



# Drug Policy: Onureg™ (azacitidine oral)

<b>POLICY NUMBER</b> UM ONC_1416	<b>SUBJECT</b> Onureg™ (azacitidine oral)		<b>DEPT/PROGRAM</b> UM Dept	<b>PAGE 1 of 3</b>
<b>DATES COMMITTEE REVIEWED</b> 10/14/20, 04/14/21, 09/08/21, 11/15/21, 04/13/22, 05/11/22, 07/13/22, 04/12/23	<b>APPROVAL DATE</b> April 12, 2023	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> April 28, 2023	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATES</b> 10/14/20, 04/14/21, 09/08/21, 11/15/21, 04/13/22, 05/11/22, 07/13/22, 04/12/23	
<b>PRIMARY BUSINESS OWNER: UM</b>		<b>COMMITTEE/BOARD APPROVAL</b> Utilization Management Committee		
<b>URAC STANDARDS</b> HUM v8: UM 1-2; UM 2-1	<b>NCQA STANDARDS</b> UM 2		<b>ADDITIONAL AREAS OF IMPACT</b>	
<b>CMS REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>STATE/FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS</b>		<b>APPLICABLE LINES OF BUSINESS</b> Commercial, Exchange, Medicaid	

## I. PURPOSE

To define and describe the accepted indications for Onureg (azacitidine oral) 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. Continuation requests for a not-approvable medication shall be exempt from this NCH policy provided:

1. The requested medication was used within the last year, AND
2. The member has not experienced disease progression and/or no intolerance to the requested medication, AND
3. Additional medication(s) are not being added to the continuation request.

### B. Acute Myeloid Leukemia

1. Onureg (azacitidine oral) may be used as a single agent as maintenance therapy in members with AML in first complete remission following induction therapy who are unable to receive or are considered clinically unsuitable to receive 3 or more cycles of consolidation therapy after induction and achievement of CR (e.g., HIDAC consolidation).

### III. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- A. Use of Onureg (azacitidine oral) as a substitute for intravenous Vidaza (azacitidine)/Dacogen (decitabine) for the treatment of MDS.
- B. Use of Onureg in members who have completed 3 or more cycles of Cytarabine-based consolidation therapy after achieving a complete remission with induction therapy ( e.g., High Dose Ara-C x 3 or more cycles).
- C. Disease progression while taking Onureg (azacitidine oral) or another hypomethylating agent [e.g. Vidaza (azacitidine) or Dacogen (decitabine)].
- D. Dosing exceeds single dose limit of Onureg (azacitidine oral) 300 mg.
- E. Treatment exceeds the maximum limit of 14 (300 mg) or 14 (200 mg) tablets/month.
- F. Investigational use of Onureg (azacitidine oral) 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:
  1. Whether the clinical characteristics of the patient and the cancer are adequately represented in the published evidence.
  2. Whether the administered chemotherapy/biologic therapy/immune therapy/targeted therapy/other oncologic therapy regimen is adequately represented in the published evidence.
  3. 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.
  4. 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).
  5. 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.
  6. That case reports are generally considered uncontrolled and anecdotal information and do not provide adequate supportive clinical evidence for determining accepted uses of drugs.
  7. 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.

### 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. Wei et al. Updated Results from the Phase 3 QUAZAR AML-001 trial. Blood (2021)138(Supplement1)871. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2021-147501>
- B. Wei AH, et al. QUAZAR AML-001 Clinical Trial. Oral Azacitidine Maintenance Therapy for Acute Myeloid Leukemia in First Remission. N Engl J Med. 2020 Dec 24;383(26):2526-2537.
- C. Onureg prescribing information. Celgene Corporation Summit, NJ 2022.
- D. Clinical Pharmacology Elsevier Gold Standard 2023.
- E. Micromedex® Healthcare Series: Micromedex Drugdex Ann Arbor, Michigan 2023.
- F. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Cancer Guidelines and Drugs and Biologics Compendium 2023.
- G. AHFS Drug Information. American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists or Wolters Kluwer Lexi-Drugs. Bethesda, MD 2022.
- H. 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.
- I. Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 15 Covered Medical and Other Health Services: <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c15.pdf>.
- J. NCQA UM 2023 Standards and Elements.