

Clinical Policy: Everolimus (Afinitor, Afinitor Disperz)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.63

Effective Date: 06.01.11

Last Review Date: 02.18

Line of Business: Commercial, Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Everolimus (Afinitor[®], Afinitor Disperz[®]) is a kinase inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Afinitor is indicated:

- For the treatment of adult patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC) after failure of treatment with sunitinib or sorafenib.
- For the treatment of adult patients with progressive neuroendocrine tumors of pancreatic origin (PNET) and adults with progressive, well-differentiated, non-functional neuroendocrine tumors (NET) of gastrointestinal (GI) or lung origin that are unresectable, locally advanced or metastatic.
- For the treatment of adult patients with renal angiomyolipoma and tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC), not requiring immediate surgery.
- For the treatment of postmenopausal women with advanced hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer (advanced HR+ BC) in combination with exemestane after failure of treatment with letrozole (Femara) or anastrozole (Arimidex).

Afinitor and Afinitor Disperz are indicated:

- For the treatment of pediatric and adult patients with tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) who have subependymal giant cell astrocytoma (SEGA) that requires therapeutic intervention but cannot be curatively resected.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (which may include office chart notes and lab results) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation[®] that Afinitor and Afinitor Disperz are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Breast Cancer (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of breast cancer;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Disease is hormone-receptor positive and Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative;
4. Disease is recurrent or metastatic;

5. Failure of a trial of a nonsteroidal aromatase inhibitor anastrozole (Arimidex[®]) or letrozole (Femara[®]) (at up to maximally indicated doses) unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Prescribed in combination with exemestane (Aromasin);
7. Dose does not exceed 10 mg/day.

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 6 months

Commercial – Length of Benefit

B. Neuroendocrine Tumor (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of NET of one of the following origins:
 - a. Pancreatic;
 - b. GI tract;
 - c. Lung;
 - d. Thymus (off-label)
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Disease is unresectable, locally advanced or metastatic;
4. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Dose does not exceed 10 mg/day;
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 6 months

Commercial – Length of Benefit

C. Renal Cell Carcinoma (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of advanced (relapsed or surgically unresectable stage IV disease) RCC;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Meets a or b:
 - a. For RCC with predominant clear cell histology both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Failure of a trial of one of the following, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced: Sutent, Votrient, Inlyta, Avastin in combination with Intron-A, Proleukin, Cabometyx, or Torisel;
 - ii. Failure of a trial of Opdivo* or Cabometyx* (if not previously used as first-line therapy), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
**Prior authorization is required for Opdivo and Cabometyx*
 - b. RCC with non-clear cell histology (off-label);
4. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Dose does not exceed 10 mg/day;
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 6 months

Commercial – Length of Benefit

D. Renal Angiomyolipoma (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of renal angiomyolipoma and TSC, not requiring immediate surgery;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Dose does not exceed 10 mg/day.

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 6 months

Commercial – Length of Benefit

E. Subependymal Giant Cell Astrocytoma (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of SEGA associated with tuberous sclerosis;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Member is not a candidate for curative surgical resection;
4. Dose does not exceed 10 mg/day.

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 6 months

Commercial – Length of Benefit

F. NCCN Compendium Indications (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Confirmed diagnosis of one of the following:
 - a. Hodgkins Lymphoma;
 - b. Soft Tissue Sarcoma:
 - i. Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors (GIST): Prescribed in combination with either imatinib, sunitinib, or regorafenib for disease progression after single-agent therapy with imatinib, sunitinib, and regorafenib
 - ii. PEComa/Recurrent Angiomyolipoma/Lymphangiomyomatosis;
 - c. Thymomas and Thymic Carcinomas (second line therapy as a single agent);
 - d. Thyroid Carcinoma – follicular carcinoma, Hurthle cell carcinoma, papillary carcinoma;
 - e. Waldenstrom’s Macroglobulinemia/Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma (for previously treated disease that does not respond to primary therapy or for progressive or relapsed disease);
 - f. Osteosarcoma (second-line in combination with sorafenib);
 - g. Endometrial carcinoma (in combination with letrozole);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Dose does not exceed 10 mg/day;
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 6 months

Commercial – Length of Benefit

G. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. All Indications in Section I (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Afinitor or Afinitor Disperz and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy (e.g., no disease progression or unacceptable toxicity);
3. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. New dose does not exceed 10 mg/day;
 - b. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration:

Medicaid – 12 months

Commercial – Length of Benefit

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.

Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or

2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

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 policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

GI: gastrointestinal

GIST: gastrointestinal stromal tumor

HER-2: human epidermal growth factor receptor-2

HR: hormone receptor

NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network

NET: neuroendocrine tumors

PEComa: perivascular epitheloid cell tumor

PNET: progressive neuroendocrine tumors

RCC: renal cell carcinoma

SEGA: subependymal giant cell astrocytoma

TSC: tuberous sclerosis complex

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 for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Letrozole (Femara®)	Breast Cancer 2.5 mg PO QD	2.5 mg/day
Anastrozole (Arimidex®)	Breast Cancer 1 mg PO QD	1 mg/day
Sutent (sunitinib)	Advanced RCC: 50 mg PO QD for 4 weeks followed by 2 weeks off. Advanced PNET: 37.5 mg PO QD Dose increase or reduction of 12.5 mg increments is recommended based on individual safety and tolerability.	Advanced RCC: 87.5 mg/day Advanced PNET: 62.5 mg/day Treatment continues until no longer clinically beneficial or unacceptable toxicity occurs.
Votrient (pazopanib)	Advanced RCC: 800 mg PO QD	Advanced RCC: 800 mg/day Treatment continues until no longer clinically beneficial or until unacceptable toxicity occurs.
Inlyta (axitinib)	Advanced RCC: 5 mg PO BID	Advanced RCC: 10 mg PO BID Treatment continues until no longer clinically beneficial or unacceptable toxicity occurs.
Torisel (temsirolimus)	Advanced RCC: 25 mg IV infused over 30-60 minutes once a week.	Advanced RCC: 50 mg/week Treatment continues until no longer clinically beneficial or unacceptable toxicity occurs.
Avastin (bevacizumab) in combination with Intron A (interferon alfa- 2b)	Advanced RCC: 10 mg/kg IV infused over 60-90 minutes every 2 weeks in combination with interferon alfa 3 million IU SC/IM 5 times per week up to 36 million IU SC/IM 3 times per week	Advanced RCC: 15 mg/kg every 3 weeks or 10 mg/kg every 2 weeks in combination with interferon alfa 20 million IU/m ² /day IV; 35 million IU/m ² /dose SC/IM
Proleukin	Advanced RCC:	Advanced RCC:

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
(aldesleukin, rIL-2)	600,000 IU/kg IV Q8 hrs for 14 doses, repeat after a rest period of 9 days	600,000 IU/kg IV Q8 hrs; 18 million IU/m ² /day IV has been used off-label for RCC
Cabometyx (cabozantinib)	Advanced RCC: 60 mg PO QD	Advanced RCC: 80 mg/day
Opdivo (nivolumab)	Advanced RCC: 240 mg IV every 2 weeks	Advanced RCC: 240 mg IV every 2 weeks

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: General Information

- Advanced renal cell carcinoma includes relapsed disease or Stage IV and medically or surgically unresectable disease.
- Use in metastatic breast cancer in combination with Aromasin (a steroidal aromatase inactivator) after failure of a nonsteroidal aromatase inhibitor (such as Arimidex or Femara) is a category 2A recommendation per NCCN compendium.
- Hodgkins Lymphoma, Soft Tissue Sarcoma - Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors (GIST), PEComa/Recurrent Angiomyolipoma/Lymphangiomyomatosis, Thymomas and Thymic Carcinomas (second line therapy as a single agent), Waldenstrom’s Macroglobulinemia/Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma (for previously treated disease that does not respond to primary therapy or for progressive or relapsed disease), Osteosarcoma (second-line in combination with sorafenib), and Endometrial carcinoma (in combination with letrozole) are category 2A recommendations per NCCN compendium.
- NCCN recommends patients should receive Opdivo (nivolumab) and Cabometyx (cabozantinib) over Afinitor for subsequent therapy in renal cell carcinoma, predominant clear cell histology as clinical trial evidence demonstrated increased overall survival (OS) over Afinitor (median OS 21.4 vs. 16.5 months [Cabometyx vs Afinitor, HR. 0.66; 95% CI, 0.53, 0.83]; 25.0 vs 19.6 months [Opdivo vs. Afinitor, HR 0.73, p=0.002]).

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
PNET, NET, RCC, breast cancer, renal angiomyolipoma, Hodgkins lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, thymomas and thymic carcinomas, Waldenstrom’s macroglobulinemia/	10 mg PO QD If strong inducers of CYP3A4 are required, increase dose in 5 mg increments to a maximum of 20 mg PO QD.	10 mg/day

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma, osteosarcoma, endometrial carcinoma		
SEGA	4.5 mg/m ² PO QD; adjust dose to attain trough concentrations of 5-15 ng/mL. If strong inducers of CYP3A4 are required, double the Afinitor dose.	10 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Afinitor	Tablet: 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 7.5 mg and 10 mg
Afinitor Disperz	Tablet for oral suspension: 2 mg, 3 mg, 5 mg

VII. References

1. Afinitor Prescribing Information. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; September 2017. Available at: <https://www.pharma.us.novartis.com/files/afinitor.pdf>. Accessed November 9, 2017.
2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Kidney Cancer Version 1.2018. Available at: http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/kidney.pdf. Accessed November 9, 2017.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Neuroendocrine Tumors Version 3.2017. Available at: http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/neuroendocrine.pdf. Accessed November 9, 2017.
4. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Breast Cancer Version 2.2017. Available at: http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/breast.pdf. Accessed November, 9, 2017.
5. Everolimus. In: National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at www.nccn.org. Accessed November 9, 2017.
6. Yao, JC, Fazio N, Singh S, et al. Everolimus for the treatment of advanced, non-functional neuroendocrine tumours of the lung or gastrointestinal tract (RADIANT-4): a randomised, placebo-controlled, phase 3 study. Lancet. 2015 Dec 15. pii: S0140-6736(15)00817-X. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(15)00817-X. [Epub ahead of print].

Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J7527	Everolimus, oral, 0.25mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Added efficacy data; corrected algorithm to match FDA indication for MBC, PNET, and SEGA. Removed Votrient from RCC failure question.	06.14	07.14
Edited FDA indications Edited algorithm to include both Afinitor and Afinitor Disperz, and the pediatric population for SEGA. Also changed initial approval periods from 6 months to 3 months for initial auths. Edited background & safety	05.15	05.15
Policy converted to new template; Added maximum dose and contraindications per PI; For breast cancer: added definition for advanced breast cancer; added that Afinitor may be used in after previous treatment with tamoxifen to comply with NCCN recommendation for use; For RCC, added definition for advanced RCC References updated	04.16	05.16
NCCN and FDA uses separated in criteria sets; dosing removed if NCCN uses added. NET: “Non-functional” designation removed for NET of GI and lung origin; the term “locally advanced” is incorporated into recurrent, unresectable or metastatic. RCC: The term “advanced” RCC is restated as recurrent, unresectable or metastatic. The term “unless contraindicated” is removed from “failed sunitinib or sorafenib treatment.” Safety information removed. Approval durations lengthened to 6 and 12 months.	04.17	05.17
Added thyroid carcinoma as an NCCN compendium supported use.	06.14.17	11.17
1Q18 annual review: - Combined Medicaid and Commercial policies - Removed dose form requirement by indication, no clinical difference expected (dosing is equivalent for SEGA indication) - For RCC, included list of first line therapies per NCCN guidelines. - For breast cancer, removed compendium supported use after tamoxifen as this was removed from the 1.2017 NCCN guideline update. - Added the following off-label NCCN compendium supported uses: GIST, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma, osteosarcoma, endometrial carcinoma. - References reviewed and updated.	11.09.17	02.18

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. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. 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. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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Note:

For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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