BlueCross BlueShield Federal Employee Program

EMPLICITI
(elotuzumab)

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Empliciti (elotuzumab) is a monoclonal antibody that specifically targets the SLAMF7 (Signaling Lymphocytic Activation Molecule Family Member 7) protein. Multiple myeloma (MM) is a cancer that forms in a type of white blood cell called plasma cells. SLAMF7 protein is expressed on both myeloma and natural killer cells. Empliciti exerts its anticancer effects by targeting the SLAMF7 protein on myeloma cells directly and by increasing interaction with natural killer cells to mediate the killing of myeloma cells. Empliciti is administered intravenously every week for the first two cycles and then every 2 or 4 weeks thereafter until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity (1).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications: Empliciti is a SLAMF7-directed immunostimulatory antibody indicated in: (1)

1. combination with lenalidomide and dexamethasone for the treatment of patients with multiple myeloma who have received one to three prior therapies
2. combination with pomalidomide and dexamethasone for the treatment of adult patients with multiple myeloma who have received at least two prior therapies including lenalidomide and a proteasome inhibitor

Empliciti therapy may cause elevations in liver enzymes (aspartate transaminase/alanine transaminase [AST/ALT] greater than 3 times the upper limit, total bilirubin greater than 2 times the upper limit, and alkaline phosphatase less than 2 times the upper limit) consistent with hepatotoxicity. Liver function should be monitored periodically and therapy stopped upon Grade 3 or higher elevation and continuation of therapy considered after return to baseline values (1).

Safety and effectiveness of Empliciti have not been established in pediatric patients (1).

Summary

Empliciti (elotuzumab) is a monoclonal antibody indicated for the treatment of multiple myeloma (MM). Empliciti has been shown to cause hepatotoxicity and should be stopped if Grade 3 or higher elevation of liver enzymes and therapy continued after return to baseline. Safety and effectiveness of Empliciti have not been established in pediatric patients (1).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of Empliciti while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

1. Empliciti [package insert]. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; March 2022.
2. NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium® Elotuzumab 2025. National Comprehensive Cancer Netowrk, Inc. Accessed on January 27, 2025.