

POLICY Document for NEULASTA (pegfilgrastim)

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: Preferred Product

- Policy information specific to preferred medications

Section 2: Clinical Criteria

- Policy information specific to the clinical appropriateness for the medication

Section 3: Oncology Clinical Policy

- Policy information specific to regimen review per NCCN Guidelines.

Section 1: Preferred Product

CAREFIRST: EXCEPTIONS CRITERIA Colony Stimulating Factors – Long Acting

PREFERRED PRODUCTS: FULPHILA, NYVEPRIA

Client Requested: The intent of the criteria is to ensure that patients follow selection elements as established by CareFirst.

POLICY

This policy informs prescribers of preferred products and provides an exception process for targeted products through prior authorization.

I. PLAN DESIGN SUMMARY

This program applies to the long-acting colony stimulating factor products specified in this policy. Coverage for targeted product is provided based on clinical circumstances that would exclude the use of the preferred products and may be based on previous use of a product. The coverage review process will ascertain situations where a clinical exception can be made. This program applies to all members requesting treatment with a targeted product.

Each referral is reviewed based on all utilization management (UM) programs implemented for the client.

Table. Colony Stimulating Factors – Long Acting

	Product(s)
Preferred*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulphila (pegfilgrastim-jmdb) Nyvepria (pegfilgrastim-apgf)
Targeted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fylnetra (pegfilgrastim-pbbk) Neulasta (including Onpro kit) (pegfilgrastim) Rolvedon (eflapeggrastim-xnst) Stimufend (pegfilgrastim-fpgk)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Udenyca (including Onbody injector) (pegfilgrastim-cbqv) • Ziextenzo (pegfilgrastim-bmez)
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*: Medications considered formulary or preferred on your plan may still require a clinical prior authorization review

II. EXCEPTION CRITERIA

This program applies to members requesting treatment for an indication that is FDA-approved for the preferred products.

Coverage for a targeted product is provided when the following criteria is met:

- A. For Udenyca Onbody when any of the following criteria is met:
 1. When the request is for Udenyca Onbody and the patient has an inability to physically or cognitively adhere to the treatment schedule including all of the following:
 - i. Inability to self-administer the medication AND lack of caregiver or support system for assistance with medication administration
 - ii. Lacks return transportation to clinic for administration of long-acting colony stimulating factor by healthcare provider 24 hours or more after administration of myelosuppressive chemotherapy.
 2. Member has a documented inadequate response, contraindication, or intolerable adverse event to all preferred products and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information (i.e., known adverse reaction for both the reference product and biosimilar products).
- B. For all other targeted products:
 1. Member has a documented inadequate response, contraindication, or intolerable adverse event to all preferred products and the adverse event was not an expected adverse event attributed to the active ingredient as described in the prescribing information (i.e., known adverse reaction for both the reference product and biosimilar products).

Section 2: Clinical Criteria

Specialty Guideline Management

Neulasta and pegfilgrastim biosimilars

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
Neulasta	pegfilgrastim
Fulphila	pegfilgrastim-jmdb
Fylnetra	pegfilgrastim-pbbk

Brand Name	Generic Name
Nyvepria	pegfilgrastim-apgf
Stimufend	pegfilgrastim-fpgk
Udenyca	pegfilgrastim-cbqv
Ziextenzo	pegfilgrastim-bmez

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

Neulasta

Patients with Cancer Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

Neulasta is 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.

Hematopoietic Subsyndrome of Acute Radiation Syndrome

Neulasta is indicated to increase survival in patients acutely exposed to myelosuppressive doses of radiation (Hematopoietic Subsyndrome of Acute Radiation Syndrome).

Fulphila

Patients with Cancer Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

Fulphila is 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

Udenyca

Patients with Cancer Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

Udenyca is 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.

Hematopoietic Subsyndrome of Acute Radiation Syndrome

Udenyca is indicated to increase survival in patients acutely exposed to myelosuppressive doses of radiation.

Ziextenzo

Patients with Cancer Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

Ziextenzo is 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.

Hematopoietic Subsyndrome of Acute Radiation Syndrome

Ziextenzo is indicated to increase survival in patients acutely exposed to myelosuppressive doses of radiation.

Nyvepria

Patients with Cancer Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

Nyvepria is 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.

Fylnetra

Patients with Cancer Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

Fylnetra is 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.

Stimufend

Patients with Cancer Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

Stimufend is 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.

Hematopoietic Subsyndrome of Acute Radiation Syndrome

Stimufend is indicated to increase survival in patients acutely exposed to myelosuppressive doses of radiation.

Compendial Use

- Stem cell transplantation-related indications
- Prophylaxis for chemotherapy-induced febrile neutropenia in patients with solid tumors
- Hematopoietic Acute Radiation Syndrome
- Hairy cell leukemia, neutropenic fever

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

Documentation

Primary Prophylaxis of Febrile Neutropenia

- Documentation must be provided of the member's diagnosis and chemotherapeutic regimen.
- If chemotherapeutic regimen has a low or intermediate risk of febrile neutropenia (less than 20%), documentation must be provided outlining the member's risk factors that confirm the member is at high risk for febrile neutropenia.

Coverage Criteria

Prevention of Neutropenia in Cancer Patients Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for prevention of febrile neutropenia when all of the following criteria are met :

- The requested medication will not be used in combination with other colony stimulating factors within any chemotherapy cycle.
- The member will not receive chemotherapy at the same time as they receive radiation therapy.
- The requested medication will not be administered with weekly chemotherapy regimens.
- One of the following criteria is met :
 - The requested medication will be used for primary prophylaxis in members with a solid tumor or non-myeloid malignancies who have received, are currently receiving, or will be receiving any of the following:
 - Myelosuppressive anti-cancer therapy that is expected to result in 20% or higher incidence of febrile neutropenia (FN) (See Appendix A).
 - Myelosuppressive anti-cancer therapy that is expected to result in 10 – 19% risk of FN (See Appendix B) and who are considered to be at high risk of FN because of bone marrow compromise, co-morbidities, or other patient specific risk factors (See Appendix C).
 - Myelosuppressive anti-cancer therapy that is expected to result in less than 10% risk of FN and who have at least 2 patient-related risk factors (See Appendix C).
 - The requested medication will be used for secondary prophylaxis in members with solid tumors or non-myeloid malignancies who experienced a febrile neutropenic complication or a dose-limiting neutropenic event (a nadir or day of treatment count impacting the planned dose of chemotherapy) from a prior cycle of similar chemotherapy, with the same dose and scheduled planned for the current cycle (for which primary prophylaxis was not received).

Other Indications

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for members with any of the following indications:

- Stem cell transplantation-related indications
 - Hematopoietic Subsyndrome of Acute Radiation Syndrome
 - Treatment for radiation-induced myelosuppression following a radiological/nuclear incident
 - Hairy cell leukemia
- Members with hairy cell leukemia with neutropenic fever following chemotherapy

Continuation of Therapy

All members (including new members) requesting authorization for continuation of therapy must meet all requirements in the coverage criteria.

Appendix

APPENDIX A: Selected Chemotherapy Regimens with an Incidence of Febrile Neutropenia of 20% or Higher

This list is not comprehensive; there are other agents/regimens that have an intermediate/high risk for development of febrile neutropenia.

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Select ALL regimens as directed by treatment protocol (see NCCN guidelines ALL)

Bladder Cancer

Dose dense MVAC (methotrexate, vinblastine, doxorubicin, cisplatin)

Bone Cancer

- VAIA (vincristine, doxorubicin, ifosfamide, and dactinomycin)
- VDC-IE (vincristine, doxorubicin or dactinomycin, and cyclophosphamide alternating with ifosfamide and etoposide)
- Cisplatin/doxorubicin
- VDC (cyclophosphamide, vincristine, doxorubicin or dactinomycin)
- VIDE (vincristine, ifosfamide, doxorubicin or dactinomycin, etoposide)

Breast Cancer

- Dose-dense AC (doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide) followed by dose-dense paclitaxel
- TAC (docetaxel, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide)
- TC (docetaxel, cyclophosphamide)
- TCH (docetaxel, carboplatin, trastuzumab)

Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

TPF (docetaxel, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil)

Hodgkin Lymphoma

- Brentuximab vedotin + AVD (doxorubicin, vinblastine, dacarbazine)

- Escalated BEACOPP (bleomycin, etoposide, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, procarbazine, prednisone)

Kidney Cancer

Doxorubicin/gemcitabine

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

- CHP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, prednisone) + brentuximab vedotin
- Dose-adjusted EPOCH (etoposide, prednisone, vincristine, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin) ± rituximab
- ICE (ifosfamide, carboplatin, etoposide) ± rituximab
- Dose-dense CHOP-14 (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone) ± rituximab
- MINE (mesna, ifosfamide, mitoxantrone, etoposide) ± rituximab
- DHAP (dexamethasone, cisplatin, cytarabine) ± rituximab
- ESHAP (etoposide, methylprednisolone, cisplatin, cytarabine) ± rituximab
- HyperCVAD ± rituximab (cyclophosphamide, vincristine, doxorubicin, dexamethasone ± rituximab)
- Pola-R-CHP (polatuzumab vedotin-piiq, rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, prednisone)

Melanoma

Dacarbazine-based combination with IL-2, interferon alpha (dacarbazine, cisplatin, vinblastine, IL-2, interferon alfa)

Multiple Myeloma

- VTD-PACE (dexamethasone/thalidomide/cisplatin/doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide/etoposide + bortezomib)
- DT-PACE (dexamethasone/thalidomide/cisplatin/doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide/etoposide)

Ovarian Cancer

- Topotecan ± bevacizumab
- Docetaxel

Soft Tissue Sarcoma

- MAID (mesna, doxorubicin, ifosfamide, dacarbazine)
- Doxorubicin
- Ifosfamide/doxorubicin

Small Cell Lung Cancer

Topotecan

Testicular Cancer

- VeIP (vinblastine, ifosfamide, cisplatin)
- VIP (etoposide, ifosfamide, cisplatin)
- TIP (paclitaxel, ifosfamide, cisplatin)

Gestational Trophoblastic Neoplasia

- EMA/CO (etoposide, methotrexate, dactinomycin/cyclophosphamide, vincristine)

- EMA/EP (etoposide, methotrexate, dactinomycin/etoposide, cisplatin)
- EP/EMA (etoposide, cisplatin/etoposide, methotrexate, dactinomycin)
- TP/TE (paclitaxel, cisplatin/paclitaxel, etoposide)
- BEP (bleomycin, etoposide, cisplatin)
- VIP (etoposide, ifosfamide, cisplatin)
- ICE (ifosfamide, carboplatin, etoposide)

Wilms Tumor

- Regimen M (vincristine, dactinomycin, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, etoposide)
- Regimen I (vincristine, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, etoposide)

Applies to chemotherapy regimens with or without monoclonal antibodies (e.g., trastuzumab, rituximab)

APPENDIX B: Selected Chemotherapy Regimens with an Incidence of Febrile Neutropenia of 10% to 19%

This list is not comprehensive; there are other agents/regimens that have an intermediate/high risk for development of febrile neutropenia.

Occult Primary – Adenocarcinoma

Gemcitabine/docetaxel

Breast Cancer

- Docetaxel ± trastuzumab
- AC (doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide) + sequential docetaxel (taxane portion only)
- AC + sequential docetaxel + trastuzumab
- Paclitaxel every 21 days ± trastuzumab
- TC (docetaxel, cyclophosphamide)

Cervical Cancer

- Irinotecan
- Cisplatin/topotecan
- Paclitaxel/cisplatin ± bevacizumab
- Topotecan

Colorectal Cancer

FOLFIRINOX (fluorouracil, leucovorin, oxaliplatin, irinotecan)

Esophageal and Gastric Cancers

Irinotecan/cisplatin

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas

- GDP (gemcitabine, dexamethasone, cisplatin/carboplatin)
- GDP (gemcitabine, dexamethasone, cisplatin/carboplatin) + rituximab
- CHOP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone) including regimens with pegylated liposomal doxorubicin
- CHOP + rituximab (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone, rituximab) including regimens with pegylated liposomal doxorubicin



- Bendamustine

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

- Cisplatin/paclitaxel
- Cisplatin/vinorelbine
- Cisplatin/docetaxel
- Cisplatin/etoposide
- Carboplatin/paclitaxel
- Docetaxel

Ovarian Cancer

Carboplatin/docetaxel

Pancreatic Cancer

FOLFIRINOX (fluorouracil, leucovorin, oxaliplatin, irinotecan)

Prostate Cancer

Cabazitaxel

Small Cell Lung Cancer

Etoposide/carboplatin

Testicular Cancer

- BEP (bleomycin, etoposide, cisplatin)
- Etoposide/cisplatin

Uterine Sarcoma

Docetaxel

Applies to chemotherapy regimens with or without monoclonal antibodies (e.g., trastuzumab, rituximab)

APPENDIX C: Patient Risk Factors

This list is not all-inclusive.

- Active infections, open wounds, or recent surgery
- Age greater than or equal to 65 years
- Bone marrow involvement by tumor producing cytopenias
- Previous chemotherapy or radiation therapy
- Poor nutritional status
- Poor performance status
- Previous episodes of FN
- Other serious co-morbidities, including renal dysfunction, liver dysfunction, HIV infection, cardiovascular disease

Persistent neutropenia

Section 3: 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:

CareFirst Specialty Exceptions Long-Acting CSF C26684-A 03-2025.docx
Neulasta and pegfilgrastim biosimilars SGM 1931-A P2024_R.docx
Novologix LLC_NCCN Oncology Clinical Policy_9.2024

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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.

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