

Clinical Policy: Denileukin Diftitox-cxdl (Lymphir)

Reference Number: LA.PHAR.693

Effective Date: 02.27.25

Last Review Date: ~~11.24.25~~ 05.12.25

Line of Business: Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

****Please note: This policy is for medical benefit****

Description

Denileukin diftitox-cxdl (Lymphir™) is an interleukin-2 (IL2) receptor directed cytotoxin.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Lymphir is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory stage I-III cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) after at least one prior systemic therapy.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of Louisiana Healthcare Connections® that Lymphir is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of CTCL (see Appendix E for CTCL subtypes);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. For CTCL subtypes that are not mycosis fungoides (MF) or Sezary syndrome, all of the following (a, b, and c):
 - a. Disease is relapsed or refractory;
 - b. Disease is stage I, III, or III;
 - c. Failure of at least one prior systemic therapy;
5. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. Dose does not exceed 9 mcg/kg per day on days 1 to 5 of a 21-day cycle;
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (prescriber must submit supporting evidence).

*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN.

Approval duration: 6~~1~~2 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to LA.PMN.255; or

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2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy: LA.PMN.53.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connections benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Lymphir for a covered indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. New dose does not exceed 9 mcg/kg per day on days 1 to 5 of a 21-day cycle;
 - b. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration: 612 months

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B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to LA.PMN.255; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy LA.PMN.53.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policy ~~yes~~ LA.PMN.53.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

CTCL: cutaneous T-cell lymphoma

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

IL2: interleukin-2

MF: mycosis fungoides

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): none reported
- Boxed warning(s): capillary leak syndrome

Appendix D: General Information

- Lymphir is a purified and more bioactive formulation of previously FDA-approved Ontak. Ontak was marketed in the U.S. from 1999 to 2014, when it was voluntarily withdrawn from the market due to manufacturing difficulties.

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- MF is the most common cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. Sezary syndrome is closely related to MF accounting for less than 5% of cutaneous lymphomas.

Appendix E: WHO-EORTC Classification of CTCL with Primary Cutaneous Manifestations*

- Sezary syndrome
- Mycosis fungoides (MF)
 - MF variants and subtypes
 - Folliculotropic MF
 - Pagetoid reticulosis
 - Granulomatous slack skin
- Primary cutaneous CD30+ lymphoproliferative disorders
 - Lymphomatoid papulosis (LyP)
 - ~~Primary cutaneous~~ Cutaneous anaplastic large cell lymphoma (C-ALCL)
- Subcutaneous panniculitis-like T-cell lymphoma
- Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATLL)
- Primary cutaneous peripheral T-cell lymphoma, rare subtypes
 - Primary cutaneous CD4+ small/medium T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder (provisional)
 - Primary cutaneous gamma/delta T-cell lymphoma
 - Primary cutaneous acral CD8+ T-cell lymphoma (provisional)
 - Primary cutaneous aggressive epidermotropic CD8+ T-cell lymphoma (provisional)
 - Primary cutaneous peripheral T-cell lymphoma, not otherwise specified

**CTCL is classified as a non-Hodgkin T-cell lymphoma. CTCL classification schemes are periodically advanced as new information becomes available; therefore, the above list is provided as general guidance. For additional information, see WHO's 2018 updated classification of hematological malignancies for a complete list of lymphoid neoplasms, including CTCL.*

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
CTCL	9 mcg/kg/day IV over 60 minutes on days 1 to 5 of a 21-day treatment cycle. Administer until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.	9 mcg/kg/day

VI. Product Availability

Single-dose vial: 300 mcg

VII. References

1. Lymphir Prescribing Information. Cranford, NJ: Citius Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; August 2024. Available at: www.lymphirhcp.com. Accessed ~~August 20, 2024~~ July 10, 2025.
2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines. Primary Cutaneous Lymphomas Version 3. ~~2024~~ 2025. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/primary_cutaneous.pdf. Accessed August ~~22, 2024~~ 29, 2025.

Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-

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date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J9161	Injection, denileukin diftitox-cxdl, 1 mcg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	LDH Approval Date
Converted corporate to local policy.	11.27.24	01.27.25
Added HCPCS code [J9161], removed codes [J3590, C9399].	05.13.25	08.14.25
No significant changes; extended initial approval duration from 6 months to 12; references reviewed and updated.	11.24.25	

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. LHCC makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved.

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recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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