Clinical Policy: Belatacept (Nulojix)

Reference Number: ERX.SPA.182
Effective Date: 01.11.17
Last Review Date: 11.21
Line of Business: Commercial, Medicaid

Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description
Belatacept (Nulojix®) is a selective T-cell costimulation blocker.

FDA Approved Indication(s)
Nulojix is indicated for prophylaxis of organ rejection in adult patients receiving a kidney transplant. Nulojix is to be used in combination with basiliximab induction, mycophenolate mofetil, and corticosteroids.

Limitation(s) of use:
- Use Nulojix only in patients who are Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) seropositive.
- Use of Nulojix for the prophylaxis of organ rejection in transplanted organs other than kidney has not been established.

Policy/Criteria
Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

Health plan approved formularies should be reviewed for all coverage determinations. Requirements to use preferred alternative agents apply only when such requirements align with the health plan approved formulary.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Envolve Pharmacy Solutions™ that Nulojix is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Kidney Transplant (must meet all)**:**
1. Prescribed for kidney transplant rejection prophylaxis;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a kidney transplant specialist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Request is for use in combination with basiliximab induction, mycophenolate mofetil, and corticosteroids;
5. Member is EBV seropositive;
6. Dose does not exceed the following:
   a. Initial: 10 mg/kg on Day 1 (day of transplantation) and Day 5, end of Week 2, Week 4, Week 8, and Week 12 post-transplantation;
   b. Maintenance: 5 mg/kg at the end of Week 16 post-transplantation and every 4 weeks (± 3 days) thereafter.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications
1. Refer to ERX.PA.01 if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized).

II. Continued Therapy

A. Kidney Transplant (must meet all)**:**
1. Currently receiving medication via a health plan affiliated with Envolve Pharmacy Solutions or member has previously met initial approval criteria;

2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 5 mg/kg per infusion at the end of week 16 (after the first 6 doses) after transplantation and every 4 weeks (± 3 days) thereafter.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**
1. Currently receiving medication via a health plan affiliated with Envolve Pharmacy Solutions and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
   Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or
2. Refer to ERX.PA.01 if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized).

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off-label use policy – ERX.PA.01 or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key
EBV: Epstein-Barr virus
FDA: Food and Drug Administration

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives
This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Simulect® (basiliximab)	20 mg IV within 2 hours prior to transplantation surgery, followed by 20 mg IV 4 days after transplantation	20 mg/dose
mycophenolate mofetil (Cellcept®)	1 g PO BID after transplantation 1 g IV over at least 2 hours BID initiated within 24 hours after transplantation for up to 14 days (recommended for patients unable to take an oral formulation).	3 g/day
corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone, methylprednisolone)	Varies	Varies

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings
- Contraindication(s): transplant recipients who are EBV seronegative or with unknown EBV serostatus due to the risk of post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder, predominantly involving the central nervous system
- Boxed warning(s): post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder, other malignancies, and serious infections

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Prophylaxis of organ rejection in kidney transplant recipients	Dosing for Initial Phase: • Day 1 (day of transplantation, prior to implantation) and Day 5 (approximately 96 hours after Day 1 dose): 10 mg per kg • End of Week 2 and Week 4 after transplantation: 10 mg per kg	10 mg/kg/dose for first 6 doses then 5 mg/kg/dose

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
	• End of Week 8 and Week 12 after transplantation: 10 mg per kg Dosing for Maintenance Phase: End of Week 16 after transplantation and every 4 weeks (plus or minus 3 days) thereafter: 5 mg per kg. The prescribed dose must be evenly divisible by 12.5 mg in order for the dose to be prepared accurately using the reconstituted solution and provided syringe.	

VI. Product Availability

Vial: 250 mg

VII. References

1. Nulojix Prescribing Information. Princeton, New Jersey: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; April 2018. Available at: https://packageinserts.bms.com/pi/pi_nulojix.pdf. Accessed July 2, 2021.
2. Simulect Prescribing Information. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; February 2021. Available at dailymed.nlm.nih.gov. Accessed July 2, 2021.
3. Cellcept Prescribing Information. South San Francisco, CA: Genentech USA, Inc.; December 2019. Available at https://www.gene.com/download/pdf/cellcept_prescribing.pdf. Accessed July 2, 2021.
4. van Gelder T, Hesselink DA. Mycophenolate revisited. Transpl Int. 2015 May;28(5):508-15. doi: 10.1111/tri.12554.
5. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2021. Available at: http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	12.16	01.17
4Q17 Annual Review Converted to new template. Added requirement that Nulojix is prescribed for kidney transplant rejection prophylaxis. Added prescriber specialty. Updated max dose requirement in initial approval criteria to include max dose for maintenance phase. Extended initial approval duration from 3 to 6 months. Re-auth: Added positive response to therapy. Modified max dose requirement from 10 mg/kg to reflect maintenance phase dosing of 5 mg/kg per infusion per PI.	09.25.17	11.17
4Q 2018 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	07.31.18	11.18
4Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	08.08.19	11.19
4Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; Cellcept dosing information adjusted per prescribing information; references reviewed and updated.	08.11.20	11.20
4Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	06.28.21	11.21

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of

physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information.

This Clinical Policy is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine, nor does it constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members.