CLINICAL GUIDELINES

Medical Oncology Guideline Methodology

Last Updated June 2, 2016

CareCore National, LLC d/b/a eviCore healthcare (eviCore)

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eviCore healthcare Medical Oncology

Clinical Guideline Methodology

Guideline content:
The eviCore Medical Oncology Solution recognizes indications and uses of injectable, oral, and topical oncology medications listed in the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Drugs and Biologics Compendium with Categories of Evidence and Consensus of 1, 2A, and 2B as proven and medically necessary. Exceptions to the NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium for rare cancers or other situations not specifically addressed in the Compendium are reviewed according to the specific health plan policy governing the treated member’s covered benefits and may include other national consensus guideline statements, peer-reviewed research publications, FDA label indications, or other criteria.

eviCore’s oncology pharmacist and physician specialist staff develop highly specific algorithms based on the NCCN Guidelines and Compendium. All new and revised algorithms are critically reviewed and approved by NCCN to ensure concordance with the Guidelines and the Compendium, then are approved by eviCore’s Medical Advisory Committee prior to publication. By evaluating clinical, pathologic, radiologic, genetic, and molecular findings for an individual patient, chemotherapy regimen appropriateness is rapidly determined through a highly efficient decision support process that can be completed in as little as three minutes via web-based or telephonic tools.

Guideline updates:
evিCore conducts ongoing monitoring of the drug pipeline and incorporates new FDA-approved therapies or expanded indications into the Medical Oncology solution almost immediately after the approval date. The development of the NCCN Guidelines is an ongoing and iterative process, which is based on a critical review of the best available evidence and derivation of recommendations by a multidisciplinary panel of experts in the field of cancer. In addition to scheduled annual updates, the NCCN Guidelines frequently release interim real-time updates to incorporate recent critical advancements in the field of cancer research and management. eviCore collaborates closely with NCCN to ensure that the eviCore Medical Oncology algorithms are updated rapidly following the release of an update to any NCCN Guideline section.
Deviations from Standard Practice Guidelines:
eviCore recognizes that not all treatments will conform to NCCN guidelines based on patient variability and unique clinical circumstances, and, based upon the treated member’s covered benefits, eviCore supports a process to conduct clinical review of the requested treatment regimen. Approximately 85% of regimens authorized under the eviCore Medical Oncology program have NCCN consensus support. The remaining 15% of regimen approvals primarily encompass rare cancers or subtypes not addressed by NCCN and clinically appropriate exceptions based on individual patient and disease factors. A variety of additional references are used to determine medical necessity in these highly individualized cases. Examples include peer-reviewed scientific articles, recommendations from professional or medical specialty societies, coverage policies of government or commercial payers, and clinical expertise of experienced board-certified oncology practitioners provided through real-time peer consultation.

About NCCN:
The National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®), a not-for-profit alliance of 27 of the world’s leading cancer centers devoted to patient care, research, and education, is dedicated to improving the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of cancer care so that patients can live better lives. NCCN promotes the importance of continuous quality improvement and recognizes the significance of creating clinical practice guidelines appropriate for use by patients, clinicians, and other health care decision-makers.

The NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) are comprised of recommendations for the prevention, diagnosis, and management of malignancies across the continuum of care. The NCCN Guidelines currently apply to more than 97% of patients living with cancer in the United States. The guidelines are developed and updated by 47 individual panels, composed of more than 950 clinicians and oncology researchers from the 27 NCCN member institutions and their affiliates.

All information provided by the NCCN is “referenced with permission from the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines™) © 2015/2016 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. The NCCN Guidelines™ and illustrations herein may not be reproduced in any form for any purpose without the express written permission of the NCCN. To view the most recent and complete version of the NCCN Guidelines, go online to www.NCCN.org.

Additional information:
1. NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium (NCCN Compendium®).
   http://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug_compendium/content/contents.asp.
2. The NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines™).