Clinical Policy: Axicabtagene Ciloleucel (Yescarta)
Reference Number: CP.PHAR.362
Effective Date: 10.31.17
Last Review Date: 08.19
Line of Business: Commercial, Medicaid, HIM-Medical Benefit

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description
Axicabtagene ciloleucel (Yescarta™) is a CD19-directed, genetically modified, autologous T cell immunotherapy.

FDA Approved Indication(s)
Yescarta is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma (LBCL) 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.

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® that Yescarta is medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria
   A. Large B-Cell Lymphoma* (must meet all):
      *Only for initial treatment dose; subsequent doses will not be covered.
      1. Diagnosis of LBCL;
      2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
      3. Age ≥ 18 years;
      4. Recent (within the last 30 days) absolute lymphocyte count (ALC) ≥ 100/µL;
      5. Disease is refractory or member has relapsed after ≥ 2 lines of systemic therapy that includes Rituxan® and one anthracycline-containing regimen (e.g., doxorubicin);
         *Prior authorization may be required for Rituxan
      6. Member does not have active or primary central nervous system (CNS) disease;
      7. Dose does not exceed 2 x 10^8 chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-positive viable T cells.
      Approval duration: 3 months (1 dose only, with 4 doses of tocilizumab (Actemra) at up to 800 mg per dose)
   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 NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid and HIM-Medical Benefit.
II. Continued Therapy
A. Large B-Cell Lymphoma
   1. Continued therapy will not be authorized as Yescarta is indicated to be dosed one time only.
   
   Approval duration: Not applicable

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 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. Active or primary CNS disease.

IV. Appendices/General Information
   Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key
   ALC: absolute lymphocyte count
   CAR: chimeric antigen receptor
   CNS: central nervous system
   CRS: cytokine release syndrome
   DLBCL: diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
   FDA: Food and Drug Administration
   LBCL: large B-cell lymphoma

   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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Dosing Regimen</th>
<th>Dose Limit/Maximum Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First-Line Treatment Regimens</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCHOP (Rituxan® (rituximab), cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCEPP (Rituxan® (rituximab), cyclophosphamide, etoposide, prednisone, procarbazine)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCDOP (Rituxan® (rituximab), cyclophosphamide, liposomal doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA-EPOCH (etoposide, prednisone, vincristine, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicine) + Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Drug Name

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Dosing Regimen</th>
<th>Dose Limit/Maximum Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCEOP (Rituxan®, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine, prednisone)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RGCVP (Rituxan®, gemcitabine, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Second-Line Treatment Regimens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Dosing Regimen</th>
<th>Dose Limit/Maximum Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bendeka® (bendamustine) ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEPP (cyclophosphamide, etoposide, prednisone, procarbazine) ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEOP (cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine, prednisone) ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA-EPOCH ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP (gemcitabine, dexamethasone, cisplatin) ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gemcitabine, dexamethasone, carboplatin ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GemOx (gemcitabine, oxaliplatin) ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gemcitabine, vinorelbine ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lenalidomide ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHAP (dexamethasone, cisplatin, cytarabine) ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESHAP (etoposide, methylprednisolone, cytarabine, cisplatin) ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICE (ifosfamide, carboplatin, etoposide) ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINE (mesna, ifosfamide, mitoxantrone, etoposide) ± Rituxan® (rituximab)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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): none reported
- Boxed warning(s): cytokine release syndrome (CRS), neurologic toxicities

### Appendix D: General Information

- The ZUMA-1 trial included only patients that received prior anti-CD20 antibody therapy and an anthracycline-containing regimen. Patients with an ALC < 100/µL were excluded.
- CRS, including fatal or life-threatening reactions, occurred in patients receiving Yescarta. Do not administer Yescarta to patients with active infection or inflammatory disorders. Treat severe or life-threatening CRS with tocilizumab or tocilizumab and corticosteroids.
• Neurologic toxicities, including fatal or life-threatening reactions, occurred in patients receiving Yescarta, including concurrently with CRS or after CRS resolution. Monitor for neurologic toxicities after treatment with Yescarta. Provide supportive care and/or corticosteroids, as needed.
• The ZUMA-1 trial inclusion criteria required a MRI of the brain showing no evidence of CNS lymphoma. Patients with detectable cerebrospinal fluid malignant cells, or brain metastases, or with a history of cerebrospinal fluid malignant cells or brain metastases were excluded. For primary DLBCL of the CNS (i.e., primary CNS lymphoma), NCCN treatment guidelines for CNS cancers recommend a high-dose methotrexate induction based regimen or whole brain radiation therapy, which consolidation therapy with high-dose chemotherapy with stem cell rescue, high-dose cytarabine with or without etoposide, low dose whole brain radiation therapy, or continuation with monthly high-dose methotrexate-based regimen.
• Yescarta is available only through a restricted program under a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) called the Yescarta REMS.

V. Dosage and Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Dosing Regimen</th>
<th>Maximum Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LBCL</td>
<td>Target dose: $2 \times 10^6$ CAR-positive viable T cells per kg body weight</td>
<td>$2 \times 10^8$ CAR-positive viable T cells</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI. Product Availability
Single-dose unit infusion bag: frozen suspension of genetically modified autologous T-cells labeled for the specific recipient

VII. References

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**
--- | ---
Q2041 | Axicabtagene Ciloleucel, up to 200 Million Autologous Anti-CD19 CAR T Cells, Including Leukapheresis And Dose Preparation Procedures, Per Infusion

**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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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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