Evolent Clinical Guideline 3025 for Yescarta™ (axicabtagene ciloleucel)

Guideline Number:	Applicable Codes	
Evolent_CG_3025		
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Original Date:	**Last Revised Date:**	**Implementation Date:**
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STATEMENT

Purpose

To define and describe the accepted indications for Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) usage in the treatment of cancer, including FDA approved indications, and off-label indications.

Evolent is responsible for processing all medication requests from network ordering providers. Medications not authorized by Evolent may be deemed as not approvable and therefore not reimbursable.

The use of this drug must be supported by one of the following: FDA approved product labeling, CMS-approved compendia, National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) clinical guidelines, or peer-reviewed literature that meets the requirements of the CMS Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 15.

INDICATIONS

Continuation requests for a not-approvable medication shall be exempt from this Evolent policy provided

- The member has not experienced disease progression on the requested medication AND
- The requested medication was used within the last year without a lapse of more than 30 days of having an active authorization AND
- Additional medication(s) are not being added to the continuation request.

B-Cell Lymphomas

- Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) may be used in adult members with:
  - Large B-cell lymphoma that is refractory to first-line chemoimmunotherapy or that relapses within 12 months of first-line chemoimmunotherapy.
  - Relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, high grade B-cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma.

Follicular Lymphoma

- Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) may be used for adult members with relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy.

CONTRAINDICATIONS/WARNINGS

- US Boxed Warning
  - Cytokine release syndrome (CRS), including fatal or life-threatening reactions, occurred in patients receiving axicabtagene ciloleucel. Do not administer

axicabtagene ciloleucel to patients with active infection or inflammatory disorders. Treat severe or life-threatening CRS with tocilizumab or tocilizumab and corticosteroids.

- Neurological toxicities, including fatal or life-threatening reactions, occurred in patients receiving axicabtagene ciloleucel, including concurrently with CRS or after CRS resolution. Monitor for neurologic toxicities after treatment with axicabtagene ciloleucel. Provide supportive care and/or corticosteroids as needed.
- T cell malignancies have occurred following treatment of hematologic malignancies with BCMA- and CD-19-directed genetically modified autologous T cell immunotherapies, including axicabtagene ciloleucel.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) is being used on or after disease progression with the same regimen or prior CAR-T cell therapy directed towards CD19 antigen [e.g., Kymriah (tisagenlecleucel), Breyanzi (lisocabtagene maraleucel), or Tecartus (brexucabtagene autoleucel)].
- Concurrent use of other systemic immunosuppressive therapy or live virus vaccines.
- Lack of confirmed documentation of CD-19 positivity in lymphoma cells.
- Treatment exceeds the maximum duration limit as one time administration.
- Treatment with Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) exceeds the maximum limit of 2×10^6 CAR-positive viable T cells per kg body weight, up to a maximum total dose of 2×10^8 CAR-positive viable T cells.
- Investigational use of Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) with an off-label indication that is not sufficient in evidence or is not generally accepted by the medical community. Sufficient evidence that is not supported by CMS recognized compendia or acceptable peer reviewed literature is defined as any of the following:
  - Whether the clinical characteristics of the patient and the cancer are adequately represented in the published evidence.
  - Whether the administered chemotherapy/biologic therapy/immune therapy/targeted therapy/other oncologic therapy regimen is adequately represented in the published evidence.
  - Whether the reported study outcomes represent clinically meaningful outcomes experienced by patients. Generally, the definitions of Clinically Meaningful outcomes are those recommended by ASCO, e.g., Hazard Ratio of less than 0.80 and the recommended survival benefit for OS and PFS should be at least 3 months.
  - Whether the experimental design, considering the drugs and conditions under investigation, is appropriate to address the investigative question. (For example, in some clinical studies, it may be unnecessary or not feasible to use randomization, double blind trials, placebos, or crossover).
  - That non-randomized clinical trials with a significant number of subjects may be a basis for supportive clinical evidence for determining accepted uses of drugs.

- That case reports are generally considered uncontrolled and anecdotal information and do not provide adequate supportive clinical evidence for determining accepted uses of drugs.
- That abstracts (including meeting abstracts) without the full article from the approved peer-reviewed journals lack supporting clinical evidence for determining accepted uses of drugs.

CODING AND STANDARDS

Codes

- Q2041 - Axicabtagene ciloleucel, up to 200 million autologous anti-cd19 car positive viable t cells, including leukapheresis and dose preparation procedures, per therapeutic dose

Applicable Lines of Business

☐	CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)
☒	Commercial
☒	Exchange/Marketplace
☒	Medicaid
☐	Medicare Advantage

POLICY HISTORY

Date	Summary
March 2026	• Updated references
February 2026	• Updated contraindications/warnings section • Updated references
February 2025	• Converted to new Evolent guideline template • This guideline replaces UM ONC_1329 Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) • Added "Follicular Lymphoma" to indication section
February 2024	• Updated indication section to follow FDA labeling • Updated exclusion criteria

	• Updated NCH verbiage to Evolent

LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE

Guideline Approval

Committee

Reviewed / Approved by Evolent Specialty Services Clinical Guideline Review Committee

Disclaimer

Evolent Clinical Guidelines do not constitute medical advice. Treating health care professionals are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment, and medical advice. Evolent uses Clinical Guidelines in accordance with its contractual obligations to provide utilization management. Coverage for services varies for individual members according to the terms of their health care coverage or government program. Individual members' health care coverage may not utilize some Evolent Clinical Guidelines. Evolent clinical guidelines contain guidance that requires prior authorization and service limitations. A list of procedure codes, services or drugs may not be all inclusive and does not imply that a service or drug is a covered or non-covered service or drug. Evolent reserves the right to review and update this Clinical Guideline in its sole discretion. Notice of any changes shall be provided as required by applicable provider agreements and laws or regulations. Members should contact their Plan customer service representative for specific coverage information.

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