Introduction

BCR-ABL is an abnormal gene that is found in a specific chromosome in people who have chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). The BCR-ABL gene makes a protein known as a tyrosine kinase. Tyrosine kinase acts as an “on/off switch” in a cell and causes certain types of cancer cells to grow uncontrollably, leading to specific types of blood cancer (leukemia). Newer types of chemotherapy attack cellular targets specifically involved in tumor growth. Drugs that target the BCR-ABL protein are known as BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitors. This policy describes when BCR-ABL kinase inhibitors may be considered medically necessary.

Note: The Introduction section is for your general knowledge and is not to be taken as policy coverage criteria. The rest of the policy uses specific words and concepts familiar to medical professionals. It is intended for providers. A provider can be a person, such as a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or dentist. A provider also can be a place where medical care is given, like a hospital, clinic, or lab. This policy informs them about when a service may be covered.
**Note:** Initial approval period for agents listed below will be 3 months. Continued approval beyond the first 3 months will require documentation showing objective response to therapy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Medical Necessity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gleevec® (imatinib)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gleevec® (imatinib) may be considered medically necessary for:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Treatment of adult and pediatric patients with Philadelphia chromosome positive chronic myeloid leukemia (Ph+ CML) in chronic phase, accelerated phase or blast crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Treatment of pediatric patients with Ph+ chronic phase CML whose disease has recurred after stem cell transplant</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Treatment of adult and pediatric patients with relapsed or refractory Philadelphia chromosome positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph+ ALL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Adult patients with myelodysplastic/myeloproliferative diseases (MDS/MPD) associated with PDGFR (platelet-derived growth factor receptor) gene re-arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Adult patients with aggressive systemic mastocytosis (ASM) without the D816V c-Kit mutation or with c-Kit mutational status unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Adult patients with hypereosinophilic syndrome (HES) and/or chronic eosinophilic leukemia (CEL) who have the FIP1L1-PDGFRα fusion kinase (mutational analysis or FISH demonstration of CHIC2 allele deletion) and for patients with HES and/or CEL who are FIP1L1-PDGFRα fusion kinase negative or unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Adult patients with unresectable, recurrent and/or metastatic dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans (DFSP) or aggressive desmoid tumors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Single-agent therapy or in combination with cisplatin or sirolimus for the treatment of recurrent chordoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Single-agent therapy for the treatment of Pigmented Villonodular Synovitis/Tenosynovial Giant Cell Tumor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Treatment of patients with Kit (CD117) positive GIST, melanoma and other tumors;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Treatment of patients with Ph+ NHL – Lymphoblastic lymphoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sprycel® (dasatinib)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sprycel® (dasatinib) may be considered medically necessary in</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug</td>
<td>Medical Necessity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sprycel® (dasatinib)</strong></td>
<td>may be considered medically necessary for the treatment of newly diagnosed pediatric patients with Ph+ ALL in combination with chemotherapy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Tasigna® (nilotinib)** | may be considered medically necessary in patients with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy with imatinib for:  
  - Treatment of adults with chronic, accelerated, or blast phase Philadelphia chromosome positive chronic myeloid leukemia (Ph+CML)  
  - Treatment of adults with Philadelphia chromosome positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph+ ALL)  
  - Treatment of pediatric patients greater than or equal to 1 year of age with Ph+ CML in chronic phase |
| **Bosulif™ (bosutinib)** | may be considered medically necessary in patients with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy with imatinib for treatment of adults with chronic, accelerated, or blast phase Philadelphia chromosome positive chronic myeloid leukemia (Ph+CML). |
| **Iclusig™ (ponatinib)** | may be considered medically necessary in patients with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy with imatinib and an additional tyrosine kinase inhibitor (eg, dasatanib, nilotinib, and bosutinib) for:  
  - Treatment of adults with chronic, accelerated, or myeloid or lymphoid blast phase Philadelphia chromosome positive |
Drug | Medical Necessity
--- | ---
| | chronic myeloid leukemia (Ph+CML)
| | Treatment of adults with Philadelphia chromosome positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph+ ALL)

**Synribo™ (omacetaxine)**

*Synribo™ (omacetaxine) may be considered medically necessary in adult patients with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy with imatinib and an additional tyrosine kinase inhibitor (eg, dasatanib, nilotinib, bosutinib, ponatinib) for the treatment of chronic or accelerated phase chronic myeloid leukemia.*

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**Additional Information**

**Imatinib (Gleevec®)**

Patients that have not demonstrated objective response to imatinib therapy after three months are considered imatinib-resistant for purposes of prescribing an alternative therapy.

**Bosulif™ (bosutinib), Iclusig™ (ponatinib), Sprycel® (dasatinib), Tasigna® (nilotinib)**

Patients that have not demonstrated objective response to bosutinib, dasatinib, or nilotinib therapy after three months are considered resistant for purposes of prescribing ponatinib therapy.

**All other uses of imatinib, dasatinib, nilotinib, bosutinib, ponatinib, and omacetaxine not encompassed within this policy are considered investigational.**

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**Coding**

N/A

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**Related Information**

**Benefit Application**

This coverage is managed through the Pharmacy benefit.
Description

Cancer is characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of malignant cells. Nearly 1.4 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer this year, and approximately 570,000 will die of the disease. The good news is, survival rates for cancer are on the rise, increasing from 50% to 64% over the last 30 years.

Conventional cytotoxic cancer chemotherapy has been one of the major medical advances realized in the last few decades. Although directed toward certain biologic targets thought to be involved in cellular growth and proliferation, typically they have not discriminated well between rapidly dividing normal cells (eg, bone marrow, gastrointestinal tract) and tumor cells, frequently resulting in toxicities. In addition, tumor responses to traditional cytotoxic cancer chemotherapies can be unpredictable and brief.

“Targeted chemotherapies" (eg, monoclonal antibodies, tyrosine kinase inhibitors, antisense inhibitors of growth factor receptors) are the newest therapeutic approach. These agents have been designed to interfere with molecular targets that have a role in tumor growth and progression (eg, tyrosine kinase, vascular endothelial growth factor, epithelial growth factor, farnesyl transferase inhibition). There are typically more of these targets on or in tumor cells, thus these therapies are more attracted to tumor cells than to normal cells. The promise of these agents is that they will provide a broader therapeutic index with less toxicity. They may also be useful in combination with traditional cytotoxic chemotherapies, immunotherapies or radiation to produce additive or synergistic activity without overlap in toxicity profiles.

The Philadelphia Chromosome mutation was first described in 1960 as a translocation of parts of chromosomes 9 and 22. The result is that part of the BCR (“breakpoint cluster region”) gene from chromosome 22 (region q11) is fused with part of the ABL gene on chromosome 9 (region q34). ABL stands for “Abelson”, the name of a leukemia virus which carries a similar protein. The result of the translocation is a protein of p210 or sometimes p185 (p simply stands for “protein”; the numbers represent the apparent molecular weight of the mutant proteins in kDa [kilodaltons]). The fused “BCR-ABL” gene is located on the resulting, shorter chromosome 22. Because ABL carries a domain that can add phosphate groups to tyrosine residues (tyrosine kinase) the BCR-ABL fusion gene is also a tyrosine kinase. The BCR region is also a serine/threonine kinase.
The fused BCR-ABL protein interacts with the interleukin-3 receptor beta(c) subunit. The BCR-ABL transcript is constitutively active. In turn, BCR-ABL activates a number of cell cycle-controlling proteins and enzymes, speeding up cell division. Moreover, it inhibits DNA repair, causing genomic instability and potentially causing blast crisis in CML.

The BCR-ABL kinase inhibiting agents currently available are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Pharmacology</th>
<th>How Given</th>
<th>FDA-approved Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gleevec® (imatinib)</td>
<td>BCR-ABL kinase inhibitor</td>
<td>Oral (Rx)</td>
<td>Philadelphia chromosome +CML, ALL, PDGFR-associated MDS/MPD, KIT+ (CD117) cancers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprycel® (dasatinib)</td>
<td>BCR-ABL kinase inhibitor</td>
<td>Oral (Rx)</td>
<td>Philadelphia chromosome +CML, ALL, KIT+ GIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasigna® (nilotinib)</td>
<td>BCR-ABL kinase inhibitor</td>
<td>Oral (Rx)</td>
<td>Philadelphia chromosome +CML, KIT+ GIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosulif™ (bosutinib)</td>
<td>BCR-ABL kinase inhibitor</td>
<td>Oral (Rx)</td>
<td>Philadelphia chromosome +CML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iclusig™ (ponatinib)</td>
<td>BCR-ABL kinase inhibitor</td>
<td>Oral (Rx)</td>
<td>Philadelphia chromosome +CML, ALL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gleevec® (imatinib) is a protein-tyrosine kinase inhibitor that inhibits the BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase, the abnormal tyrosine kinase created by the Philadelphia chromosome abnormality in chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). This inhibition prevents proliferation and induces apoptosis of the abnormal cells. Gleevec® is also an inhibitor of the receptor tyrosine kinases for platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) and stem cell factor (SCF), and c-kit. In vitro, Gleevec® inhibits proliferation and induces apoptosis in gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) cells, which express an activating c-kit mutation.

Sprycel® (dasatinib) and nilotinib are inhibitors of multiple protein-tyrosine kinases, including BCR-ABL, SRC family, c-KIT, EPHA2 and PDGFR-beta. Based on modeling studies, Sprycel is predicted to bind to multiple conformations of the ABL kinase.

Gleevec®, approved in 2001, revolutionized treatment of CML. The imatinib molecule fits tightly into the ATP binding site of the BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase, interfering with function of the abnormal protein. Thus it is called a BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitor or BCR-ABL TKI. Long term follow-up of some of the first imatinib patients shows an 8-year event-free survival of 81%. However, 17% of patients do not respond to imatinib, and of those that do, 15% later lose their response. Primary resistance (failure to achieve remission in 3-6 months) may be caused by excessive plasma protein binding, or reduced drug transport into the cell. Secondary resistance is thought to be most commonly due to acquired mutations in the drug binding site of the BCR-ABL TK protein. Mutations in imatinib-resistant patients have been mapped and sequenced. Second and third generation TKI’s – dasatinib, nilotinib, later bosutanib, and most recently ponatinib - have been developed to overcome imatinib-resistant mutations. In vitro binding and
growth inhibition studies for these drugs are available for an ever-increasing number of mutations.

There is increasing evidence that mutations in the BCR-ABL gene correspond to success or failure of different TKI’s. However, this information has limits on clinical usefulness. Over 80% of patients do well on first-line agents and do not harbor mutations. Of patients that fail imatinib therapy, Parker et al. were able to detect mutations in 28% of patients by sequencing, and 32% by mass spectrometry. Soverini et al. estimated that 29% of patients with imatinib failure harbor a detectible mutation in the BCR-ABL binding site. Branford et al. report a 10-20% mutation detection rate by sequencing, and of those for whom a mutation was detected, 43% had a mutation that was useful to guide clinical decisions. Mutations are now detected in about half of imatinib resistant patients, and of those mutations that are detected, 20-25% are useful for guiding treatment choice. Differences in defining treatment failure, as well as increasing numbers of mutations in advancing disease, may account for variability in reported percentages.

New methods of mutation detection are developing. Mass spectrometry can be used to identify mutations that are at too low a clonal level to be detected by sequencing. Denaturing high-performance liquid chromatography (D-HPLC) is also more sensitive but does not characterize the mutation, and may be used to screen samples before sequencing. A rapid PCR method is available to detect the T315I mutation, which is resistant to all TKI’s except ponatinib. Whether patients could be screened for this single mutation to guide therapy has not been tested.

Despite the wealth of information on mutations and in vitro sensitivity, there are no published prospective clinical trials on the clinical usefulness of mutational analysis to select a TKI. Studies to date are retrospective or observational. For example, in the phase II efficacy trial of Nilotinib in imatinib-resistant patients, mutation data were collected at baseline and thereafter. Patients who had no mutation detected, or mutations with high in vitro sensitivity to nilotinib, had a better response than those with mutations that were resistant to nilotinib in vitro (mutations Y253H, E255K/V, F359C/F). Omacetaxine, a protein translation inhibitor, has been recently approved by the FDA as second-line therapy, and other potential treatments for imatinib-resistant patients are being tested.

As patients who are successful on primary therapy are maintained for longer periods with molecular markers below the level of detection, the question has arisen as to whether they may actually be able to discontinue TKI therapy. In one pilot study, 100 patients who had been on imatinib for >2 years with complete molecular response discontinued treatment. At one year, 41% remained in complete molecular response. All of the 69% that relapsed remained sensitive to imatinib.
Rationale

The effectiveness of Sprycel® (dasatinib) is based on hematologic and cytogenetic response rates. There are no controlled trials demonstrating a clinical benefit, such as improvement in disease-related symptoms or increased survival. To date, Sprycel® has been studied in four uncontrolled Phase II pivotal clinical trials and one Phase II pilot study in patients in all phases of CML, as well as BRC-ABL+ (Ph+) ALL.

Two Phase II studies evaluated the efficacy and safety of Sprycel® in patients with chronic phase CML who were previously treated with Gleevec® (imatinib). One randomized, non-comparative pilot study enrolled patients (N=150) after failure of low-dose Gleevec® (ie, <600 mg/day). One other single-arm study enrolled patients (N=186) who were resistant to or intolerant of Gleevec® at any dose. The primary endpoint in both studies was the rate of major cytogenetic response (MCyR). In the pilot study, 35% of Sprycel®-treated patients achieved a MCyR at 12 weeks and 21% achieved a complete cytogenetic response (CCyR). In the single-arm study 39% of patients achieved a MCyR.

Three single-arm Phase II studies were performed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Sprycel® in patients with advanced stage CML and BRC-ABL+ (Ph+) ALL who were resistant to or intolerant of Gleevec. The primary endpoint in these studies was the rate of major hematologic response (MaHR) and overall hematologic response (OHR).

Sprycel® was also evaluated in two pediatric studies which examined chronic phase CML in 97 total patients. The first trial (N=51) examined newly diagnosed chronic phase CML patients, while the 2nd trial (n=46) looked at patients that were resistant or intolerant to imatinib. The studies both found increasing trends for CCyR, MCyR, and MMR across 3 to 24 months.

The safety and efficacy of nilotinib has been studied in one uncontrolled, open-label, phase II pivotal clinical trial in imatinib-resistant and -intolerant patients with all phases of CML, as well as Ph+ ALL. Hematologic and cytogenetic response rates ranged from 16%-74%. In a preliminary report from another single-arm, open-label, phase II study, nilotinib has also shown activity in patients with all phases of Ph+ CML and Ph+ ALL who were unresponsive or intolerant to both imatinib and dasatinib. No controlled clinical trials for the agent are available at this time.

Although no head-to-head clinical trials between the second-generation TKIs nilotinib and dasatinib are available, their safety profiles appear to differ. Nilotinib notably carries a boxed warning for QT prolongation and sudden death and the need to take the drug on an empty stomach (avoid food two hours before and within one hour after dose). A greater incidence of grade 3/4 elevated serum lipase and electrolyte abnormalities were reported with nilotinib.
While a greater incidence of grade 3/4 myelosuppression, bleeding-related events, and fluid retention were reported with dasatinib.

Management guidelines developed by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) recommend use of either dasatinib or nilotinib in patients with imatinib-resistant or –intolerant Ph+ CML (all phases).

NCCN Compendium and Other Practice Guidelines

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Drugs and Biologics Compendium is based directly on the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology. The compendium lists specific panel recommendations for off-label uses of drugs, and each recommendation is supported by a level of evidence category.

The NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus used in the recommendations are:

- Category 1: The recommendation is based on high level evidence (e.g., randomized controlled trials) and there is uniform NCCN consensus.
- Category 2A: The recommendation is based on lower level evidence and there is uniform NCCN consensus.
- Category 2B: The recommendation is based on lower level evidence and there is nonuniform NCCN consensus (but no major disagreement).
- Category 3: The recommendation is based on any level of evidence but reflects major disagreement.

In June 2008, the NCCN Compendium became one of four references for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for oncology coverage policy. In its national coverage decision CMS states that, in general, a use identified by the NCCN Compendium is medically accepted if the indication is a Category 1 or 2A as defined by NCCN. A use is not medically accepted if the indication is a Category 3 in NCCN. The local CMS contractor, Noridian Administrative Services (NAS), has issued an additional coverage statement regarding Category 2B:

NAS recognizes NCCN Categories of Evidence Levels Category 1 and Category 2A ONLY as medically accepted indications. If a provider chooses to use NCCN level 2B in support of a chemotherapeutic drug used off-label in an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen, NAS expects that the provider will make available to NAS significant peer-reviewed Phase II or
Phase III studies demonstrating such support. In the absence of such studies, level 2B evidence does not support such use.

2010 Update - The NCCN Drug Compendium

The Company recognizes indications and uses of drugs listed in the NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium with Categories of Evidence and consensus of 1 and 2A as proven and Categories of Evidence and Consensus of 2B and 3 as unproven. However, Category 2B uses may be considered for coverage if they are substantiated by provider submission of significant peer-reviewed Phase II or Phase III studies demonstrating treatment effectiveness.

This policy is in agreement with July 2010 NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium recommendations of 1 and 2A.

2011 Update

A literature search was conducted from October 2010 to September 2011. No major new developments were found.

Emerging evidence in CML patients suggests that response rates can be increased by careful attention to therapeutic drug monitoring. Hehlmann and colleagues randomized 1014 newly-diagnosed CML patients to receive 400mg/day, 800mg/day tolerability adjusted or 400mg/day plus alpha interferon. Patients receiving the higher dose imatinib had a higher rate of MMR at 12 months than with imatinib 400 mg/d (59% [95% CI: 53% to 65%] v 44% [95% CI: 37% to 50%]; P < .001) or imatinib 400 mg/d plus IFN-α (59% v 46% [95% CI: 40% to 52%]; P = .002). Median dose in the 800-mg/d arm was 628 mg/d with a maximum dose of 737 mg/d during months 4 to 6 and a maintenance dose of 600 mg/d. All three treatment approaches were well tolerated with similar grade 3 and 4 adverse events. The authors concluded that treatment of early-phase CML with imatinib can be optimized by giving early high-dose therapy followed by rapid adaptation to good tolerability. MMR at 12 months was strongly correlated with survival at 1 and 3 years.

2012 Update

A literature search was conducted from October 2011 to October 2012. No major new developments were found.
The TOPS trial published this year further elucidated the relationship between Imatinib trough plasma levels and achievement of complete cytogenetic response (CCyR) and major molecular response (MMR). The clinical significance of this in terms of practice changes remains to be assessed.

Ibrahim et al. demonstrated an incremental benefit from sequential administration of imatinib followed by one of the newer tyrosine kinase inhibitors after imatinib failure.

2013 Update

A complete review was prepared for the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee in January 2013. Focus was on the role of the newer agents in this class and the possibility of using genetic testing to predict resistance to imatinib or some of the other drugs in this class. Unfortunately, the technology was not sufficiently developed for use in routine clinical practice.

The medical necessity criteria for imatinib, dasatinib and nilotinib were updated to include currently labeled indications, and indications were added for bosutinib and ponatinib. These were also compared with current NCCN Compendium listings.

The European Leukemia Net (ELN) guidelines recommend imatinib as first-line therapy, with nilotinib or dasatinib as second line. Bosutinib and ponatinib have now also been approved as second-line agents.

2014 Update

A literature search was conducted from January 2013 to June 2014. No major new developments were found.

2015 Update

A literature search was conducted from June 2014 to May 2015. No major new developments were found. Reference list updated.
2016 Update

A literature search was conducted from July 1, 2015, to December 5, 2016. No major new developments were found. Reference list updated.

2018 Update

Annual review, literature search from 5/1/2017 to 3/6/2018. Updated pediatric indication on dasatinib and revised wording in tables.

2019 Update

Reviewed prescribing information for all drugs and updated criteria for Tasigna® (nilotinib) for use in pediatric patients greater than or equal to 1 year of age with Ph+ CML in chronic phase.

References


### History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/12/08</td>
<td>Add to Prescription Drug Section - New PR policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/16/08</td>
<td>Minor Update - Corrected table under description.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/08/09</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Additional wording regarding NCCN added to Description and Rationale. No change to policy statements. Reference added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/09/10</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Reviewed by OAP in August 2010 – The policy statement has been reworded for purposes of clarification, listing the specific types of tumors covered under the medically necessary indication; the intent remains the same. A literature review was conducted; references added. Reviewed by P&amp;T in September 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10/11</td>
<td>Replace Policy – Policy updated with literature review; no change in policy statement. Reference 11 added. Reviewed by P&amp;T on September 27, 2011.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/13/12</td>
<td>Replace policy. Policy updated with literature review; no change in policy statements. References 12 and 13 added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/11/13</td>
<td>Replace policy. Policy section updated with medically necessary statements for dasatinib, dasatinib, nilotinib and omacetaxine. The medical necessity criteria for imatinib, dasatinib and nilotinib were updated to include currently labeled indications, and indications were added for bosutinib and ponatinib. Policy Guidelines and Rationale sections updated; references added. Reviewed by P&amp;T on March 7, 2013. HCPSC codes C9297, 9399 and J9999 added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/15/13</td>
<td>Update Related Policies. Add 5.01.534.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/06/13</td>
<td>Update Related Policies. Add 5.01.544.</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/31/14</td>
<td>Annual review. Policy updated with literature review. No change in policy statements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/03/14</td>
<td>Update Related Policies. Add 5.01.517.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<td>------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/09/15</td>
<td>Annual review. Policy updated with literature review. No change in policy statements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/01/17</td>
<td>Annual review, changes approved December 13, 2016. Policy updated with literature review. No change in policy statements. Note added that coverage is managed through the Pharmacy benefit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/01/17</td>
<td>Annual review, changes approved April 11, 2017. A statement outlining the length of therapy for initial and subsequent approval has been added to the policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/17</td>
<td>Policy moved to new format; no change to policy statements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/01/19</td>
<td>Interim Review, approved February 12, 2019. Updated criteria for dasatinib.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/01/19</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved April 9, 2019. Updated criteria for Tasigna® (nilotinib).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disclaimer**: This medical policy is a guide in evaluating the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. The Company adopts policies after careful review of published peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines and local standards of practice. Since medical technology is constantly changing, the Company reserves the right to review and update policies as appropriate. Member contracts differ in their benefits. Always consult the member benefit booklet or contact a member service representative to determine coverage for a specific medical service or supply. CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). ©2019 Premera All Rights Reserved.

**Scope**: Medical policies are systematically developed guidelines that serve as a resource for Company staff when determining coverage for specific medical procedures, drugs or devices. Coverage for medical services is subject to the limits and conditions of the member benefit plan. Members and their providers should consult the member benefit booklet or contact a customer service representative to determine whether there are any benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. This medical policy does not apply to Medicare Advantage.
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  • Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
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  • Qualified interpreters
  • Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact the Civil Rights Coordinator.

If you believe that Premera has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with:
Civil Rights Coordinator - Complaints and Appeals
PO Box 91102, Seattle, WA 98111
Toll free 855-332-4535, Fax 425-918-5592, TTY 800-842-5357
Email AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)
Complaint forms are available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)
Email AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com

Getting Help in Other Languages

This Notice has Important Information. This notice may have important information about your application or coverage through Premera Blue Cross. There may be key dates in this notice. You may need to take action by certain deadlines to keep your health coverage or help with costs. You have the right to get this information and help in your language at no cost. Call 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Arabic (Arabic):
تعني هذه الملفات استخدامًا للنسجة. قد يعني هذا الإنشاء عملاً مهماً بعضًا لطيفًا أو
العملية التي تتيح الحصول عليها من خلال
Premera Blue Cross. قد تكون تلك النسج كاملة أو
مفصلة في هذا الإشعار. قد تحتاج للاستجابة في تأكيد الملفات على تخصيص الملفات المهمة أو
المستخدمة في الفصول المختلفة. يُحَرَّك ذلك الحصول على هذه المعلومات والمعلومات المتعلقة
بذلك إلى تقديم معلومات. تُعد معلومات 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357) مفيدةً

中文 (Chinese):
本通知有重要的讯息。本通知可能有关於您透過 Premera Blue Cross 提交的
申请或保障的重要訊息。本通知内可能有重要日期。您可能需要在截止日期
之前採取行動，以保留您的健康保險或費用補貼。您有權利免費以您的母
語得到本訊息和幫助。請撥電話 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357)

Italiano (Italian):
Questo avviso contiene informazioni importanti. Questo avviso può contenere
informazioni importanti sulla tua domanda o copertura attraverso Premera
Blue Cross. Potrebbero esserci date chiave in questo avviso. Potrebbe
essere necessario un tuo intervento entro una scadenza determinata per
consentirti di mantenere la tua copertura o sovvenzione. Hai il diritto
di ottenere queste informazioni e assistenza nella tua lingua gratuitamente.
Chiamali 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357)
This notification may contain important information. You are entitled to receive this information and assistance in your native language without cost. This notification contains important information. You have the right to receive this information and assistance in your native language without cost.


Русский (Russian): Настоящее уведомление содержит важную информацию. Это уведомление может содержать важную информацию о вашем заявлении или страховом покрытии через Premera Blue Cross. В настоящем уведомлении могут быть ключевые даты. Вам, возможно, потребуется принять меры к определенным предельным срокам для сохранения страхового покрытия или помощи с расходами. Вы имеете право на бесплатное получение этой информации и помощь на вашем языке. Звоните по телефону 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Fa’asamoa (Samoa): Atono ua i ai i lenei fa’asilasi la ni fa’amatala e sili ona tatau e tatau ona e malama la i ai. O lenei fa’asilasi la ni fesaosaoi e fa’amatala ona attu i ai i. Fa’amoleme, iai e ilofa’alele i ai e fa’apitoa olo’o i ai i lenei fa’asilasi la taula. Masolo o le aia ni feau e tatau ona e faia ao le’i aia le aus o sa’au i ai i lenei fa’asilasi la ina i iai pea ma mae fosaosaoi mai ai i le polokalame a le Malo olo’o i ai i. Olo’o i iai iate le aia tatau e mae atu i lenei fa’asilasi la ma lenei fa’matala e legagana e te lalama e ai auna ma se togiga tupe. Viti atu i le telefoni 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Español (Spanish): Este Aviso contiene información importante. Es posible que este aviso contenga información importante acerca de su solicitud o cobertura a través de Premera Blue Cross. Es posible que haya fechas clave en este aviso. Es posible que deba tomar alguna medida antes de determinadas fechas para mantener su cobertura médica o ayuda con los costos. Usted tiene derecho a recibir esta información y ayuda en su idioma sin costo alguno. Llame al 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).


ไทย (Thai): ประกาศนี้มีข้อที่มีผลต่อคุณเกี่ยวกับการขอหรือการเปลี่ยนแปลงการประกันสุขภาพของคุณผ่าน Premera Blue Cross และคุณมีสิทธิ์ในการได้รับการแจ้งเตือนที่คุณต้องการเพื่อทราบข้อมูลและการแจ้งเตือนที่คุณต้องการเพื่อทราบข้อมูลในการประกันสุขภาพของคุณในกรณีที่มีการเปลี่ยนแปลงสิทธิ์ที่เกี่ยวข้อง
