Clinical Policy: Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta) , Pegfilgrastim-jmdb (Fulphila)

Reference Number: PA.CP.PHAR.296
Effective Date: 01/18
Last Review Date: 07/17/19

Coding Implications
Revision Log

Description

Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta®) and its biosimilar, pegfilgrastim-jmdb (Fulphila™), are leukocyte growth factors.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Neulasta and Fulphila are indicated to decrease the incidence of infection, as manifested by febrile neutropenia, in patients with non-myeloid malignancies receiving myelosuppressive anti-cancer drugs associated with a clinically significant incidence of febrile neutropenia (FN).

Neulasta is also indicated to increase survival in patients acutely exposed to myelosuppressive doses of radiation (hematopoietic subsyndrome of acute radiation syndrome).

Limitation(s) of use: Neulasta and Fulphila are not indicated for the mobilization of peripheral blood progenitor cells for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.

Policy/Criteria

It is the policy of Pennsylvania Health and Wellness® that Neulasta is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria:

A. Chemotherapy-Induced Neutropenia (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of non-myeloid malignancy;
2. Prescribed for use following myelosuppressive chemotherapy;
3. Dose does not exceed 6 mg (1 syringe) per chemotherapy cycle.

Approval duration: 6 months

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Acute Radiation Syndrome (must meet all):

1. Prescribed for use following suspected or confirmed acute exposure to myelosuppressive doses of radiation;
2. Dose does not exceed two 6 mg doses administered one week apart.

Approval duration: 6 months

C. Bone Marrow Transplantation (off-label) (must meet all)**:**

1. Prescribed for one of the following (a or b):
   a. Supportive care post autologous hematopoietic cell transplantation;

b. Mobilization of peripheral-blood progenitor cells prior to autologous transplantation;

2. Failure of both of the following (a and b), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced:
   a. Neupogen®, Granix®, or Zarxio®;
   b. Leukine®;

   **Prior authorization is (or may be) required for Neupogen, Granix, Zarxio, and Leukine*
3. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
   a. Dose does not exceed 6 mg/dose;
   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

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

Approval duration: 6 months

II. Continued Therapy

A. All Indications in Section I (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Pennsylvania Health and 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, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, or c):
   a. Chemotherapy-induced neutropenia: 6 mg administered once per chemotherapy cycle;
   b. Acute radiation syndrome: two 6 mg doses administered one week apart;
   c. Bone marrow transplantation: 6 mg/dose or 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 (must meet 1 or 2):

1. Currently, receiving medication via Pennsylvania Health and Wellness benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy or the Continuity of Care policy (PA.LTSS.PHAR.01) applies.

Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or

2. Refer to PA.CP.PMN.53

Background

Description/Mechanism of Action:

Neulasta (pegfilgrastim) is a covalent conjugate of recombinant methionyl human granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF) (filgrastim) and monomethoxypolyethylene glycol. Filgrastim is obtained from the bacterial fermentation of a strain of E coli transformed with a genetically engineered plasmid containing the human G-CSF gene. Pegfilgrastim is a colony-stimulating factor that acts on hematopoietic cells by binding to specific cell surface receptors, thereby stimulating proliferation, differentiation, commitment, and end cell functional activation.

III. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

ANC: absolute neutrophil count
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
FN: febrile neutropenia
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
Neupogen® (pegfilgrastim) , Zarxio® (pegfilgrastim-sndz), Granix® (tbo-pegfilgrastim)	**Supportive care post autologous hematopoietic cell transplantation** 10 mcg/kg IV or SC infusion QD **Mobilization of peripheral-blood progenitor cells prior to autologous transplantation** 10 mcg/kg SC bolus or continuous infusion QD	10 mcg/kg/day 10 mcg/kg/day
Leukine® (sargramostim)	**Supportive care post autologous hematopoietic cell transplantation** 250 mcg/m^2/day IV **Mobilization of peripheral-blood progenitor cells prior to autologous transplantation** 250 mcg/m^2/day IV or SC QD	500 mcg/m^2/day 250 mcg/m^2/day

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): history of serious allergic reactions to human granulocyte colony-stimulating factors such as pegfilgrastim or filgrastim products
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

Appendix D: General Information

- Neutropenia is defined as an absolute neutrophil count (ANC) of < 500 neutrophils/mcL or an ANC of < 1,000 neutrophils/mcL and a predicted decline to ≤ 500 neutrophils/mcL over the next 48 hours. Neutropenia can progress to FN, defined as a single temperature of ≥ 38.8 C orally or ≥ 38.0 C over 1 hour.
- The development of FN is a common dose-limiting toxicity of many chemotherapy regimens. This risk is directly related to the intensity of the chemotherapy regimen. Chemotherapy regimens that have an incidence of FN greater than 20% in clinical trials in chemotherapy naïve patients are considered by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) panel at high risk. Prophylaxis with myeloid growth factors is recommended at this level of risk (category 1 recommendation). NCCN Compendium recommend prophylaxis be considered in intermediate-risk (10-20% overall risk of FN) patients (category 2A recommendation). In addition to chemotherapy regimens, other risk factors such as: treatment-related, patient related, cancer-related, and co-morbidities have also been associated with an increased risk of FN. Therefore, the type of chemotherapy regimen is only one component of the risk assessment.
- Harvesting of peripheral blood stem cells prior to autologous stem-cell transplantation has a recommendation of Class IIa in DRUGDEX.
- The NCCN Compendium recommends Neulasta for supportive care post autologous hematopoietic cell transplant (category 2A).

IV. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta), pegfilgrastim-jmdb (Fulphila)	Myelosuppressive chemotherapy	6 mg administered SC once per chemotherapy cycle. Do not administer between 14 days before and 24 hours after administration of cytotoxic chemotherapy. Weight based dosing for pediatric patients < 45 kg	6 mg/dose
Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta)	Members acutely exposed to myelosuppressive doses of radiation	Two doses, 6 mg each, administered SC one week apart. Administer the first dose as soon as possible after suspected or confirmed exposure to myelosuppressive doses of radiation, and a second dose one week after	6 mg/dose

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
		Weight based dosing for pediatric patients < 45 kg	

V. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta)	• Injection: 6 mg/0.6 mL solution in a single-dose prefilled syringe for manual use only • Injection: 6 mg/0.6 mL solution in a single-dose prefilled syringe co-packaged with the On-body Injector
Pegfilgrastim-jmdb (Fulphila)	• Injection: 6 mg/0.6 mL solution in a single-dose prefilled syringe for manual use only

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
J2505	Injection, pegfilgrastim, 6 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
Added off-label indications for mobilization of peripheral-blood progenitor cells and supportive care post autologous hematopoietic cell transplantation with redirection to FDA approved treatments Leukine and Neupogen, Granix, or Zarxio; references reviewed and updated. Newly FDA-approved biosimilar added: Fulphila; references reviewed and updated.	05.08.18	
1Q 2019 annual review: Newly FDA-approved biosimilar added: Fulphila; references reviewed and updated.	01.19	
3Q 2019 annual review: No changes per Statewide PDL implementation 01-01-2020	07/17/19	

References

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ii. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Myeloid Growth Factors Version 1.2018. Available at:

http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/myeloid_growth.pdf. Accessed June 13, 2018.

iii. Pegfilgrastim. In: National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at NCCN.org. Accessed June 25, 2018.
iv. DRUGDEX® System [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colo: Thomson Healthcare. Updated periodically. Accessed May 2, 2018.
v. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2018. Available at: http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/. Accessed May 2, 2018.
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