

Clinical Policy: Brentuximab Vedotin (Adcetris)

Reference Number: LA.PHAR.303

Effective Date: 07.23.22

Last Review Date: 04.28.25

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

Brentuximab vedotin for injection (Adcetris®) is a CD30-directed antibody and microtubule inhibitor drug conjugate.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Adcetris is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with:

- Classical Hodgkin lymphoma:
 - Previously untreated Stage III or IV classical Hodgkin lymphoma (cHL), in combination with doxorubicin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine
 - cHL at high risk of relapse or progression as post-autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (auto-HSCT) consolidation
 - cHL after failure of auto-HSCT or after failure of at least two prior multi-agent chemotherapy regimens in patients who are not auto-HSCT candidates
- T-cell lymphomas:
 - Previously untreated systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma (sALCL) or other CD30-expressing peripheral T-cell lymphomas (PTCL), including angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma and PTCL not otherwise specified, in combination with cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, and prednisone
 - sALCL after failure of at least one prior multi-agent chemotherapy regimen
- Primary cutaneous lymphomas:
 - Primary cutaneous anaplastic large cell lymphoma (pcALCL) or CD30-expressing mycosis fungoides (MF) who have received prior systemic therapy
- B-cell lymphoma:
 - Relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma (LBCL), including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified (NOS), DLBCL arising from indolent lymphoma, or high-grade B-cell lymphoma (HGBL), after two or more lines of systemic therapy who are not eligible for auto-HSCT or chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, in combination with lenalidomide and a rituximab product

Adcetris is indicated for the treatment of pediatric patients 2 years old and older with:

- Classical Hodgkin lymphoma:
 - Previously untreated high risk cHL, in combination with doxorubicin, vincristine, etoposide, prednisone, and cyclophosphamide

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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 Adcetris is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Classical Hodgkin Lymphoma in Adults (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of cHL;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years*;
* If age is between 2 to 21 years, consider using I.B cHL in Pediatric and Adolescent Patients below.
4. If previously untreated disease, prescribed in one of the following ways (a, b, or c):
 - a. In combination with AVD (doxorubicin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine);
 - b. For age > 60 years: In combination with dacarbazine;
 - c. For stage III-IV disease and age 18-61 years: As a component of BrECADD (brentuximab vedotin, etoposide, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, dacarbazine, dexamethasone);
5. If relapsed or refractory disease, prescribed in one of the following ways (a-e):
 - a. As a single agent;
 - b. In combination with bendamustine;
 - c. In combination with ICE (ifosfamide, carboplatin, etoposide);
 - d. In combination with nivolumab;
 - e. Following high-dose therapy and autologous stem cell rescue;
6. Request meets one of the following (a or b):**
 - a. Dose does not exceed (i, ii, or iii):
 - i. Previously untreated Stage III or IV cHL: 1.2 mg/kg up to 120 mg every 2 weeks for a maximum of 12 doses;
 - ii. cHL consolidation: 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks for a maximum of 16 cycles;
 - iii. Relapsed cHL: 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks;
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Classical Hodgkin Lymphoma in Pediatric and Adolescent Patients (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of cHL;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Age between 2 years to 21 years;
4. One of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. If previously untreated: Prescribed as a component of Bv-AVE-PC (brentuximab vedotin, doxorubicin, vincristine, etoposide, prednisone, cyclophosphamide) or AEPA (brentuximab vedotin, etoposide, prednisone, doxorubicin);

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- b. If following AEPA: Prescribed as a component of CAPDAC (cyclophosphamide, brentuximab vedotin, prednisone, dacarbazine);
- c. For relapsed or refractory disease (i or ii):
 - i. Prescribed in combination with involved-site radiation therapy (ISRT) or bendamustine/nivolumab/gemcitabine;
 - ii. Prescribed following high-dose therapy and autologous stem cell rescue;
- 5. For all requests except when prescribed in combination with ISRT or bendamustine/nivolumab/gemcitabine: Disease is classified as high risk (*see Appendix D*);
- 6. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. Dose does not exceed: 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks for a maximum of 5 doses;
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration: 6 months

C. T-Cell Lymphomas (must meet all):

- 1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a, b, c, d, or e):
 - a. PTCL - any of the following subtypes/histologies (i or ii):
 - i. sALCL;
 - ii. PTCL, including but not limited to the following (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5):
 - 1) Angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma;
 - 2) Enteropathy-associated T-cell lymphoma;
 - 3) Monomorphic epitheliotropic intestinal T-cell lymphoma;
 - 4) Nodal PTCL with TFH phenotype;
 - 5) Follicular T-cell lymphoma;
 - b. Breast implant-associated ALCL (off-label);
 - c. Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (off-label);
 - d. Relapsed or refractory extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma (off-label);
 - e. Hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma (off-label);
- 2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
- 3. Age \geq 18 years;
- 4. For all requests except ALCL: Disease is CD30-positive;
- 5. Prescribed in one of the following ways (a, b, or c):
 - a. As a single agent;
 - b. In combination with CHP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, prednisone);
 - c. For PTCL, breast implant-associated ALCL, or hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma only: In combination with bendamustine for relapsed/refractory disease;
- 6. Request meets one of the following (a, b, or c):*
 - a. Previously untreated sALCL or other CD30-positive PTCL including angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma: Dose does not exceed 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks with each cycle of chemotherapy for 6 to 8 doses;
 - b. Relapsed sALCL: Dose does not exceed 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks;

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- c. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration: 6 months

D. Primary Cutaneous CD30+ T-Cell Lymphoproliferative Disorders (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. pcALCL;
 - b. Cutaneous ALCL with multifocal lesions or lymph node positive (off-label);
 - c. Lymphomatoid papulosis - as subsequent therapy for relapsed/refractory disease (off-label);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Disease is CD30-positive;
5. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. Relapsed pcALCL: Dose does not exceed 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks for a maximum of 16 cycles;
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration: 6 months

E. Mycosis Fungoides/Sezary Syndrome (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of MF or Sezary syndrome (off-label);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Prescribed as a single agent, in combination with skin-directed therapy, or in combination with bendamustine;
5. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. Relapsed CD30-positive MF: Dose does not exceed 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks for a maximum of 16 cycles;
 - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration: 6 months

F. B-Cell Lymphomas (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a, b, c, d, or e):
 - a. LBCL;
 - b. DLBCL;
 - c. HGBL;
 - d. HIV-related B-cell lymphoma (off-label);
 - e. Monomorphic post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder (PTLD) (B-cell type) (off-label);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;

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3. One of the following (a or b):
 - a. Age \geq 18 years and is prescribed in one of the following ways (i, ii, iii, or iv):
 - i. In combination with lenalidomide and rituximab;
 - ii. In combination with rituximab (off-label);
 - iii. In combination with nivolumab (off-label);
 - iv. As a single agent (off-label);
 - b. Age < 18 years (off-label) and both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Disease is primary mediastinal LBCL;
 - ii. Prescribed in combination with nivolumab or pembrolizumab;
4. Disease is CD30-positive;
5. Disease is relapsed or refractory;
6. Adcetris is prescribed as subsequent therapy;
7. Member is not a candidate for allogeneic, autologous stem cell transplant, or CAR T-cell therapy;
8. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. LBCL: Dose does not exceed 1.2 mg/kg up to 120 mg every 3 weeks;
 - b. Dose is within FDA maximum limit for any FDA-approved indication or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).*

*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN

Approval duration: 6 months

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

1. Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connection benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Adcetris 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, request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. New dose does not exceed (i-ix):
 - i. Previously untreated Stage III or IV cHL in adults: 1.2 mg/kg up to 120 mg every 2 weeks for a maximum of 12 doses;
 - ii. Previously untreated high risk cHL in pediatric and adolescent patients: 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks for a maximum of 5 doses;
 - iii. cHL consolidation in adults: 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks for a maximum of 16 cycles;
 - iv. Relapsed cHL in adults: 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks;

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- v. Previously untreated sALCL or other CD30-positive PTCL including angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma in adults: 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks with each cycle of chemotherapy for 6 to 8 doses;
- vi. Relapsed sALCL in adults: 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks;
- vii. Relapsed pcALCL in adults: 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks for a maximum of 16 cycles;
- viii. Relapsed CD30-positive MF in adults: 1.8 mg/kg up to 180 mg every 3 weeks for a maximum of 16 cycles;
- ix. LBCL: 1.2 mg/kg up to 120 mg every 3 weeks;
- b. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

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

CAR: chimeric antigen receptor
 cHL: classical Hodgkin lymphoma
 DLBCL: diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
 FDA: Food and Drug Administration
 HGBL: high-grade B-cell lymphoma
 HSCT: hematopoietic stem cell transplantation
 LBCL: large B-cell lymphoma
 ISRT: involved-site radiation therapy
 MF: mycosis fungoides

NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network
 NOS: not otherwise specified
 pcALCL: primary cutaneous anaplastic large cell lymphoma
 PTCL: peripheral T-cell lymphoma
 sALCL: systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma
 SS: Sezary syndrome

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): concomitant use with bleomycin due to pulmonary toxicity

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- Boxed warning(s): progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy

Appendix D: Definitions of High Risk Disease

Per NCCN, high risk disease is defined as:

- Stage IIB with bulk disease*
**Large mediastinal adenopathy (LMA): a mediastinal mass where the tumor diameter is > 1/3 the maximal thoracic diameter on an upright posteroanterior (PA) chest radiograph OR large extra-mediastinal nodal aggregate: a contiguous extramediastinal nodal aggregate that measures > 6 cm in the longest transverse diameter (transaxial measurement) or craniocaudal dimension (measured on reformatted computed tomography)*
- Stage IIIA
- Stage IIIB with E-lesions**
***Localized involvement of extralymphatic tissue (by contiguous growth from an involved lymph node or in close anatomic relation) that is treatable by irradiation*
- Stage IV

Per the Adcetris pediatric cHL pivotal study, high risk was defined as the following Ann Arbor stages:

- Stage IIB with bulk disease (*see definition of bulk disease above*)
- Stage IIIB
- Stage IVA
- Stage IVB

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Previously untreated Stage III or IV cHL in adults	1.2 mg/kg IV up to a maximum of 120 mg in combination with chemotherapy. Administer every 2 weeks until a maximum of 12 doses, disease progression, or unacceptable toxicity.	120 mg every 2 weeks up to 12 doses
Previously untreated high risk cHL in pediatric and adolescent patients	1.8 mg/kg IV up to a maximum of 180 mg in combination with chemotherapy. Administer every 3 weeks with each cycle of chemotherapy for a maximum of 5 doses, disease progression, or unacceptable toxicity.	180 mg every 3 weeks up to 5 doses
cHL consolidation in adults	1.8 mg/kg IV up to a maximum of 180 mg. Initiate Adcetris treatment within 4-6 weeks post-autoHSCT or upon recovery from auto-HSCT. Administer every 3 weeks until a maximum of 16 cycles, disease progression, or unacceptable toxicity.	180 mg every 3 weeks up to 16 cycles
Relapsed cHL in adults	1.8 mg/kg IV up to a maximum of 180 mg. Administer every 3 weeks until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.	180 mg every 3 weeks
Previously untreated sALCL or other CD30-	1.8 mg/kg IV up to a maximum of 180 mg in combination with cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin,	180 mg every 3 weeks up to 6 to 8 doses

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Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
expressing PTCLs in adults	and prednisone. Administer every 3 weeks with each cycle of chemotherapy for 6 to 8 doses.	
Relapsed sALCL in adults	1.8 mg/kg IV up to a maximum of 180 mg. Administer every 3 weeks until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.	180 mg every 3 weeks
Relapsed pcALCL or CD30-expressing MF in adults	1.8 mg/kg IV up to a maximum of 180 mg. Administer every 3 weeks until a maximum of 16 cycles, disease progression, or unacceptable toxicity.	180 mg every 3 weeks up to 16 cycles
Relapsed or refractory LBCL	1.2 mg/kg up to a maximum of 120 mg in combination with lenalidomide and rituximab. Administer every 3 weeks until disease progression, or unacceptable toxicity	120 mg every 3 weeks

VI. Product Availability

Single-use vial: 50 mg for reconstitution

VII. References

1. Adcetris Prescribing Information. Bothell, WA: Seagen, Inc.; February 2025. Available at: <https://www.adcetris.com/>. Accessed February 20, 2025.
2. Castellino SM, et al. Brentuximab vedotin with chemotherapy in pediatric high-risk Hodgkin's lymphoma. *New Engl J Med* 2022; 387(18):1649-1660.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at www.nccn.org. Accessed February 20, 2025.
4. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Hodgkin Lymphoma Version 3.2024. Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/hodgkins.pdf. Accessed May 20, 2024.
5. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Pediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma Version 1.2024. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/ped_hodgkin.pdf. Accessed May 20, 2024.
6. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Primary Cutaneous Lymphomas Version 2.2024. Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/primary_cutaneous.pdf. Accessed May 16, 2024.
7. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. T-Cell Lymphomas Version 3.2024. Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/t-cell.pdf. Accessed May 20, 2024.
8. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. B-Cell Lymphomas Version 2.2025. Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/b-cell.pdf. Accessed February 20, 2025.

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-

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date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPSC Codes	Description
J9042	Injection, brentuximab vedotin, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	LDH Approval Date
Converted corporate to local policy	04.22	07.23.22
Per NCCN Compendium clarified extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma should be in the relapsed or refractory setting and removed requirement for nasal type; clarified hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma should be after two first-line therapy regimens; references reviewed and updated.	06.02.23	10.05.23
New indication of previously untreated high risk cHL in pediatric and adolescent patients added to policy. Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.		
Annual review: for adult cHL, added specific regimens for use per both FDA and NCCN; for pediatric cHL, moved specific staging requirements for high risk disease to Appendix D to also allow for NCCN high risk definition and updated criteria per NCCN, including requirements for use in combination with chemotherapy as well as allowance for use as subsequent therapy; for T-cell lymphomas, clarified that CD30-positive disease requirement does not apply to ALCL and added requirement for use as a single agent or in combination with CHP per NCCN; for cutaneous ALCL, added pathway for disease multifocal lesions per NCCN; for MF/SS, removed requirement for CD30-positive disease per NCCN; for B-cell lymphomas, removed specific subtypes of DLBCL to simplify criteria, revised “AIDS-related” to “HIV-related”, added B-cell type monomorphic PTLN, added pathway for pediatric primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, and added that member is not a transplant candidate for all requests except T-cell type monomorphic PTLN per NCCN; references reviewed and updated.	05.13.24	08.20.24
Per NCCN – for cHL, added pathway for use as a component of BrECADD for stage III-IV disease for members aged 18-61 years; for T-cell lymphomas, removed requirement for 2 prior therapies for hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma and added pathway for combination use with bendamustine for PTCL, breast implant-associated ALCL, and hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma; for MF and Sezary syndrome, added that Adcetris must be prescribed as a single agent, in combination with skin-directed therapy, or in combination with	10.03.24	01.27.25

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Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	LDH Approval Date
bendamustine; for B-cell lymphomas, removed T-cell type monomorphic PTLT; references reviewed and updated.		
Added criteria for new FDA-approved indication of relapsed or refractory LBCL in adult patients – added criterion that disease is relapsed or refractory, added option that member is not a candidate for CAR T-cell therapy; per NCCN for B-cell lymphomas – added pathway for off-label use as a single agent or in combination with rituximab or nivolumab, clarified use in HIV-related B-cell lymphoma and PTLT are off-label indications	04.28.25	

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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recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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