Zynlonta (loncastuximab tesirine-lpyl)
PAM – 047

Iowa Medicaid Program	Prior Authorization	**Effective Date**	10/01/2021
Revision Number	5	**Last Reviewed**	07/17/2026
Reviewed By	Medicaid Medical Director	**Next Review**	07/16/2027
Approved By	Medicaid Clinical Advisory Committee	**Approved Date**	07/15/2022

Overview

Medication: [1]	loncastuximab tesirine-lpyl
Brand Name:	Zynlonta®
Pharmacologic Category:	Antineoplastic; CD19-directed antibody and alkylating agent conjugate
FDA-Approved Indication(s):	Indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, DLBCL arising from low-grade lymphoma, and high-grade B-cell lymphoma. ➢ Accelerated Approval: This indication is approved under accelerated approval based on overall response rate. Continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in a confirmatory trial(s).
How Supplied:	Single-dose vial, lyophilized powder for reconstitution, 10 mg
Dosage and Administration:	Administered as an intravenous infusion on Day 1 of each 21-day cycle • First 2 cycles: 0.15 mg/kg every 21 days (3 weeks) • Subsequent cycles: 0.075 mg/kg every 21 days (3 weeks) • Continue treatment until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity
Benefit Category:	Medical

Descriptive Narrative

Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) is the most common histologic category of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) accounting for approximately 25 percent of all NHL cases in the developed world. In the United States, the incidence of DLBCL is approximately 7 cases per 100,000 persons per year. Incidence varies by ethnicity, with White Americans having higher rates than Black, Asian, and American Indian or Alaska Native individuals, in order of decreasing incidence. Like most other NHLs, there is a male predominance with approximately 55 percent of cases occurring in men. Incidence increases with age; in the United States, the median age at presentation is 64 years.[2]

Guidelines

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology document evidence-based, consensus-driven management to ensure that all patients receive preventive, diagnostic, treatment, and supportive services that are most likely to lead to optimal outcomes. The guidelines are developed and updated by 63 individual panels, comprising over 1,900 clinicians and oncology researchers from the 33 NCCN Member Institutions. The categories for recommendations are based on both the level of clinical evidence available and the degree of consensus within the NCCN Guidelines Panel.

The library of NCCN Guidelines® currently apply to more than 97 percent of people living with cancer or anyone at risk for a diagnosis of cancer in the United States. The guidelines incorporate real-time updates in keeping with the rapid advancements in the field of cancer research and management and are intended to assist all individuals who impact decision-making in cancer care, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, payers, patients and their families, and others.

The NCCN Guidelines® provide recommendations based on the best evidence available at the time they are derived. Because new data are published continuously, it is essential that the NCCN Guidelines also be continuously updated and revised* to reflect new data and clinical information that may add to or alter current clinical practice standards.[3,4]

The information referenced at the time of this policy writing/revision (note version number and effective date) is from the NCCN Guidelines® for:[5]

- B-Cell Lymphomas (v.4.2026 – May 20, 2026)

* To view the most recent and complete version of the guidelines, go online to NCCN.org. NCCN makes no warranties of any kind whatsoever regarding their content, use or application and disclaims any responsibility for their application or use in any way.

NCCN Guidelines® Recommendation(s)
(1) Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL) a. Third-Line and Subsequent Therapy [a] i. Loncastuximab tesirine-lpyl: Category 2A, Other Recommended Regimen [b] (2) Histologic Transformation of Indolent Lymphomas to DLBCL a. No Intention to Proceed to Transplant i. Loncastuximab tesirine-lpyl: Category 2A, Other Recommended Regimen [b] (3) Classic Follicular Lymphoma a. Third-Line and Subsequent Therapy i. Loncastuximab tesirine-lpyl + rituximab: Category 2B, Other Recommended Regimen [b] [a] Subsequent systemic therapy options include second-line therapy regimens that were not previously used. [b] It is unclear if tafasitamab or loncastuximab tesirine or if any other CD19–directed therapy would have a negative impact on the efficacy of subsequent anti-CD19 CAR T-cell therapy.

NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus (all recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated)	
Category 1	Based upon high-level evidence, there is uniform NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.
Category 2A	Based upon lower-level evidence, there is uniform NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.
Category 2B	Based upon lower-level evidence, there is NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.
Category 3	Based upon any level of evidence, there is major NCCN disagreement that the intervention is appropriate.

NCCN Categories of Preference (all recommendations are considered appropriate)	
Preferred intervention	Interventions that are based on superior efficacy, safety, and evidence; and, when appropriate, affordability.
Other recommended intervention	Other interventions that may be somewhat less efficacious, more toxic, or based on less mature data; or significantly less affordable for similar outcomes.
Useful in certain circumstances	Other interventions that may be used for select patient populations (defined with recommendation).

Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) Performance Status Scale [6]

Developed by the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG), now part of the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group, and published in 1982, the ECOG Performance Status Scale describes a patient's level of functioning in terms of their ability to care for themselves, daily activity, and physical ability (walking, working, etc.). It is used by doctors and researchers to assess how a patient's disease is progressing, how the disease affects the daily living abilities of the patient, and to determine appropriate treatment and prognosis.

Grade	ECOG Performance Status [Synonyms: WHO/Zubrod score]
0	Fully active, able to carry on all pre-disease performance without restriction.
1	Restricted in physically strenuous activity but ambulatory and able to carry out work of a light or sedentary nature, e.g., light housework, office work.
2	Ambulatory and capable of all self-care but unable to carry out any work activities; up and about more than 50% of waking hours.
3	Capable of only limited self-care; confined to bed or chair more than 50% of waking hours.
4	Completely disabled; cannot carry on any self-care; totally confined to bed or chair.
5	Dead.

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Criteria

Prior authorization is required.

Zynlonta® is considered medically necessary when **ALL** of the following are met:

1. Diagnosis of large B-cell lymphoma [including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, DLBCL arising from low-grade lymphoma, high-grade B-cell lymphoma, HIV-related DLBCL, primary effusion lymphoma (PEL), and human herpesvirus-8 (HHV8)-positive DLBCL not otherwise specified]; **AND**
2. Request meets **ONE** of the following (either a or b):
    a. Disease is refractory or member has relapsed after 2 or more prior lines of systemic therapy; **OR**
    b. Request is for subsequent therapy in a member with histologic transformation of indolent lymphoma to DLBCL with no intention to proceed to transplant; **AN**
3. Member is 18 years of age or older; **AND**
4. Member has a current Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status of 0, 1, or 2; **AND**
5. Prescribed by, or in consultation with, an oncologist; **AND**
6. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
    a. Regimen prescribed does not exceed 0.15 mg/kg every 3 weeks for 2 cycles, then 0.075 mg/kg every 3 weeks for subsequent cycles; or,
    b. Regimen is supported by clinical practice guidelines (i.e., must be recommended in NCCN Guidelines®). Supporting clinical documentation must be provided with any request for which regimen prescribed does not align with FDA-approved labeling.

Zynlonta® is considered medically necessary for continuation of therapy when **ALL** of the following are met:

1. Member is currently receiving medication through the Iowa Medicaid benefit or has previously met initial approval criteria; **AND**
2. Documentation of positive clinical response to therapy, as demonstrated by tumor response or lack of disease progression, and an acceptable toxicity profile; **AND**
3. Prescribed by, or in consultation with, an oncologist; **AND**
4. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
    a. Regimen prescribed does not exceed 0.075 mg/kg every 3 weeks; or,
    b. Regimen is supported by clinical practice guidelines (i.e., must be recommended in NCCN Guidelines®). Supporting clinical documentation must be provided with any request for which regimen prescribed does not align with FDA-approved labeling.

Approval Duration and Quantity Limits

	Initial Authorization	Subsequent Authorization(s)
Approval Duration	6 months	12 months
Quantity Limits	• First 2 cycles: 0.15 mg/kg every 3 weeks. • Subsequent: 0.075 mg/kg every 3 weeks (day 1 of each 21-day cycle).	0.075 mg/kg every 3 weeks (day 1 of each 21-day cycle).

Coding and Product Information

The following list(s) of codes and product information are provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment, nor does the exclusion of a code imply that its association to the HCPCS code is inappropriate.

HCPCS	Description
~~C9084~~	~~Injection, loncastuximab tesirine-lpyl, 0.1 mg. *(effective 10/1/2021 – 03/31/2022)*~~
J9359	Injection, loncastuximab tesirine-lpyl, 0.075 mg. *(effective 4/1/2022)*

ICD-10	Description
C83.30 – C83.39	Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma

NDC (Strength)	Labeler	Dosage	Pkg Size	Pkg Qty	Units/ Pkg
79952-0110-01 (10 mg powder)	ADC Therapeutics America (79952)	0.075 mg	1	EA	133.33

Compliance

1. Should conflict exist between the policy and applicable statute, the applicable statute shall supersede.
2. Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions or exclusions, take precedence over medical policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage.
3. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and Iowa Medicaid reserves the right to review and update medical policy on an annual or as-needed basis.

Medical necessity guidelines have been developed for determining coverage for member benefits and are published to provide a better understanding of the basis upon which coverage decisions are made. Medical necessity guidelines are developed for selected physician-administered medications found to be safe and proven to be effective in a limited, defined population or clinical circumstances. They include concise clinical coverage criteria based on current literature review, consultation with practicing physicians in the service area who are medical experts in the particular field, FDA and other government

agency policies, and standards adopted by national accreditation organizations. Criteria are revised and updated annually, or more frequently if new evidence becomes available that suggests needed revisions.

References

[1] Zynlonta® prescribing information (02/2026). ADC Therapeutics America: Murray Hill, NJ. Available online: www.zynlontahcp.com. Accessed May 21, 2026.

[2] Aster JC, Herrera AF. Diffuse large B cell lymphoma and other large B cell lymphomas: Presentation, diagnosis, and classification. Rosmarin AG, ed. UpToDate. Waltham, MA: UpToDate, Inc. www.uptodate.com. Accessed May 21, 2026.

[3] National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). Guidelines Process: About Clinical Practice Guidelines. Available online at www.nccn.org. Accessed October 20, 2025.

[4] National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). Guidelines Process: Development and Update of Guidelines. Available online at www.nccn.org. Accessed October 20, 2025.

[5] NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology. The NCCN Guidelines® are continuously updated and revised to reflect new data and clinical information that may add to or alter current clinical practice standards. To view the most recent and complete version, go online to NCCN.org. NCCN Guidelines® referenced at time of this revision (note version number and effective date):

- B-Cell Lymphomas (v.4.2026 – May 20, 2026)

[6] Oken M, Creech R, Tormey D, et al. Toxicity and response criteria of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group. Am J Clin Oncol. 1982;5:649-655. PMID 7165009.

Development of utilization management criteria may also involve research into other state Medicaid programs, other payer policies, consultation with experts and review by the Medicaid Clinical Advisory Committee (CAC). These sources may not be referenced individually unless they are specifically published and are otherwise applicable to the criteria at issue.

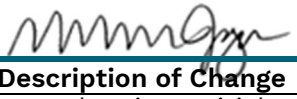
Criteria Change History

Change Date	Changed By	Description of Change	Version
[mm/dd/yyyy]	CAC		
Signature			

Change Date	Changed By	Description of Change	Version
[mm/dd/yyyy]	CAC		
Signature			

Change Date	Changed By	Description of Change	Version
07/17/2026	CAC	Annual review. Updated references.	5
Signature William (Bill) Jagiello, DO			

Change Date	Changed By	Description of Change	Version
07/18/2025	CAC	Annual review. Updated references.	4
Signature William (Bill) Jagiello, DO			

Change Date	Changed By	Description of Change	Version
07/19/2024	CAC	Annual review. Reviewed and updated NCCN Guidelines. Added dosing information to criteria.	3
Signature William (Bill) Jagiello, DO			

Change Date	Changed By	Description of Change	Version
07/21/2023	CAC	Annual review. Initial criteria: Changed criteria 1 to include HIV-related DLBCL, primary effusion lymphoma, and human herpesvirus-8 (HHV8)-positive DLBCL not otherwise specified (to align with NCCN). Changed criteria 2 to include subsequent therapy in a member with histologic transformation of indolent lymphoma to DLBCL who is not a candidate for transplant (to align with NCCN). Corrected ECOG score in criteria 4 from “0 or 1” to “0, 1, or 2”.	2
Signature William (Bill) Jagiello, DO			

Change Date	Changed By	Description of Change	Version
07/15/2022	CAC	Criteria implementation.	1
Signature William (Bill) Jagiello, DO			

CAC = Medicaid Clinical Advisory Committee