

**Clinical Policy: Axitinib (Inlyta)**

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.100

Effective Date: 05.01.12

Last Review Date: 02.21

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

**Description**

Axitinib (Inlyta<sup>®</sup>) is a kinase inhibitor.

**FDA Approved Indication(s)**

Inlyta is indicated:

- In combination with avelumab, for the first-line treatment of patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC).
- In combination with pembrolizumab, for the first-line treatment of patients with advanced RCC.
- As a single agent, for the treatment of advanced RCC after failure of one prior systemic therapy.

**Policy/Criteria**

*Provider must submit documentation (including such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.*

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation<sup>®</sup> that Inlyta is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

**I. Initial Approval Criteria****A. Renal Cell Carcinoma** (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of relapsed, metastatic, or stage IV RCC;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. For Inlyta request, medical justification supports inability to use axitinib, if available, (e.g., contraindications to excipients);
5. Prescribed in one of the following ways (a or b):
  - a. As single-agent therapy;
  - b. For clear cell histology, in combination with Keytruda<sup>®</sup> or Bavencio<sup>®</sup>;  
*\*Prior authorization may be required*
6. Request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. Dose does not exceed 20 mg (4 tablets) per day;
  - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

*\*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

**Approval duration:****Medicaid/HIM – 6 months****Commercial – Length of Benefit**

**B. Thyroid Carcinoma (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of differentiated thyroid carcinoma (DTC; i.e., follicular, Hurthle cell or papillary thyroid carcinoma);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. For Inlyta request, medical justification supports inability to use axitinib, if available, (e.g., contraindications to excipients);
5. Disease is unresectable locoregional recurrent, persistent, or metastatic;
6. Failure of Lenvima<sup>®</sup> or Nexavar<sup>®</sup>, unless both are contraindicated or clinically adverse effects are experienced;  
*\*Prior authorization may be required*
7. Dose is within FDA maximum limit for any FDA-approved indication or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (prescriber must submit supporting evidence).\*

*\*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

**Approval duration:**

**Medicaid/HIM – 6 months**

**Commercial – Length of Benefit**

**C. Other diagnoses/indications**

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**II. Continued Therapy**

**A. All Indications in Section I (must meet all):**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Inlyta for a covered indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. For Inlyta request, medical justification supports inability to use axitinib, if available, (e.g., contraindications to excipients);
4. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. New dose does not exceed 20 mg (4 tablets) per day;
  - b. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

*\*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

**Approval duration:**

**Medicaid/HIM - 12 months**

**Commercial – Length of Benefit**

**B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.

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- Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or**
2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:**

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

DTC: differentiated thyroid carcinoma                      NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network  
 FDA: Food and Drug Association                              RCC: renal cell carcinoma

*Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives*

*This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent and may require prior authorization.*

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
<i>DTC</i>		
Lenvima (lenvatinib)	24 mg PO QD	24 mg/day
Nexavar (sorafenib)	400 mg PO QD	400 mg/day

*Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.*

*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*

None reported

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
RCC	Single-agent therapy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 mg PO BID</li> </ul> Combination therapy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 mg PO BID with avelumab 800 mg every 2 weeks.</li> <li>• 5 mg PO BID with pembrolizumab 200 mg every 3 weeks or 400 mg every 6 weeks.</li> </ul>	20 mg/day

**VI. Product Availability**

Tablets: 1 mg, 5 mg

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**VII. References**

1. Inlyta Prescribing Information. New York, NY: Pfizer Labs, Inc.; June 2020. Available at <http://labeling.pfizer.com/ShowLabeling.aspx?id=759>. Accessed November 14, 2020.
2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at: nccn.org. Accessed November 14, 2020.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines. Kidney Cancer Version 1.2021. Available at: nccn.org. Accessed November 14, 2020.
4. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines. Thyroid Carcinoma Version 2.2020. Available at: nccn.org. Accessed November 14, 2020.
5. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2020. Available at: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/>.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Renal cancer is reorganized around FDA labeled and NCCN recommended uses; dosing removed. Approval duration changed to 6 months for initial and 12 months for continued for indications specifically addressed in the policy. Safety criteria is removed as there are no contraindications or black box warnings.	03.17	04.17
1Q18 annual review: - Policies combined for Medicaid and Commercial lines of business. - Age, specialist and dosing added. - Renal cell carcinoma: definition of “advanced” removed given the additional requirement of a prior systemic therapy. - References reviewed updated.	11.22.17	02.18
1Q 2019 annual review; HIM line of business added; commercial approval duration changed from LOB or disease progression to LOB; thyroid carcinoma - DTC is added to diagnosis for clarity, metastatic/iodine refractory is removed and a drug trial is added per NCCN; references reviewed and updated.	11.13.18	02.19
1Q 2020 annual review: for RCC with clear cell histology added additional approval pathway for concurrent use with Keytruda or Bavencio consistent with NCCN Compendium; references reviewed and updated.	10.24.19	02.20
1Q 2021 annual review: oral oncology generic redirection language added; for RCC, relapsed, stage IV, or metastatic disease added, clear cell histology restriction limited to combination therapy with Keytruda and Bacencio, single-agent first-line therapy added per NCCN; for thyroid carcinoma, persistent disease added per NCCN; references to HIM.PHAR.21 revised to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	11.14.20	02.21

**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

**Note:**

**For Medicaid members**, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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