

Clinical Policy: Lurbinectedin (Zepzelca)

Reference Number: LA.PHAR.500

Effective Date: 09.29.23

Last Review Date: 08.18.25

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

Lurbinectedin (Zepzelca™) is an alkylating drug.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Zepzelca is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic small cell lung cancer (SCLC) with disease progression on or after platinum-based chemotherapy.

This indication is approved under accelerated approval based on overall response rate and duration of response. Continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in a confirmatory trial(s).

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (including 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 Zepzelca is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Small Cell Lung Cancer (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of advanced or metastatic SCLC;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Prescribed as single-agent therapy;
5. Disease has progressed on or after platinum-containing regimen (e.g., cisplatin, carboplatin);
6. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. Dose does not exceed 3.2 mg/m² every 21 days;
 - 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. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

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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. Small Cell Lung Cancer (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connections benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Zepzelca for a covered indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Prescribed as single-agent therapy;
4. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. New dose does not exceed 3.2 mg/m² every 21 days;
 - 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

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

SCLC: small cell lung cancer

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 and may require prior authorization.

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Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
cisplatin- or carboplatin-containing chemotherapy	Varies	Varies

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: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

None reported

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
SCLC	3.2 mg/m ² IV every 21 days	3.2 mg/m ² per 21 days

VI. Product Availability

Single-dose vial: 4 mg

VII. References

1. Zepzelca Prescribing Information. Palo Alto, CA: Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; April 2025. Available at: <https://www.zepzelca.com>. Accessed May 15, 2025.
2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed May 15, 2025.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Small Cell Lung Cancer Version 4.2025. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/sclc.pdf. Accessed May 15, 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-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J9223	Injection, lurbinectedin, 0.1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	LDH Approval Date
Policy created	05.01.23	08.28.23
Added monotherapy requirement per NCCN; references reviewed and updated.	02.01.24	05.10.24
Annual review; references reviewed and updated.	09.16.24	01.02.25
Annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	08.18.25	

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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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