

Filgrastim (Neupogen, Nivestym, Zarxio)

When requesting filgrastim (Neupogen, Nivestym, Zarxio) for non-oncology indications, the individual requiring treatment must be diagnosed with an FDA-approved indication or approved compendial use and meet the specific coverage guidelines and applicable safety criteria for the covered indication.

FDA-approved Non-Oncology Indication

Neupogen, Nivestym, and Zarxio are leukocyte growth factors indicated for chronic administration to reduce the incidence and duration of sequelae of neutropenia (e.g., fever, infections, oropharyngeal ulcers) in symptomatic patients with congenital neutropenia, cyclic neutropenia, or idiopathic neutropenia.

Approved Non-Oncology Off-label Compendial Use

- Neutropenia associated with zidovudine use in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-infected patients.
- Drug-induced (non-chemotherapy) agranulocytosis or neutropenia

Coverage Guidelines

Severe chronic neutropenia (e.g., congenital neutropenia, cyclic neutropenia, idiopathic neutropenia)

- Approve for 6 months if prescribed by or in consultation with a hematologist.

Neutropenia associated with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

- Approve for 4 months if the agent is prescribed by or in consultation with a physician that specializes in infectious diseases, a hematologist, or a physician who specializes in the management of HIV/AIDS.

Drug-Induced (Non-Chemotherapy) Agranulocytosis or Neutropenia

- Approve for 1 month

Dosing Recommendation

For congenital neutropenia

The recommended starting dose is 6 mcg/kg subcutaneous injection twice daily.

For cyclic or idiopathic neutropenia

The recommended starting dose is 65 mcg/kg subcutaneous injection daily.

For neutropenia in adults with HIV or AIDS

The recommended dose is 5 to 10 mcg/kg subcutaneous injection daily.

Dosage should be individualized based on the patient's clinical course as well as absolute neutrophil count.

References

1. Neupogen® injection for subcutaneous or intravenous use [prescribing information]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen, Inc.; June 2018.
2. Zarxio™ injection for subcutaneous or intravenous use [prescribing information]. Princeton, NJ: Sandoz; April 2018.
3. Nivestym™ injection for subcutaneous or intravenous use [prescribing information]. Lake Forest, IL and New York, NY: Hospira and Pfizer; July 2018.
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