

POLICY Document for ABRAXANE (paclitaxel, albumin-bound)

The overall objective of this policy is to support the appropriate and cost-effective use of the medication, specific to use of preferred medication options, and overall, clinically appropriate use. This document provides specific information to both sections of the overall policy.

Section 1: Clinical Criteria

- Policy information specific to the clinical appropriateness for the medication

Section 2: Oncology Clinical Policy

- Policy information specific to regimen review per NCCN Guidelines.

Section 1: Clinical Criteria

Medical Prior Authorization Abraxane

Products Referenced by this Document

Drugs that are listed in the following table include both brand and generic and all dosage forms and strengths unless otherwise stated. Over-the-counter (OTC) products are not included unless otherwise stated.

Brand Name	Generic Name
Abraxane	paclitaxel, albumin-bound
paclitaxel, albumin-bound (all other brands)	paclitaxel, albumin-bound

Indications

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered a covered benefit provided that all the approval criteria are met and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

FDA-approved Indications^{1,3}

Metastatic Breast Cancer

Indicated for the treatment of breast cancer after failure of combination chemotherapy for metastatic disease or relapse within 6 months of adjuvant chemotherapy. Prior therapy should have included an anthracycline unless clinically contraindicated.

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

Indicated for the first-line treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer, in combination with carboplatin, in patients who are not candidates for curative surgery or radiation therapy.

Adenocarcinoma of the Pancreas

Indicated for the first-line treatment of patients with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas, in combination with gemcitabine.

Compendial Uses^{2,4}

- Breast cancer
- Non-small cell lung cancer
- Pancreatic adenocarcinoma
- Cutaneous melanoma
- Epithelial ovarian cancer/fallopian tube cancer/primary peritoneal cancer
- Kaposi sarcoma
- Endometrial carcinoma
- Biliary tract cancers: intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, and gallbladder cancer
- Uveal melanoma
- Small bowel adenocarcinoma
- Ampullary adenocarcinoma
- Cervical cancer
- Vaginal cancer
- Bladder cancer

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and not medically necessary.

Coverage Criteria

Pancreatic adenocarcinoma¹⁻³

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of pancreatic adenocarcinoma, in combination with gemcitabine with or without cisplatin.

Breast cancer¹⁻³

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of breast cancer in any of the following settings:

- Recurrent or metastatic disease
- Following no response to preoperative systemic therapy

- As a substitute for paclitaxel or docetaxel due to hypersensitivity reactions or contraindication to standard hypersensitivity premedications

Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)¹⁻³

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of NSCLC in any of the following settings:

- Recurrent, advanced or metastatic disease
- As a substitute for paclitaxel or docetaxel due to hypersensitivity reactions or contraindication to standard hypersensitivity premedications

Cutaneous melanoma²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for subsequent treatment of metastatic or unresectable cutaneous melanoma, as a single-agent or in combination with carboplatin.

Epithelial ovarian cancer/fallopian tube cancer/primary peritoneal cancer²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of epithelial ovarian cancer, fallopian tube cancer, and primary peritoneal cancer in any of the following settings:

- Persistent or recurrent disease
- As a substitute for paclitaxel due to a hypersensitivity reaction to paclitaxel

Kaposi sarcoma²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of Kaposi sarcoma.

Endometrial carcinoma²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for subsequent treatment of endometrial carcinoma, as a single agent.

Biliary tract cancers²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of either of the following in combination with gemcitabine:

- Unresectable, resected gross residual (R2), or metastatic intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, or gallbladder cancer
- Neoadjuvant therapy for resectable locoregionally advanced gallbladder cancer that does not present as jaundice

Uveal melanoma²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of uveal melanoma, as single-agent therapy for metastatic or unresectable disease.

Small bowel adenocarcinoma²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of advanced or metastatic small bowel adenocarcinoma, as a single agent or in combination with gemcitabine.

Ampullary adenocarcinoma²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of ampullary adenocarcinoma, in combination with gemcitabine.

Cervical cancer²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for subsequent treatment of persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer, as a single agent.

Vaginal cancer²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for subsequent treatment of recurrent or metastatic vaginal cancer, as a single agent.

Bladder cancer⁴

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for subsequent treatment of platinum-resistant locally advanced or metastatic bladder cancer.

Continuation of Therapy

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for continued treatment in members requesting reauthorization for an indication listed in the Coverage Criteria section when there is no evidence of unacceptable toxicity or disease progression while on the current regimen.

Section 2: Oncology Clinical Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define the Novologix NCCN® Regimen Prior Authorization Program.

SCOPE

This policy applies to clients who have implemented the Novologix NCCN® Program as a part of their medical and/or pharmacy prior authorization solution.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The National Comprehensive Care Network® (NCCN®) is an alliance of leading cancer centers devoted to patient care, research and education dedicated to improving the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of cancer care so patients can live better lives.¹ It is comprised of oncology experts who convene regularly to establish the best treatments for patients. NCCN develops various resources for use by stakeholders in the health care delivery system. These resources include, but are not limited to, the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®), the NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium (NCCN Compendium®) and the NCCN Chemotherapy Order Templates (NCCN Templates®).

NCCN Templates® are based on NCCN Guidelines® and NCCN Compendium®. The NCCN Compendium lists the appropriate drugs and biologics as treatment options for specific cancers using U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved disease indications and specific NCCN panel recommendations. Each recommendation is supported by a level of evidence category.

NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus²

- Category 1: Based upon high-level evidence, there is uniform NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.
- Category 2A: Based upon lower-level evidence, there is uniform NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.
- Category 2B: Based upon lower-level evidence, there is NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.
- Category 3: Based upon any level of evidence, there is major NCCN disagreement that the intervention is appropriate.

POLICY

Policy for Regimen Prior Authorization

A regimen prior authorization allows submission of a single prior authorization request for all oncology drugs or biologics within an NCCN template that require prior authorization.

PROCEDURE

This policy provides coverage of a regimen review when all of the following criteria are met:

1. Regimen prior authorization reviews, based on NCCN templates, are initiated through the provider portal.
 - If the prior authorization request is submitted via phone or fax, each drug or biologic will need to be submitted and reviewed as a separate prior authorization request for review with drug-specific criteria.
2. The prior authorization review is requested for an oncology drug or biologic.
3. The member is eligible for regimen review.
4. The indication is for a cancer that is eligible for regimen review. Currently, the cancer types in scope for regimen review include the following:
 - o Ampullary Adenocarcinoma
 - o Anal Carcinoma

- o B-Cell Lymphomas
- o Basal Cell Skin Cancer
- o Biliary Tract Cancers
- o Bone Cancer
- o Breast Cancer
- o Bladder Cancer
- o Central Nervous System Cancers
- o Cervical Cancer
- o Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma
- o Chronic Myeloid leukemia
- o Colon Cancer
- o Dermatofibrosarcoma Protuberans
- o Esophageal Cancer
- o Gastric Cancer
- o Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors
- o Gestational Trophoblastic Neoplasms
- o Hairy Cell Leukemia
- o Head and Neck Cancers
- o Histiocytic Neoplasms
- o Hodgkin Lymphoma
- o Hepatocellular Carcinoma
- o Kaposi Sarcoma
- o Kidney Cancer
- o Melanoma: Cutaneous
- o Melanoma: Uveal
- o Merkel Cell Carcinoma
- o Mesothelioma: Peritoneal
- o Mesothelioma: Pleural
- o Multiple Myeloma
- o Myelodysplastic Syndromes
- o Myeloid/Lymphoid Neoplasms with Eosinophilia and Tyrosine Kinase Gene Fusions
- o Myeloproliferative Neoplasms
- o Neuroendocrine and Adrenal Tumors
- o Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
- o Occult Primary
- o Ovarian Cancer
- o Pancreatic Cancer
- o Penile Cancer
- o Primary Cutaneous Lymphomas
- o Prostate Cancer
- o Rectal Cancer
- o Small Bowel Adenocarcinoma
- o Small Cell Lung Cancer
- o Soft Tissue Sarcoma
- o Squamous Cell Skin Cancer

- o Systemic Mastocytosis
- o Systemic Light Chain Amyloidosis
- o T-Cell Lymphomas
- o Testicular Cancer
- o Thymomas and Thymic Carcinomas
- o Thyroid Carcinoma
- o Uterine Neoplasms
- o Vaginal Cancer
- o Vulvar Cancer
- o Waldenström Macroglobulinemia / Lymphoplasmacytic Lymphoma
- o Wilms Tumor (Nephroblastoma)

In addition, the following criteria must be met for approval:

1. The requested regimen for the drug(s) or biologic(s) and indication is consistent with an NCCN recommendation with a level of evidence category of 1 or 2A.
2. The NCCN template must be accepted by the provider without modification.

Further review may be indicated when the above criteria are not met.

Authorizations may be granted for 12 months or as medically required, based on the member's condition and provider's assessment.

Supportive Care: Myeloid Growth Factor Therapy

Granulocyte colony stimulating factors are recommended for primary prophylaxis based on the febrile neutropenia risk of the chemotherapy regimen. Febrile neutropenia risk levels vary by NCCN Chemotherapy Order template and are listed at the top of the template. Regimens associated with a high or intermediate risk of febrile neutropenia may include a granulocyte colony stimulating factor as part of the prior authorization.

Continuation of Therapy

To submit a request for continuation of therapy, a new regimen prior authorization review must be requested. Upon template selection, the template must be modified to include the appropriate therapies being used for maintenance treatment. The regimen request will be submitted for further review.

Dosage and Administration

Approvals may be subject to dosing limits in accordance with FDA-approved labeling, accepted compendia, and evidence-based practice guidelines.

REFERENCES:

SECTION 1

1. Abraxane [package insert]. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; October 2022.
2. The NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium® © 2025 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. Available at: <https://www.nccn.org>. Accessed January 28, 2025.
3. paclitaxel, albumin-bound [package insert]. Weston, FL: Apotex Corp; April 2022.

4. Lexicomp [database online]. Hudson, OH: Lexi-Comp, Inc.;
http://online.lexi.com/lco/action/index/dataset/complete_ashp [available with subscription].
Accessed January 28, 2025.

SECTION 2

1. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. About NCCN website. <https://www.nccn.org/home/about>, accessed September 9, 2024.
2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus website, <https://www.nccn.org/guidelines/guidelines-process/development-and-update-of-guidelines>, accessed September 9, 2024.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. NCCN Guidelines website. https://www.nccn.org/guidelines/category_1, accessed September 9, 2024. (Note: An account may be required.)
4. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium website <https://www.nccn.org/compendia-templates/compendia/drugs-and-biologics-compendia>, accessed September 9, 2024. (Note: A subscription may be required.)
5. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. NCCN Chemotherapy Order Templates (NCCN Templates) website. <https://www.nccn.org/compendia-templates/nccn-templates-main/browse-by-cancer-type>, accessed September 9, 2024. (Note: A subscription may be required.)