



May 05, 2017

**Re: Standard of care and utilization management for pediatric cancer treatment**

Our Integrated Oncology Management Program, in partnership with eviCore healthcare, helps ensure that our customers receive coverage for high quality, medically appropriate care that is consistent with evidence-based treatment guidelines. In response to a recent inquiry about pediatric cancer treatment, we want to clarify two aspects of the program regarding standard of care and utilization management for your pediatric patients with Cigna coverage.

**Standard of care**

We recognize the Children's Oncology Group (COG) as the primary standard of care for pediatric oncology rather than the National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN). While NCCN is not applicable for the most common pediatric cancers, it does, however, provide a valuable standard of care reference for those cancer types that are rare in pediatrics but common in adults, and for which COG does not have current and up-to-date standards. Pediatric patients will benefit by having their treatment plans for these cancer types reviewed for coverage against NCCN recommendations.

For patients whose unique clinical characteristics place them outside the standards of COG and NCCN, we perform a highly individualized and efficient review process to consider all other appropriate evidence sources to support coverage for the best treatment plan.

**Urgency of review**

We recognize the level of urgency for initiating chemotherapy for pediatric cancer patients may differ from that of adult cancer patients. eviCore's medical oncologist reviewers are available from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday. Telephone reviews can lead to coverage authorization in minutes for all outpatient chemotherapy regimen requests. We also provide a review for urgent requests for pediatric chemotherapy regimens that will be administered in the inpatient setting, or for blood and marrow transplants.

**Additional information**

As a reminder, the Integrated Oncology Management Program requires precertification for affected medical oncology medications, and will expand to include oral chemotherapy medications, effective June 26, 2017.

For additional information about this program, please visit our dedicated website at <https://www.evicore.com/Cigna/Pages/MedicalOncology.aspx>, or call Cigna Customer Service at 1.800.88Cigna (882.4462).

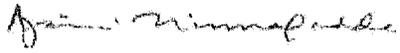
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Thank you for the care you provide our customers.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ajani Nimmagadda  
Senior Medical Director