# Geisinger

Policy: MBP 59.0

Section: Medical Benefit Pharmaceutical Policy

# Subject: White Blood Cell Stimulating Factors

#### Applicable line of business:

Commercial	Х	Medicaid	
Medicare	Х	ACA	Х
CHIP	Х		

#### I. Policy:

White Blood Cell Stimulating Factors

#### II. Purpose/Objective:

To provide a policy of coverage regarding White Blood Cell Stimulating Factors

#### 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 the department requiring/authoring the policy.
- 3. Devised the date the policy was implemented.
- 4. Revised the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
- 5. 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

#### Commercial

Geisinger Health Plan may refer collectively to health care coverage sponsors Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc., and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company, unless otherwise noted. Geisinger Health Plan is part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.

#### Medicare

Geisinger Gold Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO, and HMO D-SNP plans are offered by Geisinger Health Plan/Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company, health plans with a Medicare contract. Continued enrollment in Geisinger Gold depends on contract renewal. Geisinger Health Plan/Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company are part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.

#### CHIP

Geisinger Health Plan Kids (GHP Kids) is a Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) offered by Geisinger Health Plan in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS). Geisinger Health Plan is part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.

# **DESCRIPTION:**

White blood cell stimulating factors such as granulocyte colony stimulating factors (G-CSF) [e.g., Neupogen (*filgrastim*), Neulasta (*pegfilgrastim*), Nivestym (*filgrastim-aafi*), Releuko (*filgrastim-ayow*), Nyvepria (pegfilgrastim-apgf), Fulphila (*pegfilgrastim-jmdb*), Udenyca (*pegfilgrastim-cbqv*), Ziextenzo (*pegfilgrastim-bmez*), Fylnetra (*pegfilgrastim-pbbk*), Stimufend (*pegfilgrastim-fpgk*), Rolvedon (*eflapegrastim-xnst*), Zarxio (*pegfilgrastim-sndz*), and Granix (*tbo-filgrastim*)] and granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF) [e.g., Leukine (*sargramostim*)] are synthetic stimulants and anti-neutropenic agents administered to decrease the incidence and/or severity of infection associated with drug-related myelosuppression and to assist recovery of hematopoietic function in neutropenia.

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

# <u>Neupogen, Neulasta, Nivestym, Fulphila, Udenyca, Ziextenzo, Zarxio, Leukine, Granix,</u> <u>Releuko, Nyvepria, Fylnetra, Stimufend, and Rolvedon</u>:

The use of a white blood cell stimulating factor [Neupogen (filgrastim), Neulasta (pegfilgrastim), Nivestym (filgrastim-aafi), Fulphila (pegfilgrastim-jmdb), Udenyca (pegfilgrastim-cbqv), Granix (tbo-filgrastim), Ziextenzo (pegfilgrastim-bmez), Zarxio (filgrastim-sndz), Releuko (filgrastim-ayow), Nyvepria (pegfilgrastim-apgf), Fylnetra (pegfilgrastim-pbbk), Stimufend (pegfilgrastim-fpgk), Rolvedon (eflapegrastim-xnst), or Leukine (sargramostim)] is considered medically necessary for the commercial, exchange, and CHIP lines of business in insured individuals with a diagnosis of cancer, and when any of the following FDA labeled indications or uses supported by clinical guidelines are present:

**<u>1. Primary Prophylaxis</u>** - the prevention of febrile neutropenia (FN) when the risk of FN due to the myelosuppressive chemotherapy regimen is 20% or greater. Those regimens include but are not limited to:

- TC (paclitaxel/cisplatin, or cyclophosphamide/docetaxel or docetaxel/cisplatin or paclitaxel/carboplatin)
- MVAC (methotrexate, vinblastine, doxorubicin, cisplatin)
- AC (doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, docetaxel)
- AT (doxorubicin, paclitaxel)
- TIC (paclitaxel, ifosfamide, mesna, cisplatin)
- VAPEC-B (vincristine, doxorubicin, prednisolone, etoposide, cyclophosphamide, bleomycin)
- DHAP (dexamethasone, cisplatin, cytarabine)

**NOTE:** Regimens not specified in this document must be listed on a nationally recognized guideline stating risk of FN of greater than 20%.

AND

• For requests for Neulasta/Neulasta Onpro, medical record documentation of a therapeutic failure on, intolerance to, or contraindication to Ziextenzo, Udenyca, Nyvepria, Fylnetra, Stimufend, **AND** Fulphila.

## OR

For the prevention of FN when the risk of developing FN is less than 20%, but any other risk factor listed below is present:

- Age 65 years or greater
- Poor performance status
- Previous history of FN
- Extensive prior radiation or chemotherapy treatment
- Poor nutritional status
- Recent surgery or Open wounds or active infection
- Advanced cancer
- Persistent neutropenia
- Bone marrow involvement by tumor
- Liver dysfunction (bilirubin >2.0)
- Renal dysfunction (CrCl <50)

## AND

 For requests for Neulasta/Neulasta Onpro, medical record documentation of a therapeutic failure on, intolerance to, or contraindication to Ziextenzo, Udenyca, Nyvepria, Fylnetra, Stimufend, AND Fulphila.

<u>Neupogen, Neulasta, Nivestym, Fulphila, Udenyca, Releuko, Nyvepria, Ziextenzo, Zarxio, or Leukine</u>: May also be considered medically necessary for any of the following:

<u>2. Secondary Prophylaxis</u> – prevention of FN when a previous cycle of chemotherapy resulted in a neutropenic complication and for which primary prophylaxis was not received, and a dose reduction will compromise disease-free or overall survival or treatment outcome.

# AND

• For requests for Neulasta/Neulasta Onpro, medical record documentation of a therapeutic failure on, intolerance to, or contraindication to Ziextenzo, Udenyca, Nyvepria, Fylnetra, Stimufend, **AND** Fulphila.

**<u>3. Treatment of Febrile Neutropenia</u>** - as an adjunct to antibiotics in high-risk individuals with FN who are at high risk for infection related complications or when **any** of the following prognostic factors are documented:

- Age 65 years or greater
- Anticipated prolonged and profound neutropenia
- Uncontrolled primary disease
- Pneumonia
- Invasive fungal infection
- Hypotension
- Multi-organ dysfunction
- Hospitalized at the time of development of the fever

# AND

• For requests for Neulasta/Neulasta Onpro, medical record documentation of a therapeutic failure on, intolerance to, or contraindication to Ziextenzo, Udenyca, Fylnetra, Stimufend, **AND** Fulphila.

<u>**4.** Dose Dense Therapy</u> – specifically in the treatment of node positive breast cancer, small cell lung cancer, and diffuse aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

AND

• For requests for Neulasta/Neulasta Onpro, medical record documentation of a therapeutic failure on, intolerance to, or contraindication to Ziextenzo, Udenyca, Nyvepria, Fylnetra, Stimufend, **AND** Fulphila.

# 5. Stem Cell Transplantation- when one of the following is met:

- Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT)
  - Documentation of a non-myeloid malignancy undergoing myeloablative chemotherapy followed by autologous or allogenic bone marrow transplant (G-CSF is given after BMT)

OR

- Peripheral Blood Progenitor Cell (Mobilization)Transplant (PBPC)
  - Used for mobilization of autologous hematopoietic progenitor cells into the peripheral blood for collection by leukapheresis. (G-CSF is given prior to and throughout leukapheresis)

# AND

• For requests for Neulasta/Neulasta Onpro, medical record documentation of a therapeutic failure on, intolerance to, or contraindication to Ziextenzo, Udenyca, Nyvepria, Fylnetra, Stimufend, **AND** Fulphila.

Note: Neulasta, Udenyca, Ziextenzo, Nyvepria, Fylnetra, Stimufend, and Fulphila are considered off-label for PBPC mobilization. Rolvedon is not indicated for PBPC mobilization.

**<u>6. Leukemia or Myelodysplastic Syndromes</u> – insured individuals with any of the following conditions:** 

- Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) receiving induction or consolidation chemotherapy
- Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) after completion of the first few days of chemotherapy of the initial induction
  or the first post-remission course
- Myelodysplastic syndrome with less than 15% blasts in the bone marrow, or recurrent neutropenic infections are experienced.
  - AND
- For requests for Neulasta/Neulasta Onpro, medical record documentation of a therapeutic failure on, intolerance to, or contraindication to Ziextenzo, Udenyca, Fylnetra, Stimufend, **AND** Fulphila.

**<u>7. Lymphoma</u>** – Age 65 years or greater treated with curative chemotherapy, e.g., CHOP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone)

AND

• For requests for Neulasta/Neulasta Onpro, medical record documentation of a therapeutic failure on, intolerance to, or contraindication to Ziextenzo, Udenyca, Nyvepria, Fylnetra, Stimufend, **AND** Fulphila.

# 8. Radiation therapy - with any of the following conditions

- If prolonged delays secondary to neutropenia are anticipated.
- As treatment for radiation injury secondary to doses of 3-10 Grays (Gy) or greater

AND

• For requests for Neulasta/Neulasta Onpro, medical record documentation of a therapeutic failure on, intolerance to, or contraindication to Ziextenzo, Udenyca, Nyvepria, **AND** Fulphila.

Note: Fulphila, Fylnetra, Stimufend, and Nyvepria are not indicated for radiation injury syndrome; however, the biosimilars are considered medically accepted for this indication by the NCCN guidelines.

Note: Rolvedon is not indicated for radiation injury syndrome.

Neupogen, Nivestym, Releuko, and Zarxio: May also be considered medically necessary for the following:

#### 9. Severe Chronic Neutropenia – when the following criteria are met

- Diagnosis of Congenital, Cyclic, or Idiopathic Neutropenia AND
- Documentation of an Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC) <500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> on three separate occasions during a 6 month period (for Congenital or Idiopathic Neutropenia) OR five consecutive days of ANC <500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> per cycle (for Cyclic Neutropenia) AND
- Documentation that the member experienced a clinically significant infection, fever, or oropharyngeal ulcer during the past 12 months.

Leukine: May also be considered medically necessary for the following:

#### 10. Delayed Neutrophil Recovery or Graft Failure

• Medical record documentation that the member has had an allogeneic or autologous bone marrow transplant and neutrophil recovery\* has not occurred.

\*Note to reviewer: Neutrophil engraftment is defined as the first day of three consecutive days where the neutrophil count (ANC) is 500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> or greater.

**AUTHORIZATION:** When approved, the duration of the authorization will be for 6 months.

#### **QUANTITY LIMITS:**

- Ziextenzo: Facets RX Count: 144 (Q5120 Units), QL: 0.043mL per day (1 syringe per 14 days)
- Udenyca: Facets RX Count: 144 (Q5111 Units), QL: 0.043mL per day (1 syringe per 14 days)
- Fulphila: Facets RX Count: 144 (Q5108 Units), QL: 0.043mL per day (1 syringe per 14 days)
- Nyvepria: Facets RX Count: 144 (Q5122 Units), QL: 0.043 ML per day (1 syringe per 14 days)
- Fylnetra: Facets RX Count: 144 (Q5130 Units), QL: 0.043 ML per day (1 syringe per 14 days)
- Stimufend: Facets RX Count: 144 (Q5127 Units), QL: 0.043 ML per day (1 syringe per 14 days)
- Rolvedon: Facets RX Count: 1584 (J1449 Units), QL: 0.043 ML per day (1 syringe per 14 days)
- Neulasta/Neulasta Onpro: Facets RX Count: 144 (J2506 Units), QL: 0.043mL per day (1 syringe per 14 days)

**EXCLUSIONS:** There is insufficient evidence in the published, peer reviewed medical literature to clearly establish that the use of colony stimulating factors (CSF) improves the health outcomes in any of the following indications. The use of CSF's for the following indications is considered not medically necessary and are **NOT COVERED:** 

- Routine use as prophylaxis on most chemotherapy regimens; or
- Use as prophylaxis during chemotherapy regimens with a febrile neutropenia risk of less than 20% and no high risk for complications; or
- Use in insured members who are neutropenic but afebrile and not meeting any of the above criteria; or
- Use as an adjunct to antibiotics in uncomplicated febrile neutropenia; or use in relapsed or refractory myeloid leukemia; or
- Use in chemo-sensitization of myeloid leukemias; or
- Use prior to or concurrent with chemotherapy for acute myeloid leukemia; or
- Use prior to or concurrently with chemotherapy for "priming" effect; or
- Use to allow an increase in the dose-intensity of cytotoxic chemotherapy beyond the established dose ranges for these regimens; or
- Use during concomitant chemotherapy and radiation therapy; or
- Continued use if no response is seen within 45 days.

The use of a white blood cell stimulating factor [Neupogen (filgrastim), Neulasta (pegfilgrastim), Nivestym (filgrastim-aafi), Fulphila (pegfilgrastim-jmdb), Udenyca (pegfilgrastim-cbqv), Granix (tbo-filgrastim), Ziextenzo (pegfilgrastim-bmez), Zarxio (filgrastim-sndz), Releuko (filgrastim-ayow), Nyvepria (pegfilgrastim-apgf), Fylnetra (pegfilgrastim-pbbk), Stimufend (pegfilgrastim-fpgk), Rolvedon (eflapegrastim-xnst), or Leukine (sargramostim)] is considered medically necessary for the Medicare line of business in insured individuals with a diagnosis of cancer, and when any of the following FDA labeled indications or uses supported by clinical guidelines are present:

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**NOTE:** Regimens not specified in this document must be listed on a nationally recognized guideline stating risk of FN of greater than 20%.

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For the prevention of FN when the risk of developing FN is less than 20%, but any other risk factor listed below is present:

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- Liver dysfunction (bilirubin >2.0)
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<u>Neupogen, Neulasta, Nivestym, Fulphila, Udenyca, Releuko, Nyvepria, Ziextenzo, Zarxio, Fylnetra, Stimufend,</u> <u>Rolvedon, or Leukine</u>: May also be considered medically necessary for any of the following:

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<u>3. Treatment of Febrile Neutropenia</u> - as an adjunct to antibiotics in high-risk individuals with FN who are at high risk for infection related complications or when <u>any</u> of the following prognostic factors are documented:

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**<u>7. Lymphoma</u>** – Age 65 years or greater treated with curative chemotherapy, e.g., CHOP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone)

# 8. Radiation therapy – with any of the following conditions

- If prolonged delays secondary to neutropenia are anticipated.
- As treatment for radiation injury secondary to doses of 3-10 Grays (Gy) or greater

Note: Fulphila, Fylnetra, Stimufend, and Nyvepria are not indicated for radiation injury syndrome; however, the biosimilars are considered medically accepted for this indication by the NCCN guidelines.

Note: Rolvedon is not indicated for radiation injury syndrome.

# Neupogen, Nivestym, Releuko, and Zarxio: May also be considered medically necessary for the following:

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- Documentation that the member experienced a clinically significant infection, fever, or oropharyngeal ulcer during the past 12 months.

Leukine: May also be considered medically necessary for the following:

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\*Note to reviewer: Neutrophil engraftment is defined as the first day of three consecutive days where the neutrophil count (ANC) is 500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> or greater.

**AUTHORIZATION:** When approved, the duration of the authorization will be for 6 months.

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- Stimufend: Facets RX Count: 144 (Q5127 Units), 1 syringe per 14 days
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**EXCLUSIONS:** There is insufficient evidence in the published, peer reviewed medical literature to clearly establish that the use of colony stimulating factors (CSF) improves the health outcomes in any of the following indications. The use of CSF's for the following indications is considered not medically necessary and are **NOT COVERED**:

- Routine use as prophylaxis on most chemotherapy regimens; or
- Use as prophylaxis during chemotherapy regimens with a febrile neutropenia risk of less than 20% and no high risk for complications; or
- Use in insured members who are neutropenic but afebrile and not meeting any of the above criteria; or
- Use as an adjunct to antibiotics in uncomplicated febrile neutropenia; or use in relapsed or refractory myeloid leukemia; or
- Use in chemo-sensitization of myeloid leukemias; or
- Use prior to or concurrent with chemotherapy for acute myeloid leukemia; or
- Use prior to or concurrently with chemotherapy for "priming" effect; or
- Use to allow an increase in the dose-intensity of cytotoxic chemotherapy beyond the established dose ranges for these regimens; or
- Use during concomitant chemotherapy and radiation therapy; or
- Continued use if no response is seen within 45 days.

#### 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.

#### **REFERENCES:**

- 1. Neupogen [prescribing information]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen; April 2023.
- 2. Neulasta [prescribing information]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen Inc; February 2021.
- 3. Nivestym [prescribing information]. Lake Forest, IL: Hospira Inc; February 2024.
- 4. Fulphila [prescribing information]. Morgantown, WV: Mylan Pharmaceuticals Inc; October 2021.
- 5. Udenyca [prescribing information]. Redwood City, CA: Coherus BioSciences, Inc; December 2023.
- 6. Ziextenzo [prescribing information]. Princeton, NJ: Sandoz Inc; February 2024 2021.
- 7. Zarxio (filgrastim-sndz) [prescribing information]. Princeton, NJ: Sandoz Inc; August 2024.
- 8. Leukine [prescribing information]. Lexington, MA: Partner Therapeutics; May 2022.
- 9. Granix [prescribing information]. North Wales, PA: Teva Pharmaceuticals USA Inc; November 2023.
- 10. Releuko [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC; September 2023.
- 11. Nyvepria [prescribing information]. Lake Forest, IL: Hospira Inc; March 2023.
- 12. Fylnetra [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Amneal Pharmaceuticals Inc; May 2022.
- 13. Stimufend [prescribing information]. Lake Zurich, IL: Fresenius Kabi USA LLC; September 2023.
- 14. Rolvedon [prescribing information]. Irvine, CA: Spectrum Pharmaceuticals Inc; June 2023.
- 15. Myelodysplastic Syndromes Version 3.2024. National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN); 2024 Jul 25 [cited 2024 Sep 12]. Available from: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\_gls/pdf/mds.pdf
- 16. Hematopoietic Growth Factors Version 3.2024. National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN); 2024 Jan 30 [cited 2024 Sep 12]. Available from: <u>https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\_gls/pdf/growthfactors.pdf</u>

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

#### Devised: 12/18/07

**Revised:** 1/13; 7/14(add drug and auth info), 3/24/15 (formatting), 11/17/15 (added Zarxio), 5/15/18 (chronic neutropenia), 9/18/18 (Leukine), 11/20/18 (Fulphila), 1/15/19 (removed ANCVB), 3/19/19 (Nivestym), 5/21/19 (Udenyca), 7/21/20 (Ziextenzo), 6/8/22 (Neulasta Jcode and Facets count), 7/19/22 (Nyvepria & Releuko), 7/12/23 (LOB carve out, Medicaid business segment), 9/19/23 (Udenyca HSARS [April 2023 P&T], Fylnetra, Stimufend, Rolvedon), 12/31/23 (references added), 9/12/24 (deleted Darwin/Ziextenzo from note, deleted Medicaid business segment, LOB table, taglines)

Reviewed: 3/24/15 (formatting), 9/28/16, 7/31/17, 2/1/20, 6/9/21 (formatting)

## MA UM Committee approval: 12/31/23