BlueCross BlueShield Federal Employee Program

VECTIBIX
(panitumumab)

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Vectibix is a medication used to treat patients with metastatic colorectal cancer who express the wild-type *KRAS* gene or *KRAS* G12C mutation. Metastatic colorectal cancer is an advanced form of cancer affecting the colon or rectum that has begun spreading to other parts of the body. Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) is a protein involved in the growth and spread of cancer cells. Vectibix competitively blocks this receptor and prevents the activation of kinases, resulting in inhibition of cell growth and induction of cell death (1).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications: Vectibix (panitumumab) is an epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) antagonist indicated for the treatment of: (1)

- Adult patients with wild-type *RAS* (defined as wild-type in both *KRAS* and *NRAS* as determined by an FDA-approved test) Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (mCRC)
    - In combination with FOLFOX for first-line treatment.
    - As monotherapy following disease progression after prior treatment with fluoropyrimidine, oxaliplatin, and irinotecan-containing chemotherapy.
- *KRAS* G12C-mutated Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (mCRC)
    - In combination with sotorasib, for the treatment of adult patients with *KRAS* G12C-mutated mCRC, as determined by an FDA-approved test, who have received prior treatment with fluoropyrimidine-, oxaliplatin-, and irinotecan-based chemotherapy.

Limitations of Use: (1)

Vectibix is not indicated for the treatment of patients with *RAS*-mutant mCRC unless used in combination with sotorasib in KRAS G12C-mutated mCRC. Vectibix is not indicated for the treatment of patients with mCRC for whom *RAS* mutation status is unknown.

Off-Label Uses: (2-3)

1. Colorectal Cancer Stage IV – cancer has spread to distant parts of the body
    a. First progression
    b. Second progression
    c. Neoadjuvant therapy
    d. Adjuvant / postoperative, unresectable, or palliative therapy

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Vectibix carries a boxed warning for dermatologic toxicity. The reported incidence of dermatologic toxicities was 90%, while 15% of these patients experienced severe (NCI-CTC grade 3 and higher) toxicities in those who received monotherapy. Withhold or discontinue Vectibix for dermatologic or soft tissue toxicity associated with severe or life-threatening inflammatory or infectious complications (1).

Safety and effectiveness of Vectibix in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1).

Summary

Vectibix (panitumumab) is indicated for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer. Vectibix should be used for wild-type *RAS* or *KRAS* G12C-mutations. In addition, there is an evidence base to support the off-label use of Vectibix in combination with FOLFIRI or irinotecan, or as monotherapy in individuals who cannot tolerate intensive therapy to treat unresectable advanced or metastatic colorectal cancer expressing *KRAS/NRAS* mutations. Safety and effectiveness of Vectibix in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established (1-2).

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

References

1. Vectibix [prescribing information]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen, Inc.; January 2025.
2. NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium® Panitumumab 2025. National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. Accessed on February 3, 2025.
3. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology® Colon Cancer (Version 6.2024). National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. January 2025. Accessed on February 3, 2025.