

**Clinical Policy: Vincristine Sulfate Liposome Injection (Marqibo)**

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.315

Effective Date: 02.17

Last Review Date: 11.20

Line of Business: Commercial, Medicaid, HIM-Medical Benefit

[Coding Implications](#)[Revision Log](#)

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

**Description**

Vincristine sulfate liposome injection (Marqibo<sup>®</sup>) is a vinca alkaloid.

**FDA Approved Indication(s)**

Marqibo is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with Philadelphia chromosome-negative (Ph-) acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) in second or greater relapse or whose disease has progressed following two or more anti-leukemia therapies. This indication is based on overall response rate. Clinical benefit such as improvement in overall survival has not been verified.

**Policy/Criteria**

*Provider must submit documentation (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 Marqibo is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

**I. Initial Approval Criteria****A. Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of ALL;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. One of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. For members with Ph- ALL, disease has relapsed  $\geq$  2 times or has progressed following  $\geq$  2 anti-leukemia therapies (*see Appendix B for examples*);
  - b. For members with Philadelphia chromosome-positive (Ph+) ALL, disease is refractory to tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy (e.g., imatinib [Gleevec<sup>®</sup>], Sprycel<sup>®</sup>, Tassigna<sup>®</sup>, Bosulif<sup>®</sup>, Iclusig<sup>®</sup>) [off-label];
5. Request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. Dose does not exceed 2.25 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 7 days;
  - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

*\*Prior authorization may be required.*

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

**Approval duration: 6 months****B. 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

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NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid and HIM-Medical Benefit.

**II. Continued Therapy****A. Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (must meet all):**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Marqibo for a covered indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. New dose does not exceed 2.25 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 7 days;
  - 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: 12 months**

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

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.  
**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 and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid and HIM-Medical Benefit.

**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 and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid and HIM-Medical Benefit or evidence of coverage documents;
- B.** Patients with the demyelinating form of Charcot-Marie-Tooth syndrome.

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

ALL: acute lymphoblastic leukemia

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network

*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 for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.*

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Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
<b>Examples of Ph- ALL anti-leukemia therapies</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CALGB 8811 Larson regimen: daunorubicin, vincristine, prednisone, pegaspargase, cyclophosphamide</li> <li>• Single agent therapies such as blinatumomab, inotuzumab, ozogamicin</li> </ul>	Varies	Varies
<b>Ph+ ALL tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy</b>		
imatinib (Gleevec)	600 mg PO QD	600 mg/day
Sprycel (dasatinib)	140 mg PO QD	180 mg/day
Tasigna (nilotinib)	400 mg PO BID	800 mg/day
Bosulif (bosutinib)	400-500 mg PO QD	600 mg/day
Iclusig (ponatinib)	45 mg PO QD	45 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*

- Contraindication(s):
  - Patients with demyelinating conditions including Charcot-Marie-Tooth syndrome
  - Intrathecal administration
- Boxed warning(s): for intravenous use only – fatal if given by other routes; dosage recommendations differ from vincristine sulfate, verify drug name and dose to avoid overdosage

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
ALL	2.25 mg/m <sup>2</sup> IV over 1 hour once every 7 days	See dosing regimen

**VI. Product Availability**

Marqibo Kit containing the following:

- Vial: vincristine sulfate injection, USP 5 mg/5 mL (1 mg/mL)
- Vial: sphingomyelin/cholesterol liposome injection 103 mg/mL
- Vial: sodium phosphate injection 355 mg/25 mL (14.2 mg/mL)

**VII. References**

1. Marqibo Prescribing Information. East Windsor, NJ: Acrotech Biopharma, LLC; September 2019. Available at: <https://marqibo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/PI-MARQIBO-092019.pdf>. Accessed July 23, 2020.
2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org). Accessed July 23, 2020.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Version 1. 2020. Available at [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org). Accessed July 23, 2020.

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#### Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J9371	Injection, vincristine sulfate liposome, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy split from CP.PHAR.182.Excellus Oncology. NCCN recommended uses added.	01.17	02.17
Policy converted to new template. Annual Review. Safety criteria was applied according to the safety guidance discussed at CPAC and endorsed by Centene Medical Affairs. Authorization limits extended from 3 and 6 months to 6 and 12 months for initial and continued approval, respectively.	08.30.17	11.17
4Q 2018 annual review: no significant changes; added Commercial line of business and HIM-Medical; added age and prescriber restrictions; references reviewed and updated.	07.16.18	11.18
4Q 2019 annual review: Ph- anti-leukemia therapy examples added to Appendix B; FDA/NCCN dosing limitation added; references reviewed and updated.	08.27.19	11.19
4Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	08.11.20	11.20

#### 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

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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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**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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