

Clinical Policy: Irinotecan Liposome Injection (Onivyde)

Reference Number: PA.CP.PHAR.304

Effective Date: 01/2018

Last Review Date: 10/2023

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

Description

Irinotecan liposome injection (Onivyde[®]) is a topoisomerase inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Onivyde is indicated, in combination with fluorouracil and leucovorin, for the treatment of patients with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas after disease progression following gemcitabine-based therapy.

Limitation(s) of use: Onivyde is not indicated as a single agent for the treatment of patients with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas.

Policy/Criteria

It is the policy of PA Health & Wellness[®] that Onivyde is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of locally advanced, metastatic, or recurrent pancreatic adenocarcinoma;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Prescribed for use in combination with fluorouracil and leucovorin;
5. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Disease progression following gemcitabine-based therapy or fluoropyrimidine-based therapy and no prior irinotecan;
 - b. Onivyde is used as a component of NALIRIFOX regimen (*see Appendix D*);
6. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Dose does not exceed 70 mg/m² every 2 weeks;
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications: Refer to PA.CP.PMN.53

II. Continued Approval

A. Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via PA Health & Wellness benefit or member has previously met all initial approval criteria or the Continuity of Care Policy (PA.LTSS.PHAR.01) applies;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a or b):

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- a. New dose does not exceed 70 mg/m² every 2 weeks;
- b. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: 12 months

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

1. Currently receiving medication via PA Health & Wellness benefit or member has previously met all initial approval criteria or the Continuity of Care Policy (PA.LTSS.PHAR.01) applies; or
2. Refer to PA.CP. PMN.53

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 – PA.CP.PMN.53

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

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.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Examples of gemcitabine-containing regimens: gemcitabine alone or with any of the following: capecitabine, fluorouracil and leucovorin, albumin-bound paclitaxel and/or cisplatin, erlotinib, docetaxel and capecitabine	Varies	Varies
Examples of fluoropyrimidine-based regimens: fluorouracil with any of the following: leucovorin, irinotecan/ liposomal irinotecan, and oxaliplatin	Varies	Varies

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): severe hypersensitivity reaction to Onivyde or irinotecan HCl
- Boxed warning(s): severe neutropenia and severe diarrhea; do not administer in patients with bowel obstruction

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Appendix D: NALIRIFOX

- NALIRIFOX regimen contains fluorouracil, leucovorin, liposomal irinotecan, and oxaliplatin

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Pancreatic adenocarcinoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 mg/m² IV every 2 weeks prior to leucovorin and fluorouracil If homozygous for UGT1A1*28 allele: 50 mg/m² IV every 2 weeks. Increase the dose to 70 mg/m² as tolerated in subsequent cycles 	70 mg/m ² every 2 weeks

VI. Product Availability

Single-dose vial: 43 mg/10 mL

VII. References

- Onivyde Prescribing Information. Cambridge, MA: Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; February 2023. Available at: <https://www.onivyde.com/>. Accessed August 6, 2023.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at: http://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug_compendium. Accessed August 6, 2023.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma Version 2.2023. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/pancreatic.pdf. Accessed August 6, 2023.

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
J9205	Injection, irinotecan liposome, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
4Q 2018 annual review: removed requirement to check for contraindication bowel obstruction; added COC; summarized NCCN and FDA-approved uses for improved clarity; added specialist involvement in care; references reviewed and updated.	07/2018	
4Q 2019 annual review: No changes per Statewide PDL implementation 01-01-2020	10/2019	
4Q 2020 annual review: added oncologist prescriber requirement; added age limit; references reviewed and updated.	10/2020	

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Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
4Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	10/2021	
4Q 2022 annual review: per NCCN and FDA label, added that disease must be locally advanced, metastatic, or recurrent and added requirement for disease progression following gemcitabine-based therapy or FOLFIRINOX; references reviewed and updated.	10/2022	
4Q 2023 annual review: per NCCN compendium and Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma guidelines version 2.2023, updated “FOLFIRINOX” to “fluoropyrimidine-based therapy and no prior irinotecan” and added “component of NALIRIFOX regimen”; updated Appendix B to include examples of fluoropyrimidine-based therapy; references reviewed and updated.	10/2023	