
Chemotherapy: Drugs A Policy

Page updated: May 2024

This section contains policy related to billing for injection services, listed in alphabetical order by generic drug name or drug type. For general billing policy information regarding injections services, refer to the *Chemotherapy: An Overview* manual section. Additional policy information for chemotherapy drug services can be found in manual sections:

- Chemotherapy: Drugs B Policy
- Chemotherapy: Drugs C Policy
- Chemotherapy: Drugs D Policy
- Chemotherapy: Drugs E-H Policy
- Chemotherapy: Drugs I-L Policy
- Chemotherapy: Drugs M Policy
- Chemotherapy: Drugs N-O Policy
- Chemotherapy: Drugs P-Q Policy
- Chemotherapy: Drugs R-S Policy
- Chemotherapy: Drugs T-Z Policy

Ado-Trastuzumab Emtansine

Ado-trastuzumab emtansine is a Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2 (HER2)-targeted antibody-drug conjugate which contains the humanized anti-HER2 IgG1, trastuzumab, covalently linked to the microtubule inhibitory drug DM1 (a maytansine derivative) via the stable thioether linker MCC (4-[N- maleimidomethyl] cyclohexane-1-carboxylate). Emtansine refers to the MCC- DM1 complex. Upon binding to sub-domain IV of the HER2 receptor, ado- trastuzumab emtansine undergoes receptor-mediated internalization and subsequent lysosomal degradation, resulting in intracellular release of DM1-containing cytotoxic catabolites. Binding of DM1 to tubulin disrupts microtubule networks in the cell, which results in cell cycle arrest and apoptotic cell death.

Indications

For the treatment of patients with HER2 positive metastatic breast cancer who previously received trastuzumab and a taxane, separately or in combination. They should have either:

- Received prior therapy for metastatic disease, or
- Developed disease recurrence during or within six months of completing adjuvant therapy.

Authorization

An approved *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) is required for reimbursement. Documentation must be submitted with the TAR to establish medical necessity.

Dosage

The recommended dose of ado-trastuzumab emtansine is 3.6 mg/kg given as an intravenous infusion every three weeks (21-day cycle) until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. Ado-trastuzumab emtansine should not be administered at doses greater than 3.6 mg/kg nor should it be substituted for or used with trastuzumab.

Billing

HCPCS code J9354 (injection, ado-trastuzumab emtansine, 1 mg).

«Afamitresgene autoleucel (TECELRA)

Indications, Dosages and Age

Refer to FDA-approved labeling.

Must be 18 years of age or older.

TAR Requirement

An approved *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) is required for reimbursement.

Billing

HCPCS code Q2057 (injection, Afamitresgene autoleucel, including leukapheresis and dose preparation procedures, per therapeutic dose)

Administration code: CPT code 96413 (Chemotherapy administration, intravenous infusion; up to 1 hour, single or initial substance/drug).

Due to system limitations, providers are to take the following steps when submitting claims for TECELRA:

TAR/SAR Submission

1. Submit and receive back an approved *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) or approved product specific *Service Authorization Request* (SAR).
2. The TAR/SAR is not negotiated.
3. Provider must submit one (1) service line for eight (8) units on the TAR/SAR request and enter "8" in the Units box.

Claim Submission

1. Bill using HCPCS code Q2057 (injection, Afamitresgene autoleucel, including leukapheresis and dose preparation procedures, per therapeutic dose).
2. Completion of Claim forms:
 - This billing methodology is restricted to hospital outpatient services.

Note: Pharmacies and clinics cannot bill using this methodology.>>

- «Outpatient claims may be billed electronically or by paper claim using 837I (Institutional) or *UB-04* Medi-Cal claim forms with the following conditions:
 - Provider must submit eight (8) claim lines to represent one (1) service.
 - Each claim line to represent one unit.
 - Claims submitted with one or two claim lines will be denied.
 - Provider must submit an invoice for reimbursement.
 - This process will ensure that the total reimbursement paid for the eight (8) claim lines is no more than provider submitted invoice paid price.
 - TECELRA must be billed on its own with no other drug or biologics.
- 3. Providers are advised to take the following steps in order to ensure that TECELRA claims are identified and processed expeditiously:
 - Paper claims may be identified by notation of “TECELRA” on the “Remarks” section of the UB-04 claim form (Field #80) and submitted to:
 - Attention: Claims Manager
Medi-Cal Fiscal Intermediary
P.O. Box 526006
Sacramento, CA 95852-6006
 - Electronic claims may be identified by notation of “TECELRA” on the cover sheet, addressed to Attention: Claims Manager and submitted with the 837I claim form.
- 4. Providers to note that except for the first claim line, payment for any additional line will be delayed for two to three additional weeks due to systems constraints.
- 5. Payment for TECELRA shall be a once in a lifetime reimbursement under Q2057 or any other code (HCPCS, CPT®, or by NDC).
- 6. For instructions regarding physician claim form completion, refer to the Forms page on the Medi-Cal Providers website, forms section for completion of 837I and *UB-04* claim forms.

Required ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

C38.0-C38.8, C48.1-C48.8, C49.0-C49.9

Prescribing Restriction(s)

Frequency of billing equals once in a lifetime.>>

Aldesleukin

Aldesleukin is a lymphokine that stimulates growth of T-lymphocytes. Aldesleukin is used to treat metastatic renal cell carcinoma and metastatic malignant melanoma. It is a “biologic response modifier” that promotes anti-tumor activity mediated through the immune system.

Required Codes

Aldesleukin is reimbursable when billed in conjunction with ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes C43.0 thru C43.9 (malignant melanoma of skin), C64.1 thru C65.9 (malignant neoplasm of kidney and renal pelvis).

Dosage

Adult patients diagnosed with metastatic renal cell carcinoma or metastatic malignant melanoma may be treated with a dosage schedule consisting of two five-day treatment cycles separated by a rest period of nine days. Patients receive a dose of 600,000 IU/kg of aldesleukin administered every eight hours through a 15-minute intravenous infusion, for a total of 14 doses. Following the rest period, the schedule is repeated for another 14 doses, to a maximum of 28 doses per course.

Billing

HCPCS code J9015 (injection, aldesleukin, per single use vial).

Aldesleukin may be billed in conjunction with CPT® code 96413 (chemotherapy administration, intravenous infusion technique; up to one hour, single or initial substance/drug).

Amivantamab-vmjw (Rybrevant)

Amivantamab-vmjw is a bispecific antibody that binds to the extracellular domains of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and mesenchymal-epithelial transition (MET). In in vitro and in vivo studies amivantamab-vmjw was able to disrupt EGFR and MET signaling functions through blocking ligand binding and, in exon 20 insertion mutation models, degradation of EGFR and MET. The presence of EGFR and MET on the surface of tumor cells also allows for targeting of these cells for destruction by immune effector cells, such as natural killer cells and macrophages, through antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) and trogocytosis mechanisms, respectively.

Indications

All FDA-approved indications.

Dosage

FDA-approved dosages.

TAR Requirement

No *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) is required for reimbursement.

Age Limit

Must be 18 years of age or older.

Billing

HCPCS code J9061, (injection, amivantamab-vmjw, 2 mg).

Prescribing Restrictions

Frequency of billing equals 1,400 mg/700 units weekly for four weeks, then every two weeks thereafter. Note that the initial dose is administered as a split infusion in week one on days one and two.

Maximum billing unit(s) equals 1,400 mg/700 units.

Aprepitant

Aprepitant injection is a substance P/neurokinin-1 (NK-1) receptor antagonist anti-emetic drug for intravenous (I.V.) administration.

Indications

Aprepitant is used in combination with dexamethasone and a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist to prevent nausea and vomiting symptoms associated with initial and repeat courses of highly-emetic cancer chemotherapy (HEC) or moderately-emetic cancer chemotherapy (MEC).

Age Limit

Must be 18 years of age and older.

Dosage

Single Dose Regimen for HEC:

- 130 mg I.V. given as a single dose approximately 30 minutes before initiation of a chemotherapy cycle.

Multiple Dose Regimen for MEC:

- 100 mg I.V. given approximately 30 minutes before initiation of a chemotherapy cycle on day one, followed by an 80 mg aprepitant oral capsule given once daily on days two and three.

Authorization

No *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) is generally required for reimbursement unless the claim exceeds the recommended maximum dose or frequency.

Required Codes

The following ICD-10-CM diagnosis code is required for reimbursement:

- Z51.11 (Encounter for anti-neoplastic chemotherapy)

Billing

HCPCS code J0185 (injection, aprepitant, 1 mg).

One (1) unit of J0185 equals 1 mg of aprepitant emulsion.

Arsenic Trioxide

«Clinical Use Parameters

Use in accordance with FDA-approved labeling, including indication, dosage, frequency, age and any prescribing information.

TAR Requirement

No *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) is required for reimbursement.»

Billing

HCPCS code J9017 (injection, arsenic trioxide, 1 mg).

«Required ICD-10-Diagnosis Codes

C92.40, C92.41, C92.42»

Asparaginase Erwinia Chrysanthemi (recombinant) **Rywn (Rylaze™)**

Asparaginase erwinia chrysanthemi (recombinant)-rywn is an enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of the amino acid L-asparagine into aspartic acid and ammonia. The pharmacological effect of Rylaze is based on the killing of leukemic cells due to depletion of plasma asparagine. Leukemic cells with low expression of asparagine synthetase have a reduced ability to synthesize asparagine, and therefore depend on an exogenous source of asparagine for survival.

Indications

All FDA-approved indications.

Dosage

FDA-approved dosages.

TAR Requirement

No *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) is required for reimbursement.

Billing

HCPCS code J9021, (injection, asparaginase, recombinant, [Rylaze], 0.1 mg).

Suggested ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes

C91.00, C91.01, C91.02

Atezolizumab (TECENTRIQ) and Atezolizumab and hyaluronidase-tqjs (TECENTRIQ HYBREZA)

Indications, Dosages and Ages

Refer to the FDA-approved labeling.

Must be 18 years of age or older.

TAR Requirement

No *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) is required for reimbursement.

Age Limit

Must be 18 years of age or older.

Billing

HCPCS codes:

J9022 (injection, atezolizumab, 10 mg).

J9024 (injection, atezolizumab, 5 mg and hyaluronidase-tqjs).

Suggested ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

Breast Cancer

C50.011, C50.012, C50.019, C50.021, C50.022, C50.029, C50.111, C50.112, C50.119
C50.121, C50.122, C50.129, C50.211, C50.212, C50.219, C50.221, C50.222, C50.229
C50.311, C50.312, C50.319, C50.321, C50.322, C50.329, C50.411, C50.412, C50.419
C50.421, C50.422, C50.429, C50.511, C50.512, C50.519, C50.521, C50.522, C50.529
C50.611, C50.612, C50.619, C50.621, C50.622, C50.629, C50.811, C50.812, C50.819
C50.821, C50.822, C50.829, C50.911, C50.912, C50.919, C50.921, C50.922, C50.929

Hepatocellular Carcinoma

C22.0, C22.1, C22.2, C22.3, C22.4, C22.7, C22.8, C22.9

Lung Cancer

C34.00, C34.01, C34.02, C34.10, C34.11, C34.12, C34.2

Melanoma

C43.0, C43.10, C43.111, C43.112, C43.121, C43.122, C43.20, C43.21, C43.22, C43.30
C43.31, C43.39, C43.4, C43.51, C43.52, C43.59, C43.60, C43.61, C43.62, C43.70, C43.71
C43.72, C43.8, C43.9

Urothelial Carcinoma

C65.1, C65.2, C65.9, C66.1, C66.2, C66.9, C67.0, C67.1, C67.2, C67.3, C67.4, C67.5,
C67.6, C67.7, C67.8, C67.9, C68.0

Prescribing Restrictions

Maximum billing unit (s) equals 1680mg/168 units.

Atidarsagene autotemcel (LENMELDY)

Indications, Dosages, and Age

Refer to FDA-approved labeling.

Must be less than seven years of age with a confirmed ARSA genotype.

TAR Requirement

An approved *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) is required for reimbursement.

Billing

HCPCS code J3391 (injection, atidarsagene autotemcel, per treatment).

Administration code: CPT code 96413 (Chemotherapy administration, intravenous infusion; up to 1 hour, single or initial substance/drug).

Due to system limitations, providers are to take the following steps when submitting claims for LENMELDY:

TAR/SAR Submission:

1. Submit and receive back an approved TAR or approved product specific *Service Authorization Request* (SAR).
2. The TAR/SAR is not negotiated.
3. Provider must submit one (1) service line for six (6) units on the TAR/SAR request and enter "6" in the Units box.

Claim Submission:

1. Bill using HCPCS code J3391 (injection, atidarsagene autotemcel, per treatment).
2. Completion of Claim forms:
 - This billing methodology is restricted to hospital outpatient services. Note that pharmacies and clinics cannot bill using this methodology.

- Outpatient claims may be billed electronically or by paper claim using 837I (Institutional) or UB-04 Medi-Cal claim forms with the following conditions:
 - Provider must submit six (6) claim lines to represent one (1) service.
 - Each claim line to represent one unit.
 - Claims submitted with one or two claim lines will be denied.
 - Provider must submit an invoice for reimbursement.
 - This process will ensure that the total reimbursement paid for the six (6) claim lines is no more than provider submitted invoice paid price.
 - LENMELDY must be billed on its own with no other drug or biologics.
- 3. Providers are advised to take the following steps in order to ensure that LENMELDY claims are identified and processed expeditiously:
 - Paper claims may be identified by notation of “LENMELDY” on the “Remarks” section of the UB-04 claim form (Field #80) and submitted to:
 - Attention: Claims Manager
Medi-Cal Fiscal Intermediary
P.O. Box 526006
Sacramento, CA 95852-6006
 - Electronic claims may be identified by notation of “LENMELDY” on the cover sheet, addressed to Attention: Claims Manager and submitted with the 837I claim form.
- 4. Providers to note that except for the first claim line, payment for any additional line will be delayed for two to three additional weeks due to systems constraints.
- 5. Payment for LENMELDY shall be a once in a lifetime reimbursement under J3391 or any other code (HCPCS, CPT, or by NDC).
- 6. For instructions regarding physician claim form completion, refer to the Forms page on the Medi-Cal Providers website, forms section for completion of 837I and UB-04 claim forms.

42 REV. CD.	43 DESCRIPTION	44 HCPCS / RATE / HIPPS CODE	45 SERV. DATE	46 SERV. UNITS	47 TOTAL CHARGES	48 NON-COVERED CHARGES	49
1	N4 11digitNDC	J93391	3/01/24	1	708333333 00		1
2	N4 11digitNDC	J93391	3/01/24	1	708333333 00		2
3	N4 11digitNDC	J93391	3/01/24	1	708333333 00		3
4	N4 11digitNDC	J93391	3/01/24	1	708333333 00		4
5	N4 11digitNDC	J93391	3/01/24	1	708333333 00		5
6	N4 11digitNDC	J93391	3/01/24	1	708333333 00		6
7	N4 11digitNDC	J93391	3/01/24	1	708333333 00		7
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23	0001 PAGE 1 OF 1	CREATION DATE	3/01/24	TOTALS	4250000 00		23
A	50 PAYER NAME	51 HEALTH PLAN ID	52 FIEL INFO	53 ADG BEN	54 PRIOR PAYMENTS	55 EST. AMOUNT DUE	56 NPI
B							57 OTHER
C							PRV ID

Figure 1: Atidarsagene autotemcel (LENMELDY) UB-04 Billing Example.

- The total invoice cost of LENMELDY is \$ 4,250,000.
- Note that each provider’s invoice cost may be different.
- This is split evenly between the 6 lines.
- The sum of the six claim lines must equal the paid price on the invoice.

Note: It is not necessary to include the unit of measure qualifier and numeric quantity.

Required ICD-10 Diagnosis Code

E75.25

Prescribing Restrictions

Frequency of billing equals once in a lifetime.

Avelumab (Bravencio®)

Avelumab is a programmed death ligand-1 (PD-L1) blocking antibody. PD-L1 may be expressed on tumor cells and tumor-infiltrating immune cells and can contribute to the inhibition of the anti-tumor immune response in the tumor microenvironment. Binding of PD-L1 to the PD-1 and B7.1 receptors found on T cells and antigen presenting cells suppresses cytotoxic T-cell activity, T-cell proliferation and cytokine production. Avelumab binds PD-L1 and blocks the interaction between PD-L1 and its receptors PD-1 and B7.1. This interaction releases the inhibitory effects of PD-L1 on the immune response resulting in the restoration of immune responses, including anti-tumor immune responses.

Indications

FDA approved indications.

Dosage

FDA approved dosages.

Authorization

No *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) is required for reimbursement.

Age Limit

Must be 12 years of age or older.

Billing

HCPCS code J9023 (injection, avelumab, 10 mg)

One (1) unit of J9023 equals 10 mg of avelumab.

Prescribing Restrictions

Frequency of billing equals 800 mg/80 units every two weeks

Maximum billing unit(s) equals 800 mg/80 units.

Axicabtagene ciloleucel (Yescarta®)

YESCARTA, a CD19 (Cluster of Differentiation 19)-directed genetically modified autologous T cell immunotherapy binds to CD19-expressing cancer cells and normal B cells. Studies demonstrated that following anti-CD19 CAR T cell engagement with CD19-expressing target cells, the CD28 and CD3-zeta co stimulatory domains activate downstream signaling cascades that lead to T cell activation, proliferation, acquisition of effector functions and secretion of inflammatory cytokines and chemokines. This sequence of events leads to killing CD19-expressing cells.

Indications

All FDA-approved indications.

Dosage

FDA-approved dosages.

TAR Requirement

An approved *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) is required for reimbursement.

TAR Criteria

Yescarta is considered medically necessary when all of the following criteria are met:

Universal criteria:

- Must be used for FDA-approved indications and dosages.
- Patient must be 18 years of age or older.
- Must be prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist.
- Patient has an ECOG (Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group) performance status of 0 or 1.
- Patient does not have the following:
 - Primary central nervous system lymphoma
 - Active or serious infection or inflammatory disorders

- Patient must have adequate bone marrow, cardiac, pulmonary, renal hepatic and organ functions.
- Healthcare facility is enrolled in the Yescarta and Tecartus REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) Program.
- Outpatient administration is restricted to Hospital Outpatient Services only.
- Patient has not previously received treatment with a CAR T-cell immunotherapy.

A. Relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma:

- Patient must meet the above universal criteria.
- Patient has one of the following histologically proven large B-cell lymphoma as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) 2016 (Swerdlow et al, 2016).
 - Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified [activated B cell (ABC) or germinal center B cell (GCB)]
 - High grade B-cell lymphoma (HGBCL) with or without MYC and BCL2 and/or BCL6 rearrangement
 - DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma (FL) or Transformation Follicular Lymphoma (TFL)
 - T-cell/histiocyte rich large B-cell lymphoma
 - DLBCL associated with chronic inflammation
 - Primary cutaneous DLBCL, leg type
 - Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) + DLBCL

Treatment is based on 1 or 2 below:

1. Patient had relapsed or refractory disease after first-line chemoimmunotherapy (includes rituximab and anthracycline)
 - Refractory disease defined as no complete remission to first-line therapy.
 - Patient had disease progression after first-line therapy or;
 - Patient had stable disease after at least four cycles of first-line therapy (for example, four cycles of R-CHOP ([rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine and prednisone]), or
 - Patient had partial response after at least six cycles and biopsy-proven residual disease or disease progression with less than or equal to 12 months of therapy

- Relapsed disease defined as complete remission to first-line therapy followed by biopsy-proven relapse with less than or equal to 12 months of first-line therapy.
 - Patient must have received adequate first-line therapy including at a minimum:
 - Anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (for example, rituximab) unless tumor is CD20 negative, and
 - An anthracycline containing chemotherapy regimen (for example, doxorubicin)
 - Patient has not received more than one line of therapy for DLBCL.
 - Patient does not have primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma.
 - Patient has not received autologous or allogeneic stem cell transplant.
2. Patient has relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma including DLBCL, PMBCL, TFL and HGBCL after two or more lines of systemic therapy.
- Therapy includes at a minimum anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody unless the tumor is CD20-negative and an anthracycline containing chemotherapy regimen (for example, doxorubicin).
 - Patient may have primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma (PMBCL).
 - Patient had chemotherapy-refractory disease defined as no response to the most recent therapy or relapse within one year after autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT).
 - Patient did not have prior allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT).

B. Relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma:

- Patient meets the above universal criteria.
- Patient has a histologically confirmed diagnosis of follicular lymphoma.
- Patient has relapsed or refractory disease, defined as progression after two or more lines of systemic therapy (including the combination of an anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (for example rituximab, obinutuzumab, etc) and an alkylating agent [e.g., R-bendamustine, R-CHOP]).
- Patient does not have transformed lymphoma or other aggressive lymphomas
- Patient did not have prior allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT)

Initial approval is for three months (one treatment only).

Reauthorization

Repeat treatment is not approvable.

YESCARTA and TECARTUS REMS:

The goals of the Yescarta and Tecartus REMS are to mitigate the risks of cytokine release syndrome (CRS) and neurological toxicities by:

1. Ensuring that hospitals and their associated clinics that dispense Yescarta and/or Tecartus are specially certified and have on-site, immediate access to tocilizumab.
2. Ensuring those who prescribe, dispense, or administer Yescarta and/or Tecartus are aware of how to manage the risks of CRS and neurological toxicities.

Age Limit

Must be 18 years of age or older.

Billing

HCPCS code Q2041 (Axicabtagene ciloleucel, up to 200 million autologous anti-CD19 CAR T cells, including leukapheresis and dose preparation procedures, per therapeutic dose).

One unit of HCPCS code Q2041 equals a single infusion of up to 200 million autologous anti-CD19 CAR-positive viable T cells.

Administration code: CPT code 38228 (chimeric antigen receptor T-cell [CAR-T] therapy; CAR-T cell administration, autologous).

Important Instructions for Billing

Due to system limitations, providers are to take the following steps when submitting claims for Yescarta:

TAR/SAR Submission

3. Submit and receive back an approved TAR/Service Authorization Request (SAR).
4. Providers must submit one service line on the TAR/SAR request and enter "6" in the *Units* box

Claim Submission

- Bill using Q2041 (Axicabtagene ciloleucel, up to 200 million autologous anti-CD19 car-positive viable T cells, including leukapheresis and dose preparation procedures per therapeutic dose).

- Completion of claim forms:
- Claims are restricted to hospital outpatient services. Note that claims from pharmacies and clinics will be denied
- Outpatient claims may be billed by paper claim using *UB-04* or electronically using 837I
- On the 837I or *UB-04* claim form, providers must submit one claim line to represent one service or six (6) units.
 - Claims submitted with more than one claim line will be denied
- Providers must submit an invoice for reimbursement
- This process will ensure that the total reimbursement paid for the quantity of six is no more than the paid price on the provider submitted invoice
- Yescarta must be billed on its own with no other drug or biological
- For instructions regarding physician claim form completion, refer to the [Forms](#) page on the [Medi-Cal Providers website](#) for completion of 837I and [UB-04 claim forms](#).
- Providers may bill separately for the administration (infusion) of the CAR-T cell using CPT code 38228.

Suggested ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes

C82.00 thru C82.09, C82.10 thru C82.19, C82.20 thru C82.29, C82.30 thru C82.39, C82.40 thru C82.49, C82.50 thru C82.59, C82.60 thru C82.69, C82.80 thru C82.89, C82.90 thru C82.99, C83.30 thru C83.39, C85.10 thru C85.19, C85.20 thru C85.29, C85.80 thru C85.89.

Prescribing Restrictions

Frequency of billing is once in a lifetime.

Azacitidine

Azacitidine is a pyrimidine nucleoside analog of cytidine and is believed to exert its antineoplastic effects by causing hypomethylation of DNA and direct cytotoxicity on abnormal hematopoietic cells in the bone marrow.

Indications

Azacitidine is indicated for treatment of patients with:

- Refractory anemia
- Refractory anemia with ringed sideroblasts (if accompanied by neutropenia or thrombocytopenia or requiring transfusions)
- Refractory anemia with excess blasts or excess blasts in transformation
- Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia
- Acute myeloid leukemia

Dosage

The recommended starting dosage of azacitidine is 75 mg/m², given subcutaneously or intravenously once a day for seven days. This is usually repeated every four weeks for at least four cycles, and then continued as long as the patient continues to improve. The dosage may be increased to a maximum of 100 mg/m² if there is no initial response to treatment.

Billing

HCPCS code J9025 (injection, azacitidine, 1 mg)

Azacitidine is reimbursable for either intravenous or subcutaneous administration. Azacitidine may be billed either as an I.V. push or I.V. infusion over 40 minutes.

Note: Refer to the *Chemotherapy: An Overview* section of this manual for both subcutaneous injection and I.V. infusion administration billing codes.

Legend

Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table.

Symbol	Description
«	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
»	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.