

## Prior Authorization Review Panel

### CHC-MCO Policy Submission

A separate copy of this form must accompany each policy submitted for review.  
Policies submitted without this form will not be considered for review.

<b>Plan: PA Health &amp; Wellness</b>	<b>Submission Date: 11/01/2020</b>
<b>Policy Number: PA.CP.PHAR.439</b>	<b>Effective Date: 01/2020</b> <b>Revision Date: 10/2020</b>
<b>Policy Name: Valrubicin (Valstar)</b>	
<p><b>Type of Submission – <u>Check all that apply:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New Policy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised Policy*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Annual Review - No Revisions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Statewide PDL - <i>Select this box when submitting policies for Statewide PDL implementation and when submitting policies for drug classes included on the Statewide PDL.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>*All revisions to the policy <u>must</u> be highlighted using track changes throughout the document.</b></p> <p><b>Please provide any changes or clarifying information for the policy below:</b></p>  <p>4Q 2020 annual review: revised criteria to include adjuvant intravesical chemotherapy for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer in the event of a BCG shortage as per NCCN 2A or above off label indication; updated Appendix D with information on BCG shortage; references reviewed and updated.</p>	
<p><b>Name of Authorized Individual (Please type or print):</b></p> <p><b>Auren Weinberg, MD</b></p>	<p><b>Signature of Authorized Individual:</b></p> 

## Clinical Policy: Valrubicin (Valstar)

Reference Number: PA.CP.PHAR.439

Effective Date: 01/2020

Last Review Date: 11/2020

[Revision Log](#)

### Description

Valrubicin (Valstar<sup>®</sup>) is an anthracycline.

### FDA Approved Indication(s)

Valstar is indicated for the intravesical therapy of bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG)-refractory carcinoma *in situ* (CIS) of the urinary bladder in patients for whom immediate cystectomy would be associated with unacceptable morbidity or mortality.

### 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 PA Health & Wellness<sup>®</sup> that Valstar is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### I. Initial Approval Criteria

##### A. Bladder Cancer (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of recurrent or persistent CIS of the urinary bladder;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. Member meets one of the following (a or b)\*:
  - a. Failure of intravesical BCG treatment, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
  - b. Adjuvant intravesical chemotherapy for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer in the event of a BCG shortage (*see Appendix D for information on BCG shortage*);
5. Request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. Dose does not exceed 800 mg per week;
  - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

*\*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

**Approval duration: 6 weeks (6 doses)**

##### B. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): PA.CP.PMN.53

**II. Continued Therapy**

**A. Bladder Cancer** (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via PA Health & Wellness benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy or the Continuity of Care policy (PA.LTSS.PHAR.01) applies;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Member has not yet received a total of 6 doses;
4. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. New dose does not exceed 800 mg per week;
  - b. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

*\*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

**Approval duration: Up to a total of 6 weeks (up to a total of 6 doses)**

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

1. Currently receiving medication via PA Health & 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 the off-label use policy if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): 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*

BCG: bacillus Calmette-Guerin

CIS: carcinoma *in situ*

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

*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
BCG	81 mg intravesically one a week for 6 weeks, followed by a rest period of 4 to 6 weeks, with a full re-evaluation at week 12 after the start of therapy	Undetermined

*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):

- Known hypersensitivity to anthracyclines or polyoxyl castor oil
- Concurrent urinary tract infections
- Small bladder capacity, i.e., unable to tolerate a 75 mL instillation
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

*Appendix D: General Information*

- Carcinoma *in situ* (Tis in TNM staging system) refers to early cancer that has not spread to neighboring tissue.
- The American Urological Association advises in the event of BCG supply shortage, maintenance therapy should not be given and BCG-naïve patients with high-risk disease should be prioritized for induction BCG.
  - If BCG is not available, a preferable alternative to BCG is mitomycin (induction and monthly maintenance up to one year). Other options such as gemcitabine, epirubicin, docetaxel, valrubicin or sequential gemcitabine/docetaxel or gemcitabine/mitomycin may also be considered with an induction and possible maintenance regimen.
  - Patients with high-risk features (i.e., high-grade T1 with additional risk factors such as concomitant carcinoma in situ, lymphovascular invasion, prostatic urethral involvement or variant histology) who are not willing to take any potential oncologic risks with alternative intravesical agents, should be offered initial radical cystectomy, if they are surgical candidates.
- The NCCN advises that in the event of a BCG shortage, BCG should be prioritized for induction of high-risk patients (e.g., high-grade T1 and CIS) and that, if feasible, the dose of BCG may be split (1/3 or 1/2 dose) so that multiple patients may be treated with a single vial in the event of a shortage.
  - If BCG is unavailable, the NCCN recommends the following alternatives:
    - Intravesical chemotherapy agents as first-line and subsequent therapy (e.g., gemcitabine, mitomycin, epirubicin, valrubicin, docetaxel, sequential gemcitabine/docetaxel, gemcitabine/mitomycin);
    - Initial radical cystectomy if patient is a surgical candidate.

1. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines. Bladder Cancer Version 6.2020. Available at [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/bladder.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/bladder.pdf). Accessed August 17, 2020.

2. American Urological Association. BCG Shortage Info. Feb 2019. Available at: <https://www.auanet.org/about-us/bcg-shortage-info>. Accessed August 17, 2020.

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**V. Dosage and Administration**

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Bladder CIS	800 mg intravesically once every week for 6 weeks	800 mg/dose

**VI. Product Availability**

Single-use vials: 200 mg/5 mL

**VII. References**

1. Valstar Prescribing Information. Malvern, PA: Endo Pharmaceuticals Solutions Inc.; October 2019. Available at: <http://valstarsolution.com/patient/>. Accessed August 3, 2020.

2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at: [http://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug\\_compendium](http://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug_compendium). Accessed August 3, 2020.
3. Quan Y, Jeong CW, Kwak C, et al. Dose, duration, and strain of bacillus Calmette-Guerin in the treatment of nonmuscle invasive bladder cancer. *Medicine (Baltimore)*. 2017; 96(2):e8300. doi: [10.1097/MD.00000000000008300](https://doi.org/10.1097/MD.00000000000008300).
4. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Bladder Cancer Version 5.2020. Available at: [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/bladder.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/bladder.pdf). Accessed August 3, 2020.
5. American Urological Association: Important message about the BCG shortage: <https://www.auanet.org/about-us/bcg-shortage-info>

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
New Policy Created	01/2020	
4Q 2020 annual review: revised criteria to include adjuvant intravesical chemotherapy for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer in the event of a BCG shortage as per NCCN 2A or above off label indication; updated Appendix D with information on BCG shortage; references reviewed and updated.	08/2020	11/2020