

Specialty Guideline Management

Erbitux

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
Erbitux	cetuximab

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

Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck (SCCHN)

Erbitux is indicated:

- in combination with radiation therapy for the initial treatment of locally or regionally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN).
- in combination with platinum-based therapy with fluorouracil for the first-line treatment of patients with recurrent locoregional disease or metastatic SCCHN.
- as a single agent for the treatment of patients with recurrent or metastatic SCCHN for whom prior platinum-based therapy has failed.

K-Ras Wild-type, EGFR-expressing Colorectal Cancer (CRC)

Erbitux is indicated for the treatment of K-Ras wild-type, epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)-expressing, metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC) as determined by an FDA-approved test:

- in combination with FOLFIRI (irinotecan, fluorouracil, leucovorin) for first-line treatment,

Reference number(s)
1892-A

- in combination with irinotecan in patients who are refractory to irinotecan-based chemotherapy,
- as a single agent in patients who have failed oxaliplatin- and irinotecan-based chemotherapy or who are intolerant to irinotecan.

Limitations of Use

Erbix is not indicated for treatment of Ras-mutant colorectal cancer or when the results of the Ras mutation tests are unknown.

BRAF V600E Mutation-Positive Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (CRC)

Erbix is indicated, in combination with encorafenib, for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic colorectal cancer (CRC) with a BRAF V600E mutation, as detected by an FDA-approved test, after prior therapy.

Compendial Uses²⁻⁴

- Colorectal cancer
- Head and neck cancer
- Penile cancer
- Squamous cell skin cancer
- Non-small cell lung cancer

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 RAS wild-type status or KRAS G12C mutation, where applicable.
- Documentation of BRAF mutation status, where applicable.
- Documentation of EGFR expression, where applicable.

Coverage Criteria

Colorectal Cancer¹⁻⁴

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of colorectal cancer, including appendiceal adenocarcinoma and anal adenocarcinoma, for unresectable/inoperable, advanced, or metastatic disease and the member has not previously experienced clinical failure on panitumumab when one of the following criteria is met:

- The member meets all of the following criteria:
 - The RAS (KRAS and NRAS) mutation status is negative (wild-type).

- If the tumor is positive for BRAF V600E mutation, the requested medication will be used in combination with encorafenib (Braftovi).
- For first-line treatment of colon cancer, the tumor is left-sided only.
- The member meets all of the following criteria:
 - The disease is KRAS G12C mutation positive.
 - The requested medication will be used in combination with sotorasib (Lumakras) or adagrasib (Krazati).
 - The member previously received treatment with chemotherapy.

Head and Neck Cancer^{1,2}

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of head and neck cancer when any of the following criteria is met:

- Disease is locally or regionally advanced, unresectable, recurrent, persistent, or metastatic.
- Member is unfit for surgery.
- The requested medication will be used in combination with radiation or chemotherapy.

Penile Cancer²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted as a single agent for subsequent treatment of metastatic/recurrent penile cancer.

Squamous Cell Skin Cancer²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted as a single agent or in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel for treatment of squamous cell skin cancer in unresectable/inoperable/incompletely resected, locally advanced, regional, recurrent, or distant metastatic disease.

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)²

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for subsequent treatment of recurrent, advanced, or metastatic NSCLC when all of the following criteria are met:

- The requested medication will be used in combination with afatinib (Gilotrif).
- The requested medication will be used in members with a known sensitizing EGFR mutation (e.g., EGFR exon 19 deletion or L858R mutation, or EGFR S768I, L861Q, and/or G719X mutation) following disease progression on EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy.

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

References

1. Erbitux [package insert]. Branchburg, NJ: ImClone LLC; September 2021.
2. The NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium® © 2025 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed July 9, 2025.
3. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Colon Cancer. Version 4.2025. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/colon.pdf. Accessed July 14, 2025.
4. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Anal Carcinoma. Version 4.2025. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/anal.pdf. Accessed July 14, 2025.