

Clinical Policy: Emapalumab-lzsg (Gamifant)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.402

Effective Date: 12.11.18

Last Review Date: 02.23

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

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

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

Description

Emapalumab-lzsg (Gamifant™) is an interferon gamma (IFN γ) blocking antibody.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Gamifant is indicated for the treatment of adult and pediatric (newborn and older) patients with primary hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) with refractory, recurrent or progressive disease or intolerance with conventional HLH therapy.

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 Gamifant is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. Primary Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of primary HLH (i.e., familial (inherited) HLH);
2. Diagnosis is confirmed based on one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Genetic mutation known to cause HLH;
 - b. Family history consistent with primary HLH;
 - c. Five of the following criteria are satisfied (1-8):
 - 1) Fever;
 - 2) Splenomegaly;
 - 3) Cytopenias affecting 2 of 3 lineages in the peripheral blood (hemoglobin < 9 g/dL (or < 10 g/dL in infants), platelets < 100 x 10⁹ /L, neutrophils < 1 x 10⁹/L);
 - 4) Hypertriglyceridemia (fasting TG \geq 3 mmol/L or \geq 265 mg/dL) and/or hypofibrinogenemia (fibrinogen \leq 1.5 g/L);
 - 5) Hemophagocytosis in bone marrow, spleen, or lymph nodes with no evidence of malignancy;
 - 6) Low or absent NK-cell activity;
 - 7) Ferritin \geq 500 mcg/L;
 - 8) Soluble CD25 (sCD25; i.e. soluble IL-2 receptor) \geq 2,400 U/mL;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a hematologist;

4. Failure of conventional HLH therapy that includes an etoposide- and dexamethasone-based regimen, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Gamifant is prescribed in combination with dexamethasone;
6. Documentation of a scheduled bone marrow or hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) or identification of a transplant donor is in process;
7. Dose does not exceed 10 mg/kg per dose, two doses per week.

Approval duration: 2 months

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

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Primary Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy – including but not limited to improvement in any of the following parameters:
 - a. Fever reduction;
 - b. Splenomegaly;
 - c. Central nervous system symptoms;
 - d. Complete blood count;
 - e. Fibrinogen and/or D-dimer;
 - f. Ferritin;
 - g. Soluble CD25 (also referred to as soluble interleukin-2 receptor) levels;
3. Member has not received a successful bone marrow transplant or HSCT;

4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 10 mg/kg per dose, two doses per week.

Approval duration: 6 months

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

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: 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

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

HLH: hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis

HSCT: hematopoietic stem cell transplantation

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.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
etoposide (Toposar [®])	150 mg/m ² IV twice weekly for 2 weeks and then weekly for an additional 6 weeks. Continuation therapy from week 9 until HSCT: 150 mg/m ² every alternating second week	150 mg/m ² per dose

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
dexamethasone	10 mg/m ² PO or IV for 2 weeks followed by 5 mg/m ² for 2 weeks, 2.5 mg/m ² for 2 weeks, 1.25 mg/m ² for 1 week, and 1 week of tapering Continuation therapy from week 9 until HSCT: 1010 mg/m ² for 3 days every second week	See dosing regimen

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

Appendix D: General Information

- Overall response in the Gamifant clinical trial (NCT01818492) was evaluated using an algorithm that included the following objective clinical and laboratory parameters: fever, splenomegaly, central nervous system symptoms, complete blood count, fibrinogen and/or D-dimer, ferritin, and soluble CD25 (also referred to as soluble interleukin-2 receptor) levels.
 - Complete response was defined as normalization of all HLH abnormalities (i.e., no fever, no splenomegaly, neutrophils > 1x10⁹/L, platelets > 100x10⁹/L, ferritin < 2,000 µg/L, fibrinogen > 1.50 g/L, D-dimer < 500 ug/L, normal CNS symptoms, no worsening of sCD25 > 2-fold baseline).
 - Partial response was defined as normalization of ≥ 3 HLH abnormalities.
 - HLH improvement was defined as ≥ 3 HLH abnormalities improved by at least 50% from baseline.
- Gamifant is currently not indicated for the treatment of secondary HLH. Secondary HLH generally presents in adults and is triggered by autoimmune disease, infections, or cancer. Treatment for secondary HLH is focused on the triggering condition.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Primary HLH	Initial: 1 mg/kg IV twice per week (every three to four days) Subsequent doses may be increased based on clinical and laboratory criteria.	10 mg/kg/dose

VI. Product Availability

Single-dose vial: 10 mg/2 mL, 50 mg/10 mL

VII. References

1. Gamifant Prescribing Information. Geneva, Switzerland: Novimmune; November 2018. Available at: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2018/761107s000lbl.pdf. Accessed October 13, 2022.
2. Henter JI, Samuelsson-Horne AC, Arico M, et al. Treatment of hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis with HLH-94 immunochemotherapy and bone marrow transplantation. *Blood* 2002; 100 (7): 2367-72.
3. Chesshyre E, Ramanan AV, Roderick MR. Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis and Infections: An update. *The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal* March 2019; 38(3): e54-e56.
4. Bergsten E, Horne AC, Arico M, et al. Confirmed efficacy of etoposide and dexamethasone in HLH treatment: long-term results of the cooperative HLH-2004 study. *Blood* 2017; 130 (25): 2728-38.
5. Locatelli F, Jordan MB, Allen C, et al. Emapalumab in Children with Primary Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis. *N Engl J Med*. 2020 May 7;382(19):1811-1822. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1911326. PMID: 32374962.

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.

HCP Codes	Description
J9210	Injection, emapalumab-lzsg, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	12.11.18	02.19
No significant changes; modified lines of business to HIM-Medical benefit.	04.18.19	
1Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; replaced HIM-Medical Benefit with HIM line of business; references reviewed and updated.	10.29.19	02.20
1Q 2021 annual review: added criteria for diagnosis confirmation per clinical trial inclusion criteria and competitor market analysis; references to HIM.PHAR.21 revised to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	11.17.20	02.21
1Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	09.21.21	02.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	09.23.22	
1Q 2023 annual review: per prescribing information added requirement that Gamifant is prescribed in combination with dexamethasone, for continued therapy added requirement that member has not received a successful bone marrow transplant or	10.13.22	02.23

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
HSCT; removed inactive HCPCS code C9050; references reviewed and updated.		

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.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members 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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