

Specialty Guideline Management

Hycamtin Capsules

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	Dosage Form
Hycamtin	topotecan	capsules

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 Indication¹

Hycamtin capsules are indicated for the treatment of relapsed small cell lung cancer (SCLC) in patients with a prior complete or partial response and who are at least 45 days from the end of first-line chemotherapy.

Compendial Uses²

- Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC)
- Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC)

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

Coverage Criteria

Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC)^{1,2}

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of small cell lung cancer.

Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC)²

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of Merkel cell carcinoma when all of the following criteria are met:

- Member has either of the following:
 - Metastatic disseminated disease or
 - Primary or recurrent regional disease and curative surgery and curative radiation therapy are not feasible
- Member has contraindications to or member has disease that has progressed on anti-PD-L1 or anti-PD-1 monotherapy [e.g., Bavencio (avelumab), Keytruda (pembrolizumab)].
- The medication will be used as a single agent.

Continuation of Therapy

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for continued treatment in members requesting reauthorization for an indication listed in coverage criteria when there is no evidence of unacceptable toxicity or disease progression while on the current regimen.

References

1. Hycamtin Capsules [package insert]. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.; September 2018.
2. The NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium® © 2025 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed March 4, 2025.