

Beta Thalassemia, Myelodysplastic Syndrome and Sickle Cell Disease Agents
Adakveo (crizanlizumab-tmca)
Reblozyl (luspatercept-aamt)
Effective 06/01/2025

Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MassHealth UPPL <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Exchange		Program Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior Authorization
Benefit	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy Benefit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Benefit			<input type="checkbox"/> Quantity Limit <input type="checkbox"/> Step Therapy
Specialty Limitations	N/A			
Contact Information	Medical Benefit	Phone: 833-895-2611	Fax: 888-656-6671	
	Pharmacy Benefit	Phone: 800-711-4555	Fax: 844-403-1029	
Exceptions	Additional agents from this class are available through the pharmacy benefit. Please see the MassHealth Drug List for coverage and criteria.			

Overview

Adakveo is indicated to reduce the frequency of vasoocclusive crises in adults and pediatric patients aged 16 years and older with sickle cell disease.

Reblozyl is indicated for the treatment of:

- Anemia in adult patients with beta thalassemia who require regular red blood cell transfusions,
- Anemia without previous erythropoiesis stimulating agent use in adult patients with very low- to intermediate-risk myelodysplastic syndromes who may require regular red blood cell transfusions,
- Anemia failing an erythropoiesis stimulating agent and requiring 2 or more red blood cell units over 8 weeks in adult patients with very low- to intermediate-risk myelodysplastic syndromes with ring sideroblasts or with myelodysplastic/myeloproliferative neoplasm with ring sideroblasts and thrombocytosis.

Coverage Guidelines

Authorization may be reviewed on a case by case basis for members who new to the plan who are currently receiving treatment with requested medication, excluding when the product is obtained as samples or via manufacturer's patient assistance programs

OR

Authorization may be granted if the member meets all following criteria and documentation has been submitted:

Adakveo (crizanlizumab-tmca)

1. Diagnosis of sickle cell disease
2. Member is ≥ 16 years of age
3. Prescriber is a hematologist or consult notes from a hematologist are provided
4. Member has experienced two or more sickle cell crises in the previous 12 months
5. **ONE** of the following:

- a. Inadequate response to hydroxyurea therapy at the maximally tolerated dose (up to a max of 35 mg/kg/day or until mild myelosuppression [e.g., ANC 2,000/uL to 4,000/uL, platelet count < 80,000/uL, reticulocyte count < 80 x 10⁹/L] for at least three months
 - b. Adverse reaction or contraindication to hydroxyurea
6. Member's current weight

Reblozyl (luspatercept-aamt)

Beta-thalassemia

1. Documentation is submitted supporting a diagnosis of transfusion-dependent β -thalassemia (e.g., genetic test, medical records noting requirement of regular blood transfusions and/or chronic iron chelator use)
2. Member is ≥ 18 years of age
3. Prescriber is a hematologist or consult notes from a hematologist supporting the use of Reblozyl are provided
4. Member's current weight

Myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) Associated Anemia

(inclusive of Myelodysplastic syndromes with ring sideroblasts [MDS-RS] or myelodysplastic/myeloproliferative neoplasm with ring sideroblasts and thrombocytosis [MDS/MPN-RS-T])

1. Diagnosis of myelodysplastic syndromes associated anemia
2. Member is ≥ 18 years of age
3. Prescriber is a hematologist or consult notes from a hematologist supporting use of Reblozyl are provided
4. Member's current weight

Continuation of Therapy

Adakveo: Reauthorization will require physician documentation of positive response to therapy as evidenced (e.g., decrease in VOCs, reduction in need for pain management, decrease in hospitalizations).

Reblozyl: Reauthorization will require physician documentation of a positive response to therapy (decrease in transfusion requirements).

Limitations

1. Initial approvals and reauthorizations will be granted for 6 months.

References

1. Benz EJ and Angelucci E. Diagnosis of thalassemia (adults and children). In: Basow DS (Ed). UpToDate [database on the internet]. Waltham (MA): UpToDate; 2022 [cited 2022 Mar 23]. Available from: <http://www.utdol.com/utd/index.do>.
2. Benz EJ. Pathophysiology of thalassemia. In: Basow DS (Ed). UpToDate [database on the internet]. Waltham (MA): UpToDate; 2022 [cited 2022 Mar 23]. Available from: <http://www.utdol.com/utd/index.do>.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Thalassemia [webpage on the internet]. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2021 [cited 2022 Mar 23]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/thalassemia/>
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11. Adakveo [package insert]. East Hanover (NJ): Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; 2024 Jun.
12. FDA approves new Treatment for Sickle Cell disease [press release on the internet]. Rockville (MD): Food and Drug Administration (US); 2017 Jul 07 [cited 2022 Mar 23]. Available from <https://www.fda.gov/newsevents/newsroom/pressannouncements/ucm566084.htm>.
13. Luchtman-Jones L, Pressel S, Hilliard L, Brown RC, Smith MG, Thompson AA, et al. Effects of hydroxyurea treatment for patients with hemoglobin SC disease. Am J Hematol. 2016 Feb;91(2):238-42.
14. da Guarda CC, Yahouédéhou SCMA, Santiago RP, Neres JSDS, Fernandes CFL, Aleluia MM, Figueiredo CVB, et al. Sickle cell disease: A distinction of two most frequent genotypes (HbSS and HbSC). PLoS One. 2020 Jan 29;15(1):e0228399.

Review History

03/18/2020 – Created and Reviewed P&T Mtg (effective 6/1/20)

11/16/2022 – Reviewed for Nov P&T. Separated out MH vs Comm/Exch. No clinical changes

01/11/23 - Reviewed and updated for Jan P&T. Matched MH UPPL criteria. Added criteria for drugs: Endari, Oxbryta, Reblozyl, Siklos. Updated Adakveo criteria. Effective 4/1/23.

09/13/23 – Reviewed and updated for P&T. Updated Oxbryta tablets for oral suspension for age due to medical necessity for consistency. Brand preferred and mandatory generic language was added under Limitations. Effective 10/2/23.

05/15/2025 – Reviewed and updated for P&T. Performed annual medical criteria review. Policy has been updated to better reflect agents with prior authorization on medical benefit. Endari, Oxbryta, and Siklos were pharmacy benefit only and have thus been removed. Updated formatting & references accordingly. Removed requirement trial with 1 erythropoiesis stimulating agent and documentation that member has RBC transfusions in that past 8 weeks for Reblozyl. Effective 6/1/25

