# Evolent Clinical Guideline 3079 for Zelboraf™ (vemurafenib)

| Guideline Number: | Applicable Codes | |
|---|---|---|
| Evolent_CG_3079 | | |
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| **Original Date:** | **Last Revised Date:** | **Implementation Date:** |
| February 2012 | May 2026 | May 2026 |

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# STATEMENT

## Purpose

To define and describe the accepted indications for Zelboraf (vemurafenib) 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.

## Malignant Melanoma

- Zelboraf (vemurafenib) may be used in combination with Cotellic (cobimetinib) or as a single agent (if combination therapy is contraindicated) in a member with BRAF V600E mutation positive metastatic/recurrent/unresectable malignant melanoma for ONE of the following:
  - First line therapy
  - Second-line or subsequent line therapy.
- NOTE: [Cotellic (cobimetinib) + Zelboraf (vemurafenib) + Tecentriq (atezolizumab)] is not supported by Evolent Policy for the treatment of metastatic, recurrent, or unresectable BRAF V600E or V600K mutation positive malignant melanoma. This policy position is based on the overall survival results of the IMspire150 trial. This trial showed no difference in overall survival with the above 3-drug combination compared to Cotellic (cobimetinib) + Zelboraf (vemurafenib) regimen. Please see attached references including the updated survival results from the IMspire150 trial. Please refer to Evolent alternative agents/regimens recommended by Evolent, including but not limited to regimens available at **Evolent Pathways**.

# CONTRAINDICATIONS/WARNINGS

- None

# EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Disease progression on the same regimen or with another combination of a BRAF inhibitor (i.e., encorafenib or dabrafenib) and MEK inhibitor (i.e., binimetinib or trametinib).
- The member has BRAF V600E negative (wild type) melanoma.
- Dosing exceeds the single dose limit of Zelboraf (vemurafenib) 960 mg or daily dose limit of 1,920 mg per day.
- Treatment exceeds the maximum limit of 240 (240 mg) tablets a month.
- Investigational use of Zelboraf (vemurafenib) 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

- J8999 - vemurafenib

## Applicable Lines of Business

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

# POLICY HISTORY

| Date | Summary |
|---|---|
| May 2026 | • Updated references |
| May 2025 | • Converted to new Evolent guideline template<br>• This guideline replaces UM ONC_1207 Zelboraf (vemurafenib)<br>• Updated references |
| May 2024 | • 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.*

# REFERENCES


1. Ascierto PA, et al. Overall survival with first-line atezolizumab in combination with vemurafenib and cobimetinib in BRAF$^{V600}$ mutation-positive advanced melanoma (IMspire150): second interim analysis of a multicentre, randomised, phase 3 study. *Lancet Oncol*. 2023 Jan;24(1):33-44. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(22)00687-8.
2. Gutzmer R, et al. Atezolizumab, vemurafenib, and cobimetinib as first-line treatment for unresectable advanced BRAFV600 mutation-positive melanoma (IMspire150): primary analysis of the randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial. *Lancet*. 2020 Jun 13;395(10240):1835-1844. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30934-X.
3. Zelboraf prescribing information. Genentech USA, Inc. South San Francisco, CA 2020.
4. Clinical Pharmacology Elsevier Gold Standard 2026.
5. Micromedex® Healthcare Series: Micromedex Drugdex Ann Arbor, Michigan 2026.
6. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Cancer Guidelines and Drugs and Biologics Compendium 2026.
7. AHFS Drug Information. American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists or Wolters Kluwer Lexi-Drugs. Bethesda, MD 2026.
8. Ellis LM, et al. American Society of Clinical Oncology perspective: Raising the bar for clinical trials by defining clinically meaningful outcomes. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014 Apr 20;32(12):1277-80.
9. Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 15 Covered Medical and Other Health Services: **https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c15.pdf**.
10. Current and Resolved Drug Shortages and Discontinuations Reported to the FDA: **http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/default.cfm**.