

Specialty Guideline Management

Bavencio

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
Bavencio	avelumab

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 Indications¹

Metastatic Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC)

Treatment of adults and pediatric patients 12 years and older with metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma.

Locally Advanced or Metastatic Urothelial Carcinoma (UC)

First-line maintenance treatment of urothelial carcinoma

Maintenance treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma that has not progressed with first-line platinum-containing chemotherapy.

Previously-treated urothelial carcinoma

Treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma who have disease progression during or following platinum-containing chemotherapy or have disease progression within 12 months of neoadjuvant or adjuvant treatment with platinum-containing chemotherapy.

Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC)

First-line treatment of patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma in combination with axitinib.

Compendial Uses²

- Urothelial carcinoma
 - Bladder cancer
 - Primary carcinoma of the urethra
 - Upper genitourinary (GU) tract tumors
 - Urothelial carcinoma of the prostate
- Merkel cell carcinoma
- Renal cell carcinoma
- Gestational trophoblastic neoplasia
- Endometrial carcinoma
- Thymic carcinoma
- Extranodal natural killer (NK)/T-cell lymphoma

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

Documentation

Submission of the following information is necessary to initiate the prior authorization review:

Documentation of laboratory report confirming microsatellite instability-high (MSI-H) or mismatch repair deficient (dMMR) tumor status, where applicable.

Exclusions

Coverage will not be provided for members who have experienced disease progression while on PD-1 or PD-L1 inhibitor therapy.

Coverage Criteria

Merkel Cell Carcinoma^{1,2}

Authorization of 6 months may be granted as a single agent for the treatment of Merkel cell carcinoma in members with locally advanced, recurrent, or metastatic disease.

Urothelial Carcinoma – Bladder Cancer^{1,2}

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for the treatment of bladder cancer as a single agent when either of the following criteria is met:

- The requested medication will be used as subsequent therapy.
- The requested medication will be used as maintenance therapy if there is no progression on first-line platinum-containing chemotherapy.

Urothelial Carcinoma – Primary Carcinoma of the Urethra^{1,2}

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for the treatment of primary carcinoma of the urethra as a single agent when either of the following criteria is met:

- The requested medication will be used as subsequent systemic therapy for recurrent, locally advanced, or metastatic disease.
- The requested medication will be used as maintenance therapy if there is no progression on first-line platinum-containing chemotherapy.

Urothelial Carcinoma – Upper Genitourinary (GU) Tract Tumors or Urothelial Carcinoma of the Prostate^{1,2}

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for the treatment of upper genitourinary (GU) tract tumors or urothelial carcinoma of the prostate as a single agent when either of the following criteria is met:

- The requested medication will be used as subsequent therapy for locally advanced or metastatic disease.
- The requested medication will be used as maintenance therapy if there is no progression on first-line platinum-containing chemotherapy.

Renal Cell Carcinoma^{1,2}

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for the treatment of advanced, relapsed, or stage IV renal cell carcinoma with clear cell histology when given in combination with axitinib as first-line treatment for the disease.

Gestational Trophoblastic Neoplasia²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted as a single agent for the treatment of gestational trophoblastic neoplasia for multiagent chemotherapy-resistant disease when either of the following criteria is met:

- Member has recurrent or progressive intermediate trophoblastic tumor (placental site trophoblastic tumor or epithelioid trophoblastic tumor).
- Member has high-risk disease.

Endometrial Carcinoma²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted as a single agent for the subsequent treatment of recurrent microsatellite instability-high (MSI-H) or mismatch repair deficient (dMMR) tumors.

Thymic Carcinoma²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for the treatment of thymic carcinoma when both of the following criteria are met:

- The requested medication will be used as subsequent therapy or in members who cannot tolerate first-line combination regimens.
- The requested medication will be used in combination with axitinib.

Extranodal Natural Killer (NK)/T-Cell Lymphoma²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for the treatment of extranodal natural killer (NK)/T-cell lymphoma in members with relapsed or refractory disease.

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 when there is no evidence of unacceptable toxicity or disease progression while on the current regimen.

References

1. Bavencio [package insert]. Boston, MA: EMD Serono, Inc.; November 2024.
2. The NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium® © 2025 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed May 14, 2025.