



## PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

- POLICY:** Oncology – Venclexta Prior Authorization Policy
- Venclexta® (venetoclax tablets – AbbVie and Genentech)

**REVIEW DATE:** 06/12/2024

---

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**

THE FOLLOWING COVERAGE POLICY APPLIES TO HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS ADMINISTERED BY CIGNA COMPANIES. CERTAIN CIGNA COMPANIES AND/OR LINES OF BUSINESS ONLY PROVIDE UTILIZATION REVIEW SERVICES TO CLIENTS AND DO NOT MAKE COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS. REFERENCES TO STANDARD BENEFIT PLAN LANGUAGE AND COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS DO NOT APPLY TO THOSE CLIENTS. COVERAGE POLICIES ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE IN INTERPRETING CERTAIN STANDARD BENEFIT PLANS ADMINISTERED BY CIGNA COMPANIES. PLEASE NOTE, THE TERMS OF A CUSTOMER'S PARTICULAR BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT [GROUP SERVICE AGREEMENT, EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE, CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE, SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION (SPD) OR SIMILAR PLAN DOCUMENT] MAY DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE STANDARD BENEFIT PLANS UPON WHICH THESE COVERAGE POLICIES ARE BASED. FOR EXAMPLE, A CUSTOMER'S BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT MAY CONTAIN A SPECIFIC EXCLUSION RELATED TO A TOPIC ADDRESSED IN A COVERAGE POLICY. IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT, A CUSTOMER'S BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT ALWAYS SUPERSEDES THE INFORMATION IN THE COVERAGE POLICIES. IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONTROLLING FEDERAL OR STATE COVERAGE MANDATE, BENEFITS ARE ULTIMATELY DETERMINED BY THE TERMS OF THE APPLICABLE BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT. COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS IN EACH SPECIFIC INSTANCE REQUIRE CONSIDERATION OF 1) THE TERMS OF THE APPLICABLE BENEFIT PLAN DOCUMENT IN EFFECT ON THE DATE OF SERVICE; 2) ANY APPLICABLE LAWS/REGULATIONS; 3) ANY RELEVANT COLLATERAL SOURCE MATERIALS INCLUDING COVERAGE POLICIES AND; 4) THE SPECIFIC FACTS OF THE PARTICULAR SITUATION. EACH COVERAGE REQUEST SHOULD BE REVIEWED ON ITS OWN MERITS. MEDICAL DIRECTORS ARE EXPECTED TO EXERCISE CLINICAL JUDGMENT AND HAVE DISCRETION IN MAKING INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS. COVERAGE POLICIES RELATE EXCLUSIVELY TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS. COVERAGE POLICIES ARE NOT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TREATMENT AND SHOULD NEVER BE USED AS TREATMENT GUIDELINES. IN CERTAIN MARKETS, DELEGATED VENDOR GUIDELINES MAY BE USED TO SUPPORT MEDICAL NECESSITY AND OTHER COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS.

### **CIGNA NATIONAL FORMULARY COVERAGE:**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Venclexta, a B-cell lymphoma-2 inhibitor, is indicated in adults for the following uses:<sup>1</sup>

- **Acute myeloid leukemia (AML)**, in combination with azacitidine or decitabine or low-dose cytarabine for newly diagnosed AML in patients  $\geq$  75 years of age or who have comorbidities that preclude use of intensive induction chemotherapy.
- **Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).**
- **Small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL).**

#### **Guidelines**

Venclexta is discussed in guidelines from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN):

- **Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL):** NCCN pediatric ALL guidelines (version 5.2024 – April 3, 2024) recommend a Venclexta-containing regimen (i.e. Venclexta, vincristine, Oncaspar® [pegaspargase intravenous infusion or intramuscular injection] or Asparlas® [calaspargase pegol-mknl intravenous infusion], and prednisone or dexamethasone) for relapsed or refractory ALL as “other recommended regimens” (category 2A).<sup>2</sup> NCCN adult and adolescent ALL guidelines (version 4.2023 – February 5, 2024) recommend

Venclexta + chemotherapy for relapsed or refractory ALL as “other recommended regimens” (category 2B).<sup>3</sup>

- **AML:** NCCN guidelines (version 3.2024 – May 17, 2024) recommend Venclexta (in combination with decitabine, azacitidine or low-dose cytarabine) in a variety of clinical scenarios, such as induction therapy, post induction therapy, and relapsed or refractory disease.<sup>4</sup> The guidelines recommend Venclexta (in combination with decitabine, azacitidine, or low-dose cytarabine) for Blastic Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Neoplasm (BPDCN) for systemic disease treated with palliative intent (patients with low performance and/or nutritional status) or relapsed/refractory disease (category 2A).<sup>4</sup>
- **B-Cell Lymphomas:** NCCN guidelines (version 2.2024 – April 30, 2024) address mantle cell lymphoma.<sup>5</sup> The guidelines cite Venclexta (continuous) ± rituximab and Venclexta + Imbruvica® (ibrutinib tablets, capsules, and oral solution) as second-line therapy and subsequent therapy as “useful in certain circumstances” (both category 2A).<sup>5</sup> Venclexta in combination with Brukinsa (zanubrutinib capsules) and Gazyva® (obinutuzumab intravenous infusion) is also recommended as induction therapy for mantle cell lymphoma with a classical or indolent *TP53* mutation (category 2A) in absence of a clinical trial.<sup>5</sup>
- **CLL/SLL:** NCCN guidelines (version 3.2024 – March 26, 2024) cite Venclexta in several scenarios.<sup>6</sup> For patients without 17p deletion/*TP53* mutation, Venclexta + Gazyva is listed as a “preferred” first-line therapy (category 1); Venclexta + rituximab is listed as a “preferred regimen” (category 1), single-agent Venclexta is listed as “other recommended regimen” (category 2A), and Venclexta ± anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (Venclexta + Gazyva preferred) is listed as “useful in certain circumstances” (category 2A) for second-line or third-line therapy.<sup>6</sup> For patients with 17p deletion/*TP53* mutation, Venclexta + Gazyva is recommended as a “preferred regimen” first-line therapy (category 2A); Venclexta + rituximab (category 1), single-agent Venclexta (category 2A) are “preferred” and Venclexta ± anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (Venclexta + Gazyva preferred) is listed as “useful in certain circumstances” (category 2A) for second-line and subsequent therapy in this population. Venclexta is also recommended other clinical scenarios as well. Many other first-line options are recommended. CLL and SLL are different manifestations of the same disease which are managed similarly.
- **Hairy Cell Leukemia:** NCCN guidelines (version 2.2024 – April 22, 2024) recommend Venclexta ± rituximab for progressive disease after relapsed/refractory therapy in patients with disease resistant to *BRAF* inhibitor therapy as “useful in certain circumstances” (category 2A).<sup>7</sup>
- **Myelodysplastic Syndromes:** NCCN guidelines (version 2.2024 – May 22, 2024) recommend Venclexta for the treatment of chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML)-2 in combination with a hypomethylating agent (azacitidine or decitabine) [category 2A].<sup>8</sup>
- **Myeloproliferative Neoplasms:** NCCN guidelines (version 1.2024 – December 21, 2023) recommend Venclexta + hypomethylating agents (e.g. azacitidine or decitabine) for accelerated or blast phase myeloproliferative neoplasms as management of disease progression (category 2A).<sup>9</sup>
- **Multiple Myeloma:** NCCN guidelines (version 4.2024 – April 26, 2024) recommend Venclexta + dexamethasone ± Darzalex® (daratumumab

intravenous infusion) for previously treated multiple myeloma for relapse or refractory disease for patients with t (11;14) translocation as “useful in certain circumstances” after 1-3 prior therapies) [category 2A].<sup>10</sup>

- **Systemic Light Chain Amyloidosis:** NCCN guidelines (version 2.2024 – December 12, 2023) list Venclexta ± dexamethasone as a therapy for previously treated disease for patients with t (11;14) translocation as “useful in certain circumstances” (category 2A).<sup>11</sup>
- **Waldenström Macroglobulinemia/Lymphoplasmacytic Lymphoma:** NCCN guidelines (version 2.2024 – December 5, 2023) recommend single-agent Venclexta as “other recommended regimen” for previously treated disease (category 2A).<sup>12</sup>

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Venclexta. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below.

- **Venclexta® (venetoclax tablets ( AbbVie and Genentech)**

**is(are) covered as medically necessary when the following criteria is(are) met for FDA-approved indication(s) or other uses with supportive evidence (if applicable):**

## **FDA-Approved Indications**

- 1. Acute Myeloid Leukemia.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (A and B):  
Note: Acute Myeloid Leukemia includes Blastic Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Neoplasm (BPDCN).  
A) Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; AND  
B) Venclexta is used in combination with either azacitidine, decitabine, or cytarabine.
- 2. Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia.** Approve for 1 year if the patient is ≥ 18 years of age.
- 3. Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma.** Approve for 1 year if the patient is ≥ 18 years of age.

## **Other Uses with Supportive Evidence**

- 4. Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (A and B):  
**A)** Patient has relapsed or refractory disease; AND  
**B)** This medication will be used in combination with chemotherapy.
- 5. Hairy Cell Leukemia.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets BOTH of the following (A and B):

- A) Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND
- B) Patient has disease resistance to *BRAF* inhibitor therapy.  
Note: Examples of *BRAF* inhibitor therapy include Tafinlar (dabrafenib capsules and oral tablets for suspension) and Zelboraf (vemurafenib tablets).

**6. Mantle Cell Lymphoma.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (A and B):

- A) Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND
- B) Patient meets ONE of the following (i or ii):
  - i. Patient has tried at least one systemic regimen; OR  
Note: Examples of systemic regimens include those containing one or more of the following products: Imbruvica (ibrutinib tablets, capsules, and oral solution), rituximab, Calquence (acalabrutinib tablets), lenalidomide, dexamethasone, cytarabine, cisplatin, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, high-dose methotrexate, cytarabine, or Treanda (bendamustine intravenous infusion).
  - ii. Patient meets BOTH of the following (a and b):
    - a) Patient has a *TP53* mutation; AND
    - b) The medication is used as induction therapy in combination with Brukinsa (zanubrutinib capsules) and Gazyva (obinutuzumab intravenous infusion).

**7. Myelodysplastic Syndrome.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (A, B, and C):

- A) Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND
- B) Patient has chronic myelomonocytic leukemia-2; AND
- C) The medication is used in combination with azacitidine or decitabine.

**8. Myeloproliferative Neoplasm.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (A, B, and C):

- A) Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND
- B) Patient has accelerated or blast phase disease; AND
- C) The medication is used in combination with azacitidine or decitabine.

**9. Multiple Myeloma.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (A, B, C, and D):

- A) Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND
- B) Patient has t (11;14) translocation; AND
- C) Patient has tried at least one systemic regimen for multiple myeloma; AND  
Note: Examples of systemic regimens include those containing one or more of the following products: bortezomib, Kyprolis (carfilzomib intravenous injection), lenalidomide, cyclophosphamide, or Ninlaro (ixazomib capsules).
- D) Venclexta is used in combination with dexamethasone.

**10. Systemic Light Chain Amyloidosis.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (A, B, and C):

- A) Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND
- B) Patient has t (11;14) translocation; AND

C) Patient has tried at least one systemic regimen.

Note: Examples of systemic regimens include those containing one or more of the following products: bortezomib, lenalidomide, cyclophosphamide, and melphalan.

#### **11. Waldenström Macroglobulinemia/Lymphoplasmacytic Lymphoma.**

Approve for 1 year if the patient meets ALL of the following (A and B):

A) Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND

B) Patient has tried at least one systemic regimen.

Note: Examples of a systemic regimen contain one or more of the following products: Brukinsa (zanubrutinib capsules), Imbruvica (ibrutinib tablets, capsules, and oral solution), rituximab, bendamustine, cyclophosphamide, dexamethasone, bortezomib, fludarabine, or cladribine.

### **CONDITIONS NOT COVERED**

**Venclexta® (venetoclax tablets ( AbbVie and Genentech) is(are) considered experimental, investigational or unproven for ANY other use(s); criteria will be updated as new published data are available.**

### **REFERENCES**

1. Venclexta® tablets [prescribing information]. North Chicago, IL and South San Francisco, CA: AbbVie and Genentech; June 2022.
2. The NCCN Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 5.2024 – April 3, 2024). © 2024 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on June 10, 2024.
3. The NCCN Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 4.2023 – February 5, 2024). © 2024 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on June 10, 2024.
4. The NCCN Acute Myeloid Leukemia Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 3.2024 – May 17, 2024). © 2024 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on June 10, 2024.
5. The NCCN B-Cell Lymphomas Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 2.2024 – April 30, 2024). © 2024 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on June 10, 2024.
6. The NCCN Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 3.2024 – March 26, 2024). © 2024 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on June 10, 2024.
7. The NCCN Hairy Cell Leukemia Guidelines in Oncology (version 2.2024 – April 22, 2024). © 2024 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on June 10, 2024.
8. The NCCN Myelodysplastic Syndromes Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 2.2024 – May 22, 2024). © 2024 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on June 10, 2024.
9. The NCCN Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 1.2024 – December 21, 2023). © 2023 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on June 10, 2024.
10. The NCCN Multiple Myeloma Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 4.2024 – April 26, 2024). © 2024 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on June 10, 2024.
11. The NCCN Systemic Light Chain Amyloidosis Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 2.2024 – December 12, 2023). © 2023 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on June 10, 2024.

12. The NCCN Waldenström Macroglobulinemia/Lymphoplasmacytic Lymphoma Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 2.2024 – December 5, 2023). © 2023 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on June 10, 2024.

## HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	07/19/2023
Annual Revision	<p><b>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia:</b> Condition of approval and criteria were added to "Other Uses with Supportive Evidence."</p> <p><b>Hairy Cell Leukemia:</b> Condition of approval and criteria were added to "Other Uses with Supportive Evidence."</p> <p><b>Mantle Cell Lymphoma:</b> The following criteria were added as an option for approval, "Patient has a <i>TP53</i> mutation and the medication is used as induction therapy in combination with Brukinsa (zanubrutinib) and Gazyva (obinutuzumab intravenous infusion)."</p> <p><b>Myelodysplastic Syndrome.</b> Condition of approval and criteria were added to "Other Uses with Supportive Evidence."</p> <p><b>Myeloproliferative Neoplasm:</b> Condition of approval and criteria were added to "Other Uses with Supportive Evidence."</p>	06/12/2024

"Cigna Companies" refers to operating subsidiaries of The Cigna Group. All products and services are provided exclusively by or through such operating subsidiaries, including Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company, Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, Evernorth Behavioral Health, Inc., Cigna Health Management, Inc., and HMO or service company subsidiaries of The Cigna Group. © 2024 The Cigna Group.