

## Clinical Policy: Bortezomib (Boruzu, Velcade)

Reference Number: LA.PHAR.410

Effective Date: 03.16.23

Last Review Date: 02.19.26

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

Bortezomib (Boruzu<sup>®</sup>, Velcade<sup>®</sup>) is a proteasome inhibitor.

### FDA Approved Indication(s)

Boruzu and Velcade are indicated for treatment of adult patients with:

- Multiple myeloma (MM)
- Mantle cell lymphoma (MCL)

### 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 bortezomib is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### I. Initial Approval Criteria

##### A. Multiple Myeloma and Mantle Cell Lymphoma (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a or b):
  - a. MM;
  - b. MCL (B-cell lymphoma subtype);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. For Boruzu and Velcade requests, member must use bortezomib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. Dose does not exceed 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup>;
  - 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: 12 months**

##### B. NCCN Recommended Uses (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a-j):
  - a. Kaposi sarcoma that is one of the following (i or ii):

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- i. Relapsed or refractory disease that is T1 extensive, T0 cutaneous, or nodal - after  $\geq 2$  prior lines of systemic therapy;
  - ii. Kaposi-sarcoma associated herpesvirus-associated inflammatory cytokine syndrome (KICS), in combination with rituximab;
  - b. Mantle cell lymphoma (B-cell lymphoma);
  - c. HIV-related B-cell lymphoma;
  - d. Multicentric Castleman disease (B-cell lymphoma subtype) as subsequent therapy for relapsed, refractory, or progressive disease;
  - e. Systemic light chain amyloidosis;
  - f. Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma - as single-agent subsequent therapy;
  - g. Waldenström macroglobulinemia/lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma;
  - h. T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL) – for relapsed or refractory disease;
  - i. Pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL);
  - j. Pediatric Hodgkin lymphoma (HL) - as subsequent therapy in combination with ifosafamide and vinorelbine;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
  3. Age  $\geq 18$  years (all indications except pediatric ALL and HL);
  4. For Boruzu and Velcade requests, member must use bortezomib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
  5. 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: 12 months**

#### **C. 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 Connections benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving the requested agent for a covered indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. For Boruzu and Velcade requests, member must use bortezomib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. New dose does not exceed  $1.3 \text{ mg/m}^2$ ;
  - b. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

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*\*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
  - a.
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

ALL: acute lymphoblastic leukemia  
 FDA: Food and Drug Administration  
 HL: Hodgkin lymphoma  
 KICS: Kaposi-sarcoma associated herpesvirus (KSHV)-associated inflammatory cytokine syndrome

MCL: mantle cell lymphoma  
 MM: multiple myeloma  
 NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network  
 T-ALL: T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia

##### Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

##### Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s):
  - Patients with hypersensitivity (not including local reactions) to bortezomib, boron, or mannitol, including anaphylactic reactions
  - Contraindicated for intrathecal administration
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

#### V. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
bortezomib (Boruzu, Velcade)	MM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>First-line therapy</u>: 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as a 3 to 5 second bolus IV injection or SC injection in combination with PO melphalan and PO prednisone for nine 6-week treatment cycles.</li> </ul>	1.3 mg/m <sup>2</sup>

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Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Relapse*:</b> 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as a 3 to 5 second bolus IV injection or SC injection as a single agent or in combination with dexamethasone for up to eight 3-week cycles. For therapy beyond eight cycles, see PI for additional dosing options. <i>*If relapse occurs ≥ 6 months after a previous response to Velcade or Boruzu, treatment may be restarted at the last tolerated dose of the respective drug.</i></li> </ul>	
bortezomib (Boruzu, Velcade)	MCL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First-line therapy:</b> 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as a 3 to 5 second bolus IV injection or SC injection in combination with IV rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and PO prednisone for up to six 3-week treatment cycles, plus two additional cycles if a positive response.</li> <li><b>Relapse:</b> 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as a 3 to 5 second bolus IV injection or SC injection for up to eight 3-week treatment cycles. Therapy may extend beyond eight cycles.</li> </ul>	1.3 mg/m <sup>2</sup>

#### VI. Product Availability\*

Drug Name	Availability
bortezomib (Boruzu)	Single-dose vial for injection: 3.5 mg/1.4 mL <i>*The branded product, Boruzu, is only available as a sterile solution</i>
bortezomib (Velcade)	Single-dose vial for injection: 3.5 mg <i>*The branded product, Velcade, is only available as 3.5 mg sterile lyophilized powder</i>
bortezomib	Single-dose vials for injection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sterile lyophilized powder for reconstitution: 1 mg, 2.5 mg, 3.5 mg</li> <li>Solution: 3.5 mg/1.4 mL</li> </ul>

#### VII. References

- Velcade Prescribing Information. Lexington, MA: Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, Inc.; August 2022. Available at: <https://www.takedaoncology.com/medicines/united-states/>. Accessed October 27, 2025.
- Boruzu Prescribing Information. Bridgewater, NJ: Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC: July 2025. Available at: <https://boruzu.us/>. Accessed October 27, 2025.

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#### 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
J9041	Injection, bortezomib (Velcade), 0.1 mg
J9046	Injection, bortezomib, (dr. reddy's), not therapeutically equivalent to J9041, 0.1 mg
J9048	Injection, bortezomib (fresenius kabi), not therapeutically equivalent to J9041, 0.1 mg
J9049	Injection, bortezomib (hospira), not therapeutically equivalent to J9041, 0.1 mg
J9051	Injection, bortezomib (maia), not therapeutically equivalent to J9041, 0.1 mg
J9054	Injection, bortezomib (boruzu), 0.1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	LDH Approval Date
Converted corporate to local policy.	02.23	03.16.23
Updated criteria for other diagnoses/indications Added HCPCS Codes: J9046, J9048, J9049	06.25.23	10.05.23
Annual review: Added HCPCS code [J9051], removed inactive HCPCS code [J9044]. removed specification that 1 mg and 2.5 mg were specially indicated after 1 prior therapy per PI update; revised product availability for solutions from 2.5 mg/mL to 3.5 mg/3.5mL per PI; references reviewed and updated.	05.09.24	07.29.24
Annual review: for NCCN recommended uses (off-label) initial criteria: added mantle cell lymphoma (B-cell lymphoma) and HIV-related B-cell lymphoma as supported by NCCN compendium; updated "AIDS-related Kaposi Sarcoma" to "Kaposi Sarcoma" per NCCN compendium; references reviewed and updated.	03.05.25	05.19.25
Annual review: for off-label indications per NCCN: added KICS indication, added disease qualifiers for Castleman disease and Kaposi sarcoma, added monotherapy requirement for adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma, and removed requirement for use as subsequent therapy for pediatric ALL; revised initial approval durations from 6 months to 12 months; references reviewed and updated	02.19.26	

#### 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

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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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