

**Policy: MBP 235.0**

**Section: Medical Benefit Pharmaceutical Policy**

**Subject: Abecma (idecabtagene vicleucel)**

**I. Policy:**

Abecma (idecabtagene vicleucel)

**II. Purpose/Objective:**

To provide a policy of coverage regarding Abecma (idecabtagene vicleucel)

**III. Responsibility:**

- A. Medical Directors
- B. Medical Management
- C. Pharmacy Department

**IV. Required Definitions**

1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than
3. the department requiring/authoring the policy.
4. Devised – the date the policy was implemented.
5. Revised – the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
6. Reviewed – the date documenting the annual review if the policy has no revisions necessary.

**V. Additional Definitions**

Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

- a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member's condition, illness, disease or injury;
- b. provided for the diagnosis and the direct care and treatment of the Member's condition, illness disease or injury;
- c. in accordance with current standards good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community;
- d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member's Health Care Provider; and
- e. the most appropriate source or level of service that can safely be provided to the Member. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Member requires acute care as an inpatient due to the nature of the services rendered or the Member's condition, and the Member cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient

**Medicaid Business Segment**

Medical Necessity shall mean a service or benefit that is compensable under the Medical Assistance Program and if it meets any one of the following standards:

- (i) the service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition or disability.
- (ii) the service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or development effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
- (iii) the service or benefit will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for members of the same age

**DESCRIPTION:**

Abecma (idecabtagene vicleucel) is a B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA)-directed genetically modified autologous T-cell immunotherapy in which a patient's T-cells are reprogrammed with an anti-BCMA02 chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) lentiviral vector. The CAR construct includes an anti-BCMA single chain variable fragment-targeting domain for antigen specificity, a transmembrane domain, a CD3-zeta T-cell activation domain, and a 4-1BB costimulatory domain. CD3-zeta signaling initiates activation and antitumor activity, while 4-1BB (CD137) signaling enhances T-cell expansion. Antigen-specific activation of idecabtagene vicleucel results in CAR-positive T-cell proliferation, cytokine secretion, and subsequent cytolytic killing of BCMA-expressing cells. Idecabtagene vicleucel is prepared from the patient's T-cells, which are obtained via leukapheresis.

**CRITERIA FOR USE: Requires Prior Authorization by Medical Director or Designee**

Abecma (idecabtagene vicleucel) will be considered medically necessary when all of the following criteria are met:

- Medical record documentation that Abecma is prescribed by a hematologist/oncologist **AND**
- Medical record documentation of age greater than or equal to 18 years **AND**
- Medical record documentation of relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma **AND**
- Medical record documentation of at least four prior lines of therapy, including an immunomodulatory agent, a proteasome inhibitor, and an anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody **AND**
- Medical record documentation that the member has not received prior treatment with CAR-T cell therapy or other genetically modified T cell therapy

**AUTHORIZATION DURATION:** One-time authorization for one administration of Abecma

**LINE OF BUSINESS:**

**Eligibility and contract specific benefit limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supersede this policy.**

This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

**Devised:** 6/18/21

**Revised:**

**Reviewed:**