassigna (nilotinib), Bosulif (bosutinib)] unless treatment with a TKI is contraindicated **OR**
 - b. Must have a diagnosis of **relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma** including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, high grade B-cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma **AND**
 - i. Must be 18 years of age or older **AND**
 - ii. Must be used after two or more lines of systemic therapy
 - a) Must have received previous treatment with BOTH an anthracycline and a CD20-targeted agent (e.g., a rituximab containing product) **OR**
 - c. Must have a diagnosis of **relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma (FL)**
 - i. Must be 18 years of age or older **AND**
 - ii. Must have grade 1,2, or 3A FL **AND**
 - iii. Must have radiographically measurable disease defined as:
 - a) At least one nodal lesion greater than 20 mm in the long axis, regardless of the length of the short axis **OR**
 - b) Extranodal lesions (outside lymph node or nodal mass, including liver and spleen) greater than 10 mm in long and short axis **AND**
 - iv. Must have had at least 2 lines of systemic therapy or an autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT)
3. Retreatment with tisagenlecleucel (Kymriah) or any other chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy has not been proven to be safe and effective. Retreatment is considered Experimental/Investigational when any FDA approved CAR T therapy, or any other CAR T therapy still under investigation, has been previously administered.
4. Kymriah will not be approved for a diagnosis of primary central nervous system lymphoma
5. Patients approved for Kymriah will also receive approval of Actemra for a period of 6 months. If severe or life-threatening cytokine-release syndrome is suspected (CRS), administer Actemra as either 12 mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients < 30kg or 8 mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients ≥ 30kg
6. Prior authorization for Kymriah will apply regardless of the site of administration (applies to both the inpatient and outpatient setting)

HCPCS: Q2042

Tecartus (brexucabtagene autoleucel) - Medical

1. Must be prescribed by a Hematologist or Oncologist at a Certified Treatment center **AND**
2. Must be ≥ 18 years of age **AND**
3. Must meet one of the following:

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- a. Must have a diagnosis of **relapsed or refractory CD19-positive B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)** with morphological disease in the bone marrow (> 5% blasts) **AND**
 - i. Must have relapsed or refractory disease defined as:
 - a) Must be refractory to 2 or more lines of systemic therapy **OR**
 - b) In first relapse, with remission of 12 months or less **OR**
 - c) Must have had bone marrow relapse after allogeneic stem cell transplant (HSCT) **OR**
 - d) Must have primary refractory disease (having less than a complete response [CR] after initial induction therapy) **AND**
 - ii. Patients with Philadelphia chromosome positive (Ph+) disease must have had relapsed/refractory disease despite treatment with at least 2 different tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKI) unless treatment with a TKI is contraindicated **OR**
 - b. Must have a diagnosis **relapsed or refractory mantle cell lymphoma AND**
 - i. Must have at least 1 measurable lesion **AND**
 - ii. Must have had previous treatment with all the following:
 - a) A CD20-targeted agent (e.g., a rituximab containing product) **AND**
 - b) Anthracycline or bendamustine-containing chemotherapy **AND**
 - c) A bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitor (such as ibrutinib [Imbruvica], and acalabrutinib [Calquence])
2. Retreatment with brexucabtagene autoleucel (Tecartus) or any other chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy has not been proven to be safe and effective. Retreatment is considered Experimental/Investigational when any FDA approved CAR T therapy, or any other CAR T therapy still under investigation, has been previously administered.
 3. Patients approved for Tecartus will also receive approval of Actemra for a period of 6 months. If severe or life-threatening cytokine-release syndrome is suspected (CRS), administer Actemra as either 12 mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients < 30kg or 8 mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients ≥ 30kg
 4. Prior authorization for Tecartus will apply regardless of the site of administration (applies to both the inpatient and outpatient setting)

HCPCS: Q2053

Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) - Medical

1. Must be prescribed by a Hematologist or Oncologist at a Certified Treatment center **AND**
2. Must be ≥ 18 years of age **AND**
3. Must meet one of the following:
 - a. Must have a diagnosis of **relapsed or refractory Follicular Lymphoma (FL)**
 - i. Must have grade 1,2, or 3A FL
 - ii. Must be used after two or more prior chemoimmunotherapy regimens
 - a) One regimen must include a CD20-targeted agent (e.g., a rituximab containing product) in combination with an alkylating agent **OR**
 - b. Must be used as third-line therapy for a diagnosis of **relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma** including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, high grade B-cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma
 - i. Must have received previous treatment with BOTH an anthracycline and a CD20-targeted agent (e.g., a rituximab containing product) **OR**
 - c. Must be used as second-line therapy for a diagnosis of **primary refractory (defined as no complete remission to first-line therapy) or relapsed (defined as complete remission to first-line therapy followed by biopsy-proven relapse ≤ 12 months of first-line therapy) large B-cell lymphoma** (see [ZUMA-7](#) inclusion criteria)

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- i. Must have received adequate first-line therapy including an anthracycline and a CD20-targeted agent (e.g., a rituximab containing product)
2. Retreatment with axicabtagene ciloleucel (Yescarta) or any other chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy has not been proven to be safe and effective. Retreatment is considered Experimental/Investigational when any FDA approved CAR T therapy, or any other CAR T therapy still under investigation, has been previously administered.
3. Yescarta will not be approved for a diagnosis of primary central nervous system lymphoma
4. Patients approved for Yescarta will also receive approval of Actemra for a period of 6 months. If severe or life-threatening cytokine-release syndrome is suspected (CRS), administer Actemra as either 12mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients <30kg or 8mg/kg IV over 1 hour for patients ≥30kg
5. Prior authorization for Yescarta will apply regardless of the site of administration (applies to both the inpatient and outpatient setting)

HCPCS: Q2041

CODES:

Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract. Codes may not be covered under all circumstances.

Please read the policy and guidelines statements carefully.

Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

Code Key: Experimental/Investigational = (E/I), Not medically necessary/ appropriate = (NMN).

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HCPCS:

Trade Name	Chemical Name	HCPCS
Abecma	idecabtagene vicleucel	Q2055
Breyanzi	lisocabtagene maraleucel	Q2054
Carvykti	ciltacabtagene autoleucel	Q2056
Kymriah	tisagenlecleucel	Q2042
Tecartus	brexucabtagene autoleucel	Q2053
Yescarta	axicabtagene ciloleucel	Q2041

UPDATES:

Date	Revision
11/2022	Revised
05/2022	P&T Committee Approval
04/2022	Created

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REFERENCES:

In addition to the full prescribing information for each individual drug and NCCN Drugs and Biologic Compendium, the following references have been utilized in creating drug specific criteria

1. Maciocia PM, Maciocia NC, Pule MA. Immune Cell Therapy: Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell Therapy. In: Kaushansky K, Prchal JT, Burns LJ, Lichtman MA, Levi M, Linch DC. eds. Williams Hematology, 10e. McGraw Hill; 2021.