

Drug Policy:

Photofrin™ (porfimer)

POLICY NUMBER UM ONC_1399	SUBJECT Photofrin™ (porfimer)		DEPT/PROGRAM UM Dept	PAGE 1 OF 2
DATES COMMITTEE REVIEWED 05/13/20, 04/14/21	APPROVAL DATE April 14, 2021	EFFECTIVE DATE April 30, 2021	COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATES (latest version listed last) 05/13/20, 04/14/21	
PRIMARY BUSINESS OWNER: UM		COMMITTEE/BOARD APPROVAL Utilization Management Committee		
URAC STANDARDS HUM 1	NCQA STANDARDS UM 2		ADDITIONAL AREAS OF IMPACT	
CMS REQUIREMENTS	STATE/FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS		APPLICABLE LINES OF BUSINESS Commercial, Exchange, Medicaid	

I. PURPOSE

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

New Century Health (NCH) is responsible for processing all medication requests from network ordering providers. Medications not authorized by NCH 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.

II. INDICATIONS FOR USE/INCLUSION CRITERIA

A. PREFERRED MEDICATION GUIDANCE FOR INITIAL REQUEST:

1. When health plan Medicaid coverage provisions—including any applicable PDLs (Preferred Drug Lists)—conflict with the coverage provisions in this drug policy, health plan Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence per the [Preferred Drug Guidelines OR](#)
2. When health plan Exchange coverage provisions-including any applicable PDLs (Preferred Drug Lists)-conflict with the coverage provisions in this drug policy, health plan Exchange coverage provisions take precedence per the [Preferred Drug Guidelines OR](#)

3. For Health Plans that utilize NCH UM Oncology Clinical Policies as the initial clinical criteria, the [Preferred Drug Guidelines](#) shall follow [NCH L1 Pathways](#) when applicable, otherwise shall follow NCH drug policies **AND**
4. Continuation requests of previously approved, non-preferred medication are not subject to this provision **AND**
5. When available, generic alternatives are preferred over brand-name drugs.

B. Basal or Squamous Cell Skin Cancer

1. Photofrin (porfimer) will be used as photodynamic therapy for the following conditions:
 - a. In members with low-risk superficial basal cell skin cancer **AND**
 - b. The member is not a candidate for surgery and radiation therapy **OR**
 - c. In members with actinic keratoses or squamous cell carcinoma in situ (Bowen's disease).

III. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- A. Disease progression while receiving Photofrin (porfimer).
- B. Dosing exceeds single dose limit of Photofrin (porfimer) 2 mg/kg.
- C. Indications not supported by CMS recognized compendia or acceptable peer reviewed literature.

IV. MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

- A. Please refer to the FDA label/package insert for details regarding these topics.

V. APPROVAL AUTHORITY

- A. Review – Utilization Management Department
- B. Final Approval – Utilization Management Committee

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- A. None

VII. REFERENCES

- A. Photofrin PI prescribing information. Pinnacle Biologics, Inc. Bannockburn, IL 2020.
- B. Clinical Pharmacology Elsevier Gold Standard 2021.
- C. Micromedex® Healthcare Series: Thomson Micromedex, Greenwood Village, CO 2021.
- D. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Cancer Guidelines and Drugs and Biologics Compendium. 2021.
- E. AHFS Drug Information. American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists or Wolters Kluwer Lexi-Drugs. Bethesda, MD. 2021.