Clinical Policy: Elotuzumab (Empliciti)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.308
Effective Date: 02.01.17
Last Review Date: 11.26
Line of Business: Commercial, HIM/ICHRA, Medicaid

Coding Implications
Revision Log

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

Description

Elotuzumab (Empliciti®) is a SLAMF7-directed immunostimulatory antibody.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Empliciti is indicated in combination with:

- Lenalidomide and dexamethasone for the treatment of patients with multiple myeloma (MM) who have received one to three prior therapies
- Pomalidomide and dexamethasone for the treatment of adult patients with MM who have received at least two prior therapies including lenalidomide and a proteasome inhibitor

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 health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that Empliciti is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Multiple Myeloma (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of MM;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Disease is relapsed or refractory;
5. One of the following (a or b):
   a. Member has measurable disease as evidenced by one of the following assessed within the last 30 days (i, ii, or iii; see *Appendix D*):
      i. Serum M-protein ≥ 0.5 g/dL;
      ii. Urine M-protein ≥ 200 mg/24 h;
      iii. Serum free light chain (FLC) assay: involved FLC level ≥ 10 mg/dL (100 mg/L) provided serum FLC ratio is abnormal;
   b. Member has progressive disease, as defined by the IMWG response criteria (see *Appendix D*), assessed within 60 days following the last dose of the last anti-myeloma drug regimen received;
6. Member has received ≥ 1 prior therapy *(see Appendix B for examples)*;
7. Empliciti is prescribed in combination with dexamethasone, and either Pomalyst®, lenalidomide, or bortezomib;*

**Prior authorization may be required for Pomalyst, lenalidomide, and bortezomib.*

8. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
   a. Dose does not exceed (i or ii):
      i. With lenalidomide, both of the following (1 and 2):
         1) 10 mg/kg per week for the first two cycles (4 doses per 28-day cycle);
         2) 10 mg/kg per 2 weeks (2 doses per 28-day cycle) for subsequent cycles;
      ii. With Pomalyst, both of the following (1 and 2):
         1) 10 mg/kg every week for the first 2 cycles (4 doses per 28-day cycle);
         2) 20 mg/kg every 4 weeks (1 dose per 28-day cycle) for subsequent 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:
Medicaid/HIM/ICHRA – 12 months
Commercial – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

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 one of the following policies (a or b):
   a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace/ICHRA) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
   b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace/ICHRA) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
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 for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Multiple Myeloma (must meet all)**:**
1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Empliciti 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 or ii):
      i. With lenalidomide, both of the following (1 and 2):
         1) 10 mg/kg per week for the first two cycles (4 doses per 28-day cycle);
         2) 10 mg/kg per 2 weeks (2 doses per 28-day cycle) for subsequent cycles;
      ii. With Pomalyst, both of the following (1 and 2):
         1) 10 mg/kg every week for the first 2 cycles (4 doses per 28-day cycle);

2) 20 mg/kg every 4 weeks (1 dose per 28-day cycle) for subsequent cycles;

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:
Medicaid/HIM/ICHRA – 12 months
Commercial – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

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 one of the following policies (a or b):
   a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace/ICHRA) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
   b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace/ICHRA) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
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 for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

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 policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

FDA: Food and Drug Administration
FLC: free light chain
IMWG: International Myeloma Working Group
MM: multiple myeloma
NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network

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 for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
bortezomib (Velcade)	Empliciti in combination with Velcade and dexamethasone: • Regimens vary. • Per NCCN, the SC rather than IV bortezomib formulation is preferred. *An SC generic formulation is not available.*	Varies
lenalidomide (Revlimid)	Empliciti in combination with Revlimid and dexamethasone: Regimens vary.	
Pomalyst (pomalidomide)	Empliciti in combination with Pomalyst and dexamethasone: Regimens vary.	
Kyprolis® (carfilzomib), bortezomib (Velcade), lenalidomide (Revlimid), cyclophosphamide, dexamethasone	Examples of primary therapy • Bortezomib/dexamethasone • Bortezomib/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Bortezomib/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Bortezomib/doxorubicin/dexamethasone • Bortezomib/thalidomide/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Cyclophosphamide/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Daratumumab/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Daratumumab/lenalidomide/bortezomib/ dexamethasone • Daratumumab/carfilzomib/lenalidomide/ dexamethasone • Daratumumab/cyclophosphamide/bortezomib/ dexamethasone • Daratumumab/bortezomib/thalidomide/ dexamethasone • Daratumumab/bortezomib/melphalan/prednisone • Dexamethasone/thalidomide/cisplatin/doxorubicin/ cyclophosphamide/etoposide/bortezomib (VTD-PACE) • Ixazomib/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Ixazomib/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Lenalidomide/low-dose dexamethasone	Varies
Kyprolis (carfilzomib), bortezomib (Velcade), lenalidomide (Revlimid),	Examples of therapy for previously treated for relapsed or refractory disease: • Bendamustine • Bendamustine/bortezomib/dexamethasone • Bendamustine/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Bendamustine/carfilzomib/dexamethasone	Varies

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Darzalex® (daratumumab), Ninlaro® (ixazomib), Pomalyst (pomalidomide), Empliciti® (elotuzumab), Thalomid® (thalidomide), bendamustine, cyclophosphamide, dexamethasone, Sarclisa® (istatuximab-irfc), Xpovio® (selinexor)	• Bortezomib/dexamethasone • Bortezomib/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Bortezomib/liposomal doxorubicin/dexamethasone • Bortezomib/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib/cyclophosphamide/thalidomide/ dexamethasone • Cyclophosphamide/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Cyclophosphamide • Daratumumab • Daratumumab/bortezomib/dexamethasone • Daratumumab/carfilzomib/dexamethasone • Daratumumab/cyclophosphamide/bortezomib/ dexamethasone • Daratumumab/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Daratumumab/pomalidomide/dexamethasone • Dexamethasone/cyclophosphamide/etoposide/cisplatin • Dexamethasone/thalidomide/cisplatin/doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide/etoposide/ +/- bortezomib • Elotuzumab/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Elotuzumab/bortezomib/dexamethasone • Elotuzumab/pomalidomide/dexamethasone • Istatuximab-irfc/carfilzomib/dexamethasone • Ixazomib/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Ixazomib/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Ixazomib/pomalidomide/desamethasone • Isatuximab-irfc/pomalidomide/dexamethasone • Lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Pomalidomide/bortezomib/dexamethasone • Pomalidomide/carfilzomib/dexamethasone • Pomalidomide/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Pomalidomide/dexamethasone • Selinexor/bortezomib/dexamethasone • Selinexor/carfilzomib/dexamethasone • Selinexor/daratumumab/dexamethasone • Selinexor/opomalidomide/dexamthasone • Venetoclax/dexamethasone	

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	• Ideocabtagene vicleucel • Ciltacabtagene autoleucel • Teclistamab-cqyv • Benlantamab mafodotin-blmf	

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/Black Box Warnings
None reported

Appendix D: General Information
- The IMWG response criteria for multiple myeloma definition of progressive disease requires only one of the following:
  - Increase of 25% from lowest response value in any of the following:
    - Serum M-component (absolute increase must be ≥ 0.5 g/dL), and/or
    - Urine M-component (absolute increase must be ≥ 200 mg/24 h), and/or
  - Only in patients without measurable serum and urine M-protein levels: the difference between involved and uninvolved FLC levels (absolute increase must be > 10 mg/dL)
  - Only in patients without measurable serum and urine M protein levels and without measurable disease by FLC levels, bone marrow plasma cell percentage irrespective of baseline status (absolute increase must be ≥ 10%)
  - Appearance of a new lesion(s), ≥ 50% increase from nadir in SPD (sum of the products of the maximal perpendicular diameters of measured lesions) of > 1 lesion, or ≥ 50% increase in the longest diameter of a previous lesion >1 cm in short axis;
  - ≥ 50% increase in circulating plasma cells (minimum of 200 cells per μL) if this is the only measure of disease
- How to locate the serum M-protein value (M-spike) reported on serum protein electrophoresis reports (SPEP)
  - Look for terms such as M-spike, monoclonal protein, and M-protein. The report will typically include a numerical value expressed in g/dL. This numerical value represents the concentration of monoclonal protein in the serum and is the value used for MM measurable disease and progression assessments.
  - A qualitative statement alone (e.g., "M-spike detected," "monoclonal band present," or "abnormal SPEP") is not sufficient to document serum M-protein levels for MM diagnostic, measurable disease, or progression criteria. A quantified value in g/dL is needed.
  - If the SPEP report does not provide a numerical M-spike value, reviewers should request additional laboratory documentation, such as: complete SPEP report with densitometry results, immunofixation electrophoresis (IFE/SIFE) results, and serum free light chain (FLC) results, if applicable.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
MM	Cycles one and two: • Empliciti: 10 mg/kg IV once weekly on cycles 1 and 2 (on days 1, 8, 15, and 22), • Dexamethasone: 28 mg PO between 3 and 24 hours before Empliciti plus 8 mg IV between 45 and 90 minutes before Empliciti • Lenalidomide: 25 mg PO QD x 21 days of a 28-day cycle OR • Pomalidomide: 4 mg PO QD x 21 days of a 28-day cycle Cycles three and beyond: • Empliciti: o With lenalidomide: 10 mg/kg IV once every 2 weeks (on days 1 and 15) o With pomalidomide: 20 mg/kg IV once every 4 weeks • Dexamethasone: Administer as for cycles one and two and on the days Empliciti is not given (days 8 and 22), give 40 mg PO QD if 75 years or younger OR 20 mg PO QD if older than 75 years • Lenalidomide: 25 mg PO QD x 21 days of a 28-day cycle OR • Pomalidomide: 4 mg PO QD x 21 days of a 28-day	With lenalidomide: 10 mg/kg With pomalidomide: 20 mg/kg

VI. Product Availability

Single-dose vials: 300 mg, 400 mg

VII. References

1. Empliciti Prescribing Information. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb; March 2022. Available at: https://packageinserts.bms.com/pi/pi_empliciti.pdf. Accessed July 10, 2026.
2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at: http://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug_compendium. Accessed July 28, 2026.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Multiple Myeloma Version 5.2026. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/myeloma.pdf. Accessed July 28, 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
J9176	Injection, elotuzumab, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
4Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; updated Appendix B per NCCN MM guidelines for primary therapy and therapy for previously treated MM; references reviewed and updated. Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications.	07.28.22	11.22
4Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; updated Appendix B with examples of previously treated regimens per current NCCN Multiple Myeloma guidelines; references reviewed and updated.	08.05.23	11.23
4Q 2024 annual review: added hematologist as prescriber option; added criterion disease is relapsed or refractory per NCCN; added IMWG criterion defining progressive MM disease as MM class alignment; for Commercial line of business, revised approval duration to standard language of "6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer"; references reviewed and updated.	07.15.24	11.24
4Q 2025 annual review: initial approval duration changed from 6 to 12 months for Medicaid/HIM; references reviewed and updated.	07.09.25	11.25
4Q 2026 annual review: no significant changes; added ICHRA line of business; references reviewed and updated.	07.10.26	11.26

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 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. The Health Plan 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. "Health Plan" means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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Note:
For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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