I. Medication Description

Pomalidomide, an analogue of thalidomide, is an immunomodulatory agent with antineoplastic activity. In *in vitro* cellular assays, pomalidomide inhibited proliferation and induced apoptosis of hematopoietic tumor cells. Additionally, pomalidomide inhibited the proliferation of lenalidomide-resistant multiple myeloma cell lines and synergized with dexamethasone in both lenalidomide-sensitive and lenalidomide-resistant cell lines to induce tumor cell apoptosis.

II. Position Statement

Coverage is determined through a prior authorization process with supporting clinical documentation for every request.

III. Policy

Coverage of Pomalyst is available when the following criteria have been met:

- Member is at least 18 years of age **AND**
- The medication is prescribed by a hematologist/oncologist **AND**
- The requested use is supported by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines (NCCN Guidelines®) and/or NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium (NCCN Compendium®) with a recommendation of category level 1 or 2A.

IV. Quantity Limitations

21 capsules per each 28 day cycle are covered

V. Coverage Duration

Coverage is granted for 6 months and may be renewed.

VI. Coverage Renewal Criteria

Coverage can be renewed based upon the following criteria:

- Stabilization of disease or in absence of disease progression **AND**
- Absence of unacceptable toxicity from the drug
VII. Billing/Coding Information

Pomalyst is available as 1mg, 2mg, 3mg, and 4mg oral capsules.

VIII. Summary of Policy Changes

- 6/15/13: New policy
- 6/15/14: addition of coverage for systemic light chain amyloidosis
- 7/1/15: formulary distinctions made
- 12/15/15: no policy changes
- 9/15/16: no policy changes
- 10/16/17: coverage criteria updated to allow use as supported by current NCCN guidelines
- 11/1/18: no policy changes

IX. References


The Plan fully expects that only appropriate and medically necessary services will be rendered. The Plan reserves the right to conduct pre-payment and post-payment reviews to assess the medical appropriateness of the above-referenced therapies.

The preceding policy applies only to members for whom the above named pharmacy benefit medications are included on their covered formulary. Members with closed formulary benefits are subject to trying all appropriate formulary alternatives before a coverage exception for a non-formulary medication will be considered.

The preceding policy is a guideline to allow for coverage of the pertinent medication/product, and is not meant to serve as a clinical practice guideline.