

Clinical Policy: Bezlotoxumab (Zinplava)

Reference Number: LA.PHAR.300

Effective Date:

Last Review Date: 03.21

Line of Business: Medicaid

Coding Implications

Revision Log

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

Description

Bezlotoxumab (Zinplava™) is a human monoclonal antibody that binds to *Clostridium difficile* toxin B.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Zinplava is indicated to reduce the recurrence of *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) in patients 18 years of age or older who are receiving antibacterial drug treatment of CDI and are at a high risk for CDI recurrence.

Limitation(s) of use: Zinplava is not indicated for the treatment of CDI. Zinplava is not an antibacterial drug. Zinplava should only be used in conjunction with antibacterial drug treatment of CDI.

Policy/Criteria

Prior authorization is required. 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 Zinplava is medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. *Clostridioides difficile* Infection (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of CDI confirmed by documentation of positive *Clostridium difficile* test;
 2. Age ≥ 18 years;
 3. Member will receive or is currently receiving concomitant antibacterial drug treatment for CDI (e.g., metronidazole, vancomycin, fidaxomicin);
 4. Member has had at least two episodes of CDI recurrence (total 3 episodes) in the previous 6 months and has been treated with appropriate treatment for CDI (e.g., metronidazole, vancomycin, fidaxomicin), including a pulsed vancomycin regimen;
*Treatment failure for CDI may be declared in as little as 48 hours in patients with severe disease who fail to improve.
 5. Dose does not exceed 10 mg/kg once.
- Approval duration: 3 months (1 dose only)

B. Other diagnoses/indications

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1. Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid

II. Continued Therapy

A. *Clostridioides difficile* Infection

1. Re-authorization is not permitted. Members must meet the initial approval criteria.

Approval duration: Not applicable

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

1. Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connections benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or
2. Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

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 –LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

CDI: *Clostridium difficile* infection

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

IDSA: Infectious Diseases Society of America

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

None reported

Appendix D: General Information

- Zinplava is the only medication approved to reduce the recurrence of CDI.
- Zinplava was studied in two randomized placebo controlled trials in which patients received a single IV infusion of Zinplava. The efficacy of repeat courses of Zinplava therapy has not been established.
- Approximately 35% of CDI patients experience recurrence after the initial treatment and resolution of diarrhea. Of those who have a primary recurrence, 40% will have another CDI episode, and after 2 recurrences, the chances of an additional episode increases to as high as 65%.

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- **Per the IDSA Clinical Practice Guidelines for *Clostridium difficile* Infection 2017 Update:**
 - **An incident case is one with a new primary symptom onset (i.e., in the previous 8 weeks, there was not an episode of positive symptoms with positive *C. diff* result) and positive *C. diff* assay result.**
 - **A recurrent infection is an episode of symptom onset with a positive assay result following an episode with positive assay result in the previous 2–8 weeks.**
 - **Vancomycin and fidaxomicin are preferred first-line treatments for non-severe, recurrent, and severe disease in adults. Metronidazole is recommended as an alternative agent, if vancomycin and fidaxomicin are unavailable.**
 - **Examples of treatment regimens for recurrence:**
 - **Vancomycin 125 mg PO QID for 10 days (may be followed by rifaximin 400 mg PO TID for 20 days)**
 - **Tapered and pulsed regimens of vancomycin (e.g., vancomycin PO 125 mg QID for 10 to 14 days, then BID for 1 week, then QD for 1 week, then every 2 or 3 days for 2 to 8 weeks)**
 - **Fidaxomicin 200 mg PO BID for 10 days**
 - **Fecal microbiota transplantation**

V. Dosage and Administration

<u>Indication</u>	<u>Dosing Regimen</u>	<u>Maximum Dose</u>
<u>CDI recurrence</u>	<u>10 mg/kg as a single dose IV infusion over 60 minutes</u>	<u>10 mg/kg</u>

VI. Product Availability

Single-dose vial for injection: 1,000 mg/40 mL (25 mg/mL)

VII. References

1. **Zinplava Prescribing Information. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck & Co., Inc; October 2016. Available at: https://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/z/zinplava/zinplava_pi.pdf. Accessed October 20, 2020.**
2. **Antimicrobial Drugs Advisory Committee. Bezlotoxumab injection briefing document (BLA 761046). Published June 9, 2016. Available at <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/advisorycommittees/committeesmeetingmaterials/drugs/anti-infectivedrugsadvisorycommittee/ucm505291.pdf>. Accessed October 20, 2020.**
3. **Surawicz CM, Brandt LJ, Binion DG et al. Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of *Clostridium difficile* infections. Am J Gastroenterol. 2013 Apr;108(4):478-98; quiz 499. doi: 10.1038/ajg.2013.4. Epub 2013 Feb 26.**
4. **Zar FA, Bakkanagari SR, Moorthi KM, Davis MB. A comparison of vancomycin and metronidazole for the treatment of *Clostridium difficile*-associated diarrhea, stratified by disease severity. Clin Infect Dis 2007;45(3):302-7.**
5. **Lessa FC, Mu Y, Bamber WM et al. Burden of *Clostridium difficile* infection in the United States. N Engl J Med. 2015 Feb 26;372(9):825-34. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1408913**

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6. McDonald LC, Gerding DN, Johnson S, et al. Clinical practice guidelines for Clostridium difficile infection in adults and children: 2017 updated by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA). Clin Infect Dis. March 2018;66(7):987-994.

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

<u>HCPCS Codes</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>J0565</u>	<u>Injection, bezlotoxumab, 10 mg</u>

<u>Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Converted corporate to local policy</u>	<u>03/2021</u>

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.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable LHCC administrative policies and procedures.

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