Clinical Policy: Belatacept (Nulojix)

Reference Number: LA.PHAR.201
Effective Date: 09.15.22
Last Review Date: 09.21.26
Line of Business: Medicaid

Coding Implications
Revision Log

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

****Please note: This policy is for medical benefit****

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.

It is the policy of Louisiana Healthcare Connections 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 both of the following (a and b):
   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: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**
1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to LA.PMN.255.
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy LA.PMN.53.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Kidney Transplant (must meet all)**:**
1. Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connections benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Nulojix for a covered indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
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. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to LA.PMN.255.
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy LA.PMN.53.

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 – LA.PMN.53.

IV. Appendices/General Information

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

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives
Not applicable

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 IV • End of Week 2 and Week 4 after transplantation: 10 mg per kg IV • End of Week 8 and Week 12 after transplantation: 10 mg per kg IV Dosing for Maintenance Phase: End of Week 16 after transplantation and every 4 weeks (plus or minus 3 days) thereafter: 5 mg per kg IV 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.	10 mg/kg/dose for first 6 doses then 5 mg/kg/dose

VI. Product Availability

Vial: 250 mg

VII. References

1. Nulojix Prescribing Information. Princeton, New Jersey: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; July 2021. Available at:https://packageinserts.bms.com/pi/pi_nulojix.pdf. Accessed August 17, 2026.
2. Van Gelder T, Hesselink DA. Mycophenolate revisited. Transpl Int. 2015 May;28(5):508-15. doi: 10.1111/tri.12554.
3. Malhotra D, Jethwani P. Preventing Rejection of the Kidney Transplant. J Clin Med. 2023;12(18):5938.
4. Breda A, Budde K, Figueiredo A, et al. European Association of Urology Guidelines on renal transplantation. 2026. Available at: https://uroweb.org/guidelines/renal-transplantation. Accessed August 17, 2026.

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
J0485	Injection, belatacept, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	LDH Approval Date
Converted corporate to local policy.	09.22	09.15.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section. References reviewed and updated. Added verbiage this policy is for medical benefit only.	06.02.23	10.05.23
Annual review: no significant changes; COC applied as a transplant-related indication in continued therapy section; references reviewed and updated.	04.15.24	07.10.24
4Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	12.02.24	02.24.25
Annual review: revised initial approval durations to 12 months; references reviewed and updated	11.20.25	04.08.26
Annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	09.21.26	N/A, no material revisions

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. LHCC 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.

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