

POLICY: Complement Inhibitors – Eculizumab Products Utilization Management Medical Policy

- Bkempv™ (eculizumab – aeb intravenous infusion – Amgen)
- Soliris® (eculizumab intravenous infusion – Alexion)

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/1/2021

LAST REVISION DATE: 09/15/2025

COVERAGE CRITERIA FOR: All Aspirus Medicare Plans

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

Eculizumab, a complement C5 inhibitor, is indicated for the following uses:¹

- **Atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS)**, to inhibit complement-mediated thrombotic microangiopathy.
Limitation of Use. Eculizumab is not indicated for the treatment of patients with Shiga toxin *Escherichia coli*-related hemolytic uremic syndrome.
- **Generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG)**, in adults and pediatric patients ≥ 6 years of age who are anti-acetylcholine receptor (AChR) antibody-positive.
- **Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD)**, in adults who are anti-aquaporin-4 (AQP4) antibody-positive.
- **Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH)**, to reduce hemolysis.

Eculizumab has a Boxed Warning about serious meningococcal infections.¹ Soliris and biosimilars are only available through a restricted access program (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy [REMS]).

The safety and effectiveness of eculizumab for the treatment of PNH or NMOSD in pediatric patients have not been established.¹ The safety and effectiveness of eculizumab in pediatric patients for aHUS is supported by evidence from four adequate and well-controlled clinical studies assessing the safety and effectiveness of eculizumab for the treatment of aHUS. The safety and effectiveness of eculizumab in pediatric patients for gMG is supported by evidence from an adequate and well-controlled trial in adults with additional pharmacokinetic and safety data in pediatric patients with gMG who are ≥ 12 years of age, and pharmacokinetic and safety data in other pediatric populations 6 to < 12 years of age.

For the gMG indication, eculizumab was studied in adults with gMG with anti-AChR antibodies with a Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) clinical classification class II to IV and a Myasthenia Gravis-Activities of Daily Living (MG-ADL) total score ≥ 6.¹

Disease Overview

Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) is defined as the triad of non-immune hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia, and acute renal failure, in which the underlying lesions are mediated by systemic thrombotic microangiopathy.² aHUS should be distinguished from a more common condition referred to as typical HUS.⁴ aHUS is a sub-type of HUS in which thrombotic microangiopathy is the consequence

of endothelial damage in the microvasculature of the kidneys and other organs due to a dysregulation of the activity of the complement system. The typical form is caused by infection with certain strains of *E. coli* bacteria that produce toxic substances called Shiga-like toxins; eculizumab is not indicated for the treatment of Shiga toxin *E. coli*-related hemolytic uremic syndrome.¹⁻³

Myasthenia gravis (MG) is a chronic autoimmune neuromuscular disease that causes weakness in the skeletal muscles, which are responsible for breathing and moving parts of the body, including the arms and legs.⁴ The hallmark of MG is muscle weakness that worsens after periods of activity and improves after periods of rest. Acquired MG results from the binding of autoantibodies to components of the neuromuscular junction, most commonly the AChR.⁵

NMOSD is a rare, relapsing, autoimmune disorder of the brain and spinal cord with optic neuritis and/or myelitis as predominate characteristic symptoms.^{6,7} NMOSD often causes significant, permanent damage to vision and/or spinal cord function resulting in blindness or impaired mobility. Patients may experience pain, paralysis, loss of bowel and bladder control, loss of visual acuity, uncontrolled motor functions, and complications can cause death.

PNH is a rare, genetic disorder of hematopoietic stem cells.^{8,9} The mutation in the X-linked gene phosphatidylinositol glycan class A (PIGA) results in a deficiency in the glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) protein, which is responsible for anchoring other protein moieties to the surface of the erythrocytes. Loss of anchoring of these proteins causes cells to hemolyze and leads to complications such as hemolytic anemia, thrombosis, and peripheral blood cytopenias. PNH is a clinical diagnosis that should be confirmed with peripheral blood flow cytometry to detect the absence or severe deficiency of GPI-anchored proteins on at least two cell lineages.^{8,10} Prior to the availability of complement inhibitors, only supportive measures, in terms of managing the cytopenias and controlling thrombotic risk, were available. Supportive measures include platelet transfusion, immunosuppressive therapy for patients with bone marrow failure, use of erythropoietin for anemias, and aggressive anticoagulation.

Recommendations

There are no formal guidelines for treatment of aHUS.

A consensus statement for the diagnosis and treatment of PNH was published in 2021.⁸ Treatment options for PNH are supportive care, allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, and complement blockade by the anti-C5 monoclonal antibody (eculizumab). Supportive care include use of oral iron to replace the large urinary losses; folate and vitamin B₁₂ supplementation; red blood cell transfusion when these measures do not maintain adequate hemoglobin levels; use of antibiotics to treat bacterial infections as soon as possible since infections can exacerbate hemolytic crises in patients with PNH; use of corticosteroids to reduce the severity and duration of the hemolytic crises; use of eculizumab as primary prophylaxis in patients with high PNH clone size (granulocyte clone > 50%), high level of D dimer, pregnancy, perioperative condition, and other associated thrombophilia risk factors; and use of immunosuppressives in patients with PNH and aplastic anemia and bone marrow deficiency.

An international consensus guidance for the management of MG was published in 2016.⁵ The consensus guidance recommends pyridostigmine for the initial treatment in most patients with MG. The ability to discontinue pyridostigmine can indicate that the patient has met treatment goals and may guide the tapering of other therapies. Corticosteroids or immunosuppressant therapy should be used in all patients with MG who have not met treatment goals after an adequate trial of pyridostigmine. Nonsteroidal immunosuppressant agents used in MG include azathioprine, cyclosporine, mycophenolate mofetil, methotrexate, and tacrolimus. It is usually necessary to maintain some immunosuppression for many years, sometimes for life. Plasma exchange and intravenous immunoglobulin can be used as short-term treatments in certain patients. A 2020 update to this consensus guidance provides new recommendations for methotrexate, rituximab, and eculizumab.¹¹ All recommendations should be considered extensions or additions to recommendations made in the initial international consensus guidance. Oral methotrexate may be considered as a steroid-sparing agent in patients with gMG who have not tolerated or responded to steroid-sparing agents. Rituximab should be considered as an early therapeutic option in patients with anti-muscle specific kinase antibody-positive MG who have an unsatisfactory response to initial immunotherapy. Eculizumab should be considered in the treatment of severe, refractory, anti-AChR antibody-positive MG.

Pediatric patients with generalized myasthenia gravis. Cholinesterase inhibitors are used first-line for the symptomatic treatment of juvenile myasthenia gravis (JMG); pyridostigmine is the most widely used cholinesterase inhibitor for JMG.¹² There are no formal guidelines for the use of immunosuppressive therapy in JMG and current practice has been taken from adult guidelines and expert opinions based on individual experience. Prednisolone is accepted as the first-line immunosuppressive therapy in JMG. Second-line therapies or steroid-sparing agents include, but are not limited to, azathioprine, mycophenolate mofetil, tacrolimus, rituximab, cyclosporine, and cyclophosphamide.

The Neuromyelitis Optica Study Group (NEMOS) published revised recommendations for the treatment of NMOSD in 2024.¹³ The standard of care for the treatment of NMOSD attacks (for both AQP4-IgG-positive and double-negative cases) are high-dose glucocorticoids and/or apheresis therapy. Long term immunotherapy is recommended for patients with AQP4-IgG-positive NMOSD. NEMOS notes the first-choice therapies for the treatment of AQP4-IgG-positive NMOSD are eculizumab, Ultomiris® (ravulizumab-cwyz intravenous infusion), Enspryng® (satralizumab-mwge subcutaneous injection), Uplizna® (inebilizumab-cdon intravenous infusion), and rituximab. The order of preference for these therapies is unclear and further comparative trials and real-world data are needed. The choice of treatment is dependent on several factors, including disease activity and severity, mode and onset of action, possibility to combine it with immunosuppressive drugs, effect on autoimmune and other comorbidities, gender (family planning issues), frequency and route of administration, side effect profile, as well as patient and physician preference. In general, if a patient fails a first-choice treatment, another first-choice treatment should be tried; other options include use of a second-choice treatment (azathioprine, mycophenolate mofetil, low-dose oral glucocorticoids) or the addition of a second-choice treatment to the regimen.

ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE

The information provided in the summary of evidence is supported by labeled indications, CMS-approved compendia, published clinical literature, clinical practice guidelines, and/or applicable

National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and Local Coverage Articles (LCAs). Refer to the Sources of Information section of this policy for additional information.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior authorization is recommended for medical benefit coverage of eculizumab. Approval is recommended for those who meet the conditions of coverage in the **Criteria** and **Dosing** for the listed indication(s). All approvals for initial therapy are provided for the initial approval duration noted below. In cases where the dosing interval is provided in months, 1 month is equal to 30 days.

This policy incorporates Medicare coverage guidance as set forth in National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), as well as in companion policy articles and other guidance applicable to the relevant service areas. These documents are cited in the Sources of Information section of this policy. In some cases, this guidance includes specific lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes to help inform the coverage determination process. The Articles that include specific lists for billing and coding purposes will be included in the Sources of Information section of this policy. However, to the extent that this policy cites such lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes, they should be used for reference purposes only. The presence of a specific HCPCS or ICD-10 code in a chart or companion article to an LCD is not by itself sufficient to approve coverage. Similarly, the absence of such a code does not necessarily mean that the applicable condition or diagnosis is excluded from coverage.

Note: Conditions for coverage outlined in this Medicare Advantage Medical Policy may be less restrictive than those found in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles. Examples of situations where this clinical policy may be less restrictive include, but are not limited to, coverage of additional indications supported by CMS-approved compendia and the exclusion from this policy of additional coverage criteria requirements outlined in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles.

Indications with a ^ below are referenced in both the corresponding Standard Medical Utilization Management Internal Policy AND applicable National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and/or Local Coverage Articles (LCAs). Coverage criteria for these indications may be internally developed and/or referenced in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs. For these indications, internally developed coverage criteria is denoted throughout the policy in the following manner: 1) IC-L (internal criteria supported by the labeled indication), 2) IC-COMP (internal criteria supported by CMS-approved compendia), 3) IC-ISGP (internal criteria intended to interpret or supplement general provisions outlined in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs), or 4) IC-EC (internal criteria intended to expand coverage beyond the coverage outlined in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs). For these indications, coverage criteria that is NOT denoted with one of the above indicators is referenced in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs. Additional information supporting the rationale for determination of internal coverage criteria can be found via the Sources of Information section.

Indications with a @ below are referenced in the corresponding Standard Medical Utilization Management Internal Policy, but are NOT directly referenced in applicable National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and/or Local Coverage Articles (LCAs). Coverage criteria for these

indications is internally developed. These indications and their respective coverage criteria represent expanded coverage beyond the coverage outlined in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs.

Indications with a # below are supported and referenced in applicable National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and/or Local Coverage Articles (LCAs), but are NOT directly referenced in the corresponding Standard Medical Utilization Management Internal Policy. Coverage criteria for these indications is referenced in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Soliris or Bkembv is recommended for requests meeting both the preferred product step therapy requirements and indication requirements.

Preferred Product(s): Epysqli

Non-Preferred Products(s): Soliris and Bkembv

Step Therapy Requirements:

Authorization for a non-preferred biologic product or biosimilar will be granted if the patient meets any one of the items listed below (A, B, C, D or E). Chart notes documenting the issue must be provided at time of request:

- A. The patient is *not* considered a new start to the non-preferred product (new start is defined as no use of the requested product in the previous 365 days) OR
- B. Allergic reaction to a specific inactive ingredient in all preferred biologic products or biosimilars OR
- C. Adverse reaction to a specific inactive ingredient in all preferred biologic products or biosimilars OR
- D. Therapeutic success while taking a non-preferred biologic product or biosimilar and therapeutic failure during an adequate trial of all preferred biologic products or biosimilars which allowed sufficient time for a positive treatment outcome documented by medical chart notes OR
- E. The patient has a diagnosis not included in the FDA-approved indications of all preferred products, but is included in the FDA-approved indications of the non-preferred product

Please note:

- Factors such as patient or prescriber preference or healthcare facility's or pharmacy's inability or unwillingness to order or stock the preferred product(s) will not be considered
- Common side effects to all products and infusion-related reactions are not considered documented allergic reactions to a preferred product as they would be expected with the innovator and biosimilar products.

- Generally, an adequate trial of a drug is considered to be three months or longer in order to allow time for efficacy to be established

FDA-Approved Indications

1. Atypical Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome. [^]

Criteria. Approve for 1 year if the patient does not have signs of Shiga toxin *E. coli* related hemolytic uremic syndrome. ^{IC-L}

Dosing. Approve if the dose meets the following (A or B):

- A)** For patients ≥ 18 years of age, the dose is administered intravenously and meets ONE of the following (i or ii):
- The dose is ≤ 900 mg weekly for the first 4 weeks; OR
 - The dose is $\leq 1,200$ mg every 2 weeks thereafter.
- B)** For patients < 18 years of age, the dose is administered intravenously and meets ONE of the following (i, ii, iii, iv, or v):
- ≥ 40 kg: 900 mg intravenously weekly x 4 doses, 1,200 mg at week 5; then 1,200 mg every 2 weeks.
 - 30 kg to < 40 kg: 600 mg intravenously weekly x 2 doses, 900 mg at week 3; then 900 mg every 2 weeks.
 - 20 kg to < 30 kg: 600 mg intravenously weekly x 2 doses, 600 mg at week 3; then 600 mg every 2 weeks.
 - 10 kg to < 20 kg: 600 mg intravenously weekly x 1 dose, 300 mg at week 2; then 300 mg every 2 weeks.
 - 5 kg to < 10 kg: 300 mg intravenously weekly x 1 dose, 300 mg at week 2; then 300 mg every 3 weeks.

2. Generalized Myasthenia Gravis. [^]

Criteria. Approve Soliris if the patient meets ONE of the following criteria (A or B):

- A) Initial therapy:** Approve for 6 months if the patient meets the following criteria (i, ii, and iii):
- The patient is ≥ 6 years of age; ^{IC-L} AND
 - The patient has confirmed anti-acetylcholine receptor antibody positive generalized Myasthenia Gravis; ^{IC-L} AND
 - The patient received or is currently receiving or has had inadequate efficacy, a contraindication, or significant intolerance to at least one conventional therapy; ^{IC-ISGP} OR
Note: Examples of conventional therapy include pyridostigmine, a corticosteroid, azathioprine, cyclosporine, mycophenolate mofetil, methotrexate, tacrolimus, cyclophosphamide).
- B) Patient currently receiving Eculizumab:** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (i and ii):
- Patient is ≥ 6 years of age; ^{IC-L} AND
 - The patient is continuing to derive benefit from eculizumab, according to the prescriber. ^{IC-ISGP}

Note: Examples of derived benefit include reductions in exacerbations of myasthenia gravis, improvements in speech, swallowing, mobility, and respiratory function.

Dosing. Approve if the dose is administered intravenously and meets ONE of the following (A or B):

- A) Adults \geq 18 years of age: Approve the following regimen (i or ii):
 - i. The dose is \leq 900 mg weekly for the first 4 weeks; OR
 - ii. The dose is \leq 1,200 mg every 2 weeks thereafter; OR
- B) Pediatric patients \geq 6 and $<$ 18 years of age. Approve ONE of the following regimens (based on body weight) [i, ii, iii, iv, or v]:
 - i. 40 kg and over: 900 mg weekly for the first 4 weeks; 1,200 mg at Week 5; then 1,200 mg every 2 weeks; OR
 - ii. 30 kg to $<$ 40 kg: 600 mg for the first 2 weeks; 900 mg at Week 3; then 900 mg every 2 weeks; OR
 - iii. 20 kg to $<$ 30 kg: 600 mg for the first 2 weeks; 600 mg at Week 3; then 600 mg every 2 weeks; OR
 - iv. 10 kg to $<$ 20 kg: 600 mg single dose at Week 1; 300 mg at Week 2; then 300 mg every 2 weeks; OR
 - v. 5 kg to $<$ 10 kg: 300 mg single dose at Week 1; 300 mg at Week 2; then 300 mg every 3 weeks.

3. Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria. [^]

Criteria. Approve if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

- A) Initial therapy: Approve for 6 months if the patient meets the following criteria (i and ii):
 - i. The patient is \geq 18 years of age; ^{IC-COMP} AND
 - ii. Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria diagnosis was confirmed by peripheral blood flow cytometry results showing the absence or deficiency of glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI)-anchored proteins on at least two cell lineages; ^{IC-ISGP} OR
- B) Patient currently receiving Eculizumab: Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (i and ii):
 - i. Patient is \geq 18 years of age; ^{IC-COMP} AND
 - ii. The patient is continuing to derive benefit from eculizumab, according to the prescriber. ^{IC-ISGP}

Note: Examples of benefit include stabilization of hemoglobin levels, decreased transfusion requirements or transfusion independence, reductions in hemolysis, improvement in Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT)-Fatigue score.

Dosing. Approve if the dose is administered intravenously and meets ONE of the following (A or B):

- A) The dose is \leq 600 mg weekly for the first 4 weeks; OR
- B) The dose is \leq 900 mg every 2 weeks thereafter.

4. Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder. [^]

Criteria. Approve if the patient meets ONE of the following criteria (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (i and ii):

- i. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; ^{IC-L} AND
- ii. Diagnosis was confirmed by a positive blood serum test for anti-aquaporin-4 antibody;
^{IC-L} OR

B) Patients Currently Receiving Eculizumab. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (i, ii, iii, and iv):

- i. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; ^{IC-L} AND
- ii. Diagnosis was confirmed by a positive blood serum test for anti-aquaporin-4 antibody;
^{IC-L} AND
- iii. According to the prescriber, patient has had clinical benefit from the use of eculizumab. ^{IC-ISGP}

Note: Examples of clinical benefit include reduction in relapse rate, reduction in symptoms (e.g., pain, fatigue, motor function), and a slowing progression in symptoms.

Dosing. Approve if the dose is administered intravenously and meets ONE of the following (A or B):

A) The dose is ≤ 900 mg weekly for the first 4 weeks; OR

B) The dose is $\leq 1,200$ mg every 2 weeks thereafter.

OTHER USES WITH SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE

5. Dense Deposit Disease. #

Criteria. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (A and B):

A) Dense deposit disease has been proven by a biopsy; AND

B) The patient has documented elevated serum levels of sC5b-9 (serum Membrane Attack Complex [sMAC]).

Dosing: Induction dose is 900 mg per week for 4 weeks; maintenance dose is 1,200 mg every 2 weeks starting at week 5.¹⁴

Conditions Not Recommended for Approval

Coverage of eculizumab is not recommended in the following situations:

1. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Soliris® intravenous infusion [prescribing information]. Boston, MA: Alexion; June 2024.
2. Campistol JM, Arias M, Ariceta G, et al. An update for atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome: diagnosis and treatment. A consensus document. *Nefrologia*. 2015;35:421–447.
3. Atypical hemolytic-uremic syndrome. National Institutes of Health (NIH). Available at: <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/atypical-hemolytic-uremic-syndrome#sourcesforpage>. Accessed on September 17, 2024.

4. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Myasthenia Gravis. Updated March 2020. Available at: https://www.ninds.nih.gov/sites/default/files/migrate-documents/myasthenia_gravis_e_march_2020_508c.pdf. Accessed on September 17, 2024.
5. Sanders DB, Wolfe GI, Benatar M, et al. International consensus guidance for management of myasthenia gravis. *Neurology*. 2016;87:419–425.
6. National Organization for Rare Disorders. Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder. Available at: <https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/neuromyelitis-optica/>. Last updated July 27, 2022. Accessed on September 17, 2024.
7. Wingerchuk DM, Banwell B, Bennett JL, et al. International consensus diagnostic criteria for neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders. *Neurology*. 2015;85(2):177-189.
8. Cañado RD, da Silva Araújo A, Sandes AF, et al. Consensus statement for diagnosis and treatment of paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria. *Hematol Transfus Cell Ther*. 2021;43:341-348.
9. Shah N, Bhatt H. Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria. [Updated 2023 Jul 31]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2023 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK562292/>. Accessed September 17, 2024.
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12. O'Connell K, Ramdas S, Palace J. Management of juvenile myasthenia gravis. *Front Neurol*. 2020;11:743. Doi: 10.3389/fneuro.2020.00743.
13. Kämpfel T, Gighuber K, Aktas O, et al. Update on the diagnosis and treatment of neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders (NMOSD) – revised recommendations of the Neuromyelitis Optica Study Group (NEMOS). Part II: Attack therapy and long-term management. *J Neurol*. 2024;271:141-176.
14. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Government Services, Inc, Local Coverage Article: Billing and Coding: Eculizumab (Soliris®) - Related to LCD L33394 (A54548) (Original effective date 10/1/15, Revision date 4/1/25). Accessed on April 8, 2025.
15. Eculizumab for the Treatment of Dense-Deposit Disease. *N Engl J Med* 2012; 366:1163-1165
16. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Government Services, Inc, Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Drugs and Biologicals, Coverage of, for Label and Off-Label Uses (L33394) [original date 10/01/2015; revision effective date 8/1/24]. Accessed on April 8, 2025.

History

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Date
Policy created	New Medicare Advantage Medical Policy	07/11/2018
Policy revision	Reviewed and revised original policy created 07/11/2018 in accordance with Local Coverage Article A54548 and Soliris Utilization Review Policy.	08/28/2019
Policy revision	Completion of 2019 monthly monitoring process. Removed criteria for Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder to align with LCA A54548.	11/06/2019
Policy revision	Completion of 2019 monthly monitoring process in accordance with Local Coverage Determination L33394, Local Coverage Article A54548, and Complement Inhibitors – Soliris Utilization Review Policy.	11/27/2019
Policy revision	Non-clinical update to policy to add the statement “This policy incorporates Medicare coverage guidance as set forth in National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), as well as in companion policy articles and other guidance applicable to the relevant service areas. These documents are cited in the References section of this policy. In some cases, this guidance includes specific lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes to help inform the coverage determination process. The Articles that include specific lists for billing and coding purposes will be included in the Reference section of this policy. However, to the extent that this policy cites such lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes, they should be used for reference purposes only. The presence of a specific HCPCS or ICD-10 code in a chart or companion article to an LCD is not by itself sufficient to approve coverage. Similarly,	1/30/2020

	the absence of such a code does <u>not</u> necessarily mean that the applicable condition or diagnosis is excluded from coverage.”	
Policy revision	<p>*Added the following to the Policy Statement “Note: Conditions for coverage outlined in this Medicare Advantage Medical Policy may be less restrictive than those found in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles. Examples of situations where this clinical policy may be less restrictive include, but are not limited to, coverage of additional indications supported by CMS-approved compendia and the exclusion from this policy of additional coverage criteria requirements outlined in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles.”</p> <p>*Updated references *removed criteria requiring evidence of clinically significant hemolysis or documented history of a major adverse event from thromboembolism from PNH indication.</p> <p>*removed from aHUS indication the following criteria: Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) has been ruled out (for example, normal ADAMTS 13 activity and no evidence of an ADAMTS 13 inhibitor); OR If TTP cannot be ruled out by laboratory and clinical evaluation, a trial of plasma exchange has not resulted in clinical improvement. also removed continuation criteria from this indication. *removed continuation criteria from dense deposit disease.</p>	09/09/2020
Policy Revision	<p>Generalized Myasthenia Gravis (gMG).For patients currently receiving Soliris, examples of the patient continuing to derive benefit was changed to a Note and prescribing physician was changed to prescriber.</p> <p>Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria. For patients currently receiving Soliris, examples of the patient continuing to derive benefit was changed to a Note and prescribing physician was changed to prescriber.</p> <p>Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder. Criteria was separated into Initial Therapy and Patients Currently Receiving Soliris. For both sections, criteria for approval duration, age restriction, diagnosis confirmation, and specialist requirement remained the same as before. For Initial Therapy, a Note was created to allow an exception to previously tried systemic therapies for patients who have tried Enspryng or Uplizna. For Patients Currently Receiving Soliris, criteria were added to show the patient is receiving a clinical benefit from Soliris.</p>	09/21/2020
Policy revision	<p>Generalized Myasthenia Gravis: For a patient who is currently receiving Soliris, age requirement of ≥ 18 years of age was added as criteria.</p> <p>Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria: For a patient who is currently receiving Soliris, age requirement of ≥ 18 years of age was added as criteria.</p>	06/21/2021
Policy revision	Generalized Myasthenia Gravis: Wording in the requirements for a trial of conventional therapy was changed from “has tried and has	12/30/2021

	contraindications, intolerance, or failed” to “has tried and has had inadequate efficacy, a contraindication, or significant intolerance to”.	
Policy review	No Criteria Changes	05/24/2023
Policy review	No Criteria Changes	09/20/2023
Policy review	No Criteria Changes (based on review of commercial policy update)	02/21/2024
Policy revision	Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder – Initial Therapy: Removed criterion that required prior use of two systemic therapies. Soliris is listed as a first-line treatment option in the Neuromyelitis Optica Study Group (NEMOS) recommendations for the treatment of Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (2024).	4/22/2024
UCare P&T Review	Policy reviewed and approved by UCare P&T committee. Annual review process	09/16/2024
Policy revision	Bkemv (biosimilar to Soliris): This agent was added to the policy; the same criteria apply as that for Soliris. Policy Name Change: The generic name replaced the brand name in the policy title: Complement Inhibitors – Eculizumab Products UM Medical. Revision based on commercial policy update.	03/18/2025
Policy revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epysqli (biosimilar to Soliris): This agent was added to the policy; the same criteria apply as that for Soliris. • Generalized Myasthenia Gravis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Age requirement (for initial and continuation of therapy) was changed to “≥ 6 years of age”; previously it was “≥18 years of age”. <p>Corticosteroid was added to the Note of examples of immunosuppressant therapies.</p>	04/08/2025
UCare Policy Update	Updated preferred product to Epysqli, which will no longer require a review as of 1/1/2026 for members on a Medicare plan. Updated step therapy criteria to require chart note documentation to support the need for a non-preferred product.	09/15/2025
UCare P&T Review	Policy reviewed and approved by UCare P&T committee. Annual review process	09/15/2025

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

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Eculizumab has a Boxed Warning about serious meningococcal infections.¹ Soliris and biosimilars are only available through a restricted access program (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy [REMS]).

The safety and effectiveness of eculizumab for the treatment of PNH or NMOSD in pediatric patients have not been established.¹ The safety and effectiveness of eculizumab in pediatric patients for aHUS is supported by evidence from four adequate and well-controlled clinical studies assessing the safety and effectiveness of eculizumab for the treatment of aHUS. The safety and effectiveness of eculizumab in pediatric patients for gMG is supported by evidence from an adequate and well-controlled trial in adults with additional pharmacokinetic and safety data in pediatric patients with gMG who are ≥ 12 years of age, and pharmacokinetic and safety data in other pediatric populations 6 to < 12 years of age.

For the gMG indication, eculizumab was studied in adults with gMG with anti-AChR antibodies with a Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) clinical classification class II to IV and a Myasthenia Gravis-Activities of Daily Living (MG-ADL) total score ≥ 6 .¹

Disease Overview

Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) is defined as the triad of non-immune hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia, and acute renal failure, in which the underlying lesions are mediated by systemic thrombotic microangiopathy.² aHUS should be distinguished from a more common condition referred to as typical HUS.⁴ aHUS is a sub-type of HUS in which thrombotic microangiopathy is the consequence of endothelial damage in the microvasculature of the kidneys and other organs due to a dysregulation of the activity of the complement system. The typical form is caused by infection with certain strains of *E. coli* bacteria that produce toxic substances called Shiga-like toxins; eculizumab is not indicated for the treatment of Shiga toxin *E. coli*-related hemolytic uremic syndrome.¹⁻³

Myasthenia gravis (MG) is a chronic autoimmune neuromuscular disease that causes weakness in the skeletal muscles, which are responsible for breathing and moving parts of the body, including the arms and legs.⁴ The hallmark of MG is muscle weakness that worsens after periods of activity and improves after periods of rest. Acquired MG results from the binding of autoantibodies to components of the neuromuscular junction, most commonly the AChR.⁵

NMOSD is a rare, relapsing, autoimmune disorder of the brain and spinal cord with optic neuritis and/or myelitis as predominate characteristic symptoms.^{6,7} NMOSD often causes significant, permanent damage to vision and/or spinal cord function resulting in blindness or impaired mobility. Patients may experience pain, paralysis, loss of bowel and bladder control, loss of visual acuity, uncontrolled motor functions, and complications can cause death.

PNH is a rare, genetic disorder of hematopoietic stem cells.^{8,9} The mutation in the X-linked gene phosphatidylinositol glycan class A (PIGA) results in a deficiency in the glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) protein, which is responsible for anchoring other protein moieties to the surface of the erythrocytes. Loss of anchoring of these proteins causes cells to hemolyze and leads to complications such as hemolytic anemia, thrombosis, and peripheral blood cytopenias. PNH is a clinical diagnosis that should be confirmed with peripheral blood flow cytometry to detect the absence or severe

deficiency of GPI-anchored proteins on at least two cell lineages.^{8,10} Prior to the availability of complement inhibitors, only supportive measures, in terms of managing the cytopenias and controlling thrombotic risk, were available. Supportive measures include platelet transfusion, immunosuppressive therapy for patients with bone marrow failure, use of erythropoietin for anemias, and aggressive anticoagulation.

Recommendations

There are no formal guidelines for treatment of aHUS.

A consensus statement for the diagnosis and treatment of PNH was published in 2021.⁸ Treatment options for PNH are supportive care, allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, and complement blockade by the anti-C5 monoclonal antibody (eculizumab). Supportive care include use of oral iron to replace the large urinary losses; folate and vitamin B₁₂ supplementation; red blood cell transfusion when these measures do not maintain adequate hemoglobin levels; use of antibiotics to treat bacterial infections as soon as possible since infections can exacerbate hemolytic crises in patients with PNH; use of corticosteroids to reduce the severity and duration of the hemolytic crises; use of eculizumab as primary prophylaxis in patients with high PNH clone size (granulocyte clone > 50%), high level of D dimer, pregnancy, perioperative condition, and other associated thrombophilia risk factors; and use of immunosuppressives in patients with PNH and aplastic anemia and bone marrow deficiency.

An international consensus guidance for the management of MG was published in 2016.⁵ The consensus guidance recommends pyridostigmine for the initial treatment in most patients with MG. The ability to discontinue pyridostigmine can indicate that the patient has met treatment goals and may guide the tapering of other therapies. Corticosteroids or immunosuppressant therapy should be used in all patients with MG who have not met treatment goals after an adequate trial of pyridostigmine. Nonsteroidal immunosuppressant agents used in MG include azathioprine, cyclosporine, mycophenolate mofetil, methotrexate, and tacrolimus. It is usually necessary to maintain some immunosuppression for many years, sometimes for life. Plasma exchange and intravenous immunoglobulin can be used as short-term treatments in certain patients. A 2020 update to this consensus guidance provides new recommendations for methotrexate, rituximab, and eculizumab.¹¹ All recommendations should be considered extensions or additions to recommendations made in the initial international consensus guidance. Oral methotrexate may be considered as a steroid-sparing agent in patients with gMG who have not tolerated or responded to steroid-sparing agents. Rituximab should be considered as an early therapeutic option in patients with anti-muscle specific kinase antibody-positive MG who have an unsatisfactory response to initial immunotherapy. Eculizumab should be considered in the treatment of severe, refractory, anti-AChR antibody-positive MG.

Pediatric patients with generalized myasthenia gravis. Cholinesterase inhibitors are used first-line for the symptomatic treatment of juvenile myasthenia gravis (JMG); pyridostigmine is the most widely used cholinesterase inhibitor for JMG.¹² There are no formal guidelines for the use of immunosuppressive therapy in JMG and current practice has been taken from adult guidelines and expert opinions based on individual experience. Prednisolone is accepted as the first-line immunosuppressive therapy in JMG. Second-line therapies or steroid-sparing agents include, but are not limited to, azathioprine, mycophenolate mofetil, tacrolimus, rituximab, cyclosporine, and cyclophosphamide.

The Neuromyelitis Optica Study Group (NEMOS) published revised recommendations for the treatment of NMOSD in 2024.¹³ The standard of care for the treatment of NMOSD attacks (for both AQP4-IgG-positive and double-negative cases) are high-dose glucocorticoids and/or apheresis therapy. Long term immunotherapy is recommended for patients with AQP4-IgG-positive NMOSD. NEMOS notes the first-choice therapies for the treatment of AQP4-IgG-positive NMOSD are eculizumab, Ultomiris® (ravulizumab-cwyz intravenous infusion), Enspryng® (satralizumab-mwge subcutaneous injection), Uplizna® (inebilizumab-cdon intravenous infusion), and rituximab. The order of preference for these therapies is unclear and further comparative trials and real-world data are needed. The choice of treatment is dependent on several factors, including disease activity and severity, mode and onset of action, possibility to combine it with immunosuppressive drugs, effect on autoimmune and other comorbidities, gender (family planning issues), frequency and route of administration, side effect profile, as well as patient and physician preference. In general, if a patient fails a first-choice treatment, another first-choice treatment should be tried; other options include use of a second-choice treatment (azathioprine, mycophenolate mofetil, low-dose oral glucocorticoids) or the addition of a second-choice treatment to the regimen.

ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE

The information provided in the summary of evidence is supported by labeled indications, CMS-approved compendia, published clinical literature, clinical practice guidelines, and/or applicable National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and Local Coverage Articles (LCAs). Refer to the Sources of Information section of this policy for additional information.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior authorization is recommended for medical benefit coverage of eculizumab. Approval is recommended for those who meet the conditions of coverage in the **Criteria** and **Dosing** for the listed indication(s). All approvals for initial therapy are provided for the initial approval duration noted below. In cases where the dosing interval is provided in months, 1 month is equal to 30 days.

This policy incorporates Medicare coverage guidance as set forth in National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), as well as in companion policy articles and other guidance applicable to the relevant service areas. These documents are cited in the Sources of Information section of this policy. In some cases, this guidance includes specific lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes to help inform the coverage determination process. The Articles that include specific lists for billing and coding purposes will be included in the Sources of Information section of this policy. However, to the extent that this policy cites such lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes, they should be used for reference purposes only. The presence of a specific HCPCS or ICD-10 code in a chart or companion article to an LCD is not by itself sufficient to approve coverage. Similarly, the absence of such a code does not necessarily mean that the applicable condition or diagnosis is excluded from coverage.

Note: Conditions for coverage outlined in this Medicare Advantage Medical Policy may be less restrictive than those found in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles. Examples of situations where this clinical policy may be less restrictive

include, but are not limited to, coverage of additional indications supported by CMS-approved compendia and the exclusion from this policy of additional coverage criteria requirements outlined in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles.

Indications with a ^ below are referenced in both the corresponding Standard Medical Utilization Management Internal Policy AND applicable National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and/or Local Coverage Articles (LCAs). Coverage criteria for these indications may be internally developed and/or referenced in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs. For these indications, internally developed coverage criteria is denoted throughout the policy in the following manner: 1) IC-L (internal criteria supported by the labeled indication), 2) IC-COMP (internal criteria supported by CMS-approved compendia), 3) IC-ISGP (internal criteria intended to interpret or supplement general provisions outlined in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs), or 4) IC-EC (internal criteria intended to expand coverage beyond the coverage outlined in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs). For these indications, coverage criteria that is NOT denoted with one of the above indicators is referenced in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs. Additional information supporting the rationale for determination of internal coverage criteria can be found via the Sources of Information section.

Indications with a @ below are referenced in the corresponding Standard Medical Utilization Management Internal Policy, but are NOT directly referenced in applicable National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and/or Local Coverage Articles (LCAs). Coverage criteria for these indications is internally developed. These indications and their respective coverage criteria represent expanded coverage beyond the coverage outlined in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs.

Indications with a # below are supported and referenced in applicable National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and/or Local Coverage Articles (LCAs), but are NOT directly referenced in the corresponding Standard Medical Utilization Management Internal Policy. Coverage criteria for these indications is referenced in applicable NCDs, LCDs, and/or LCAs.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Soliris or Bkempv is recommended for requests meeting both the preferred product step therapy requirements and indication requirements.

Preferred Product(s): Epysqli

Non-Preferred Products(s): Soliris and Bkempv

Step Therapy Requirements:

Authorization for a non-preferred biologic product or biosimilar will be granted if the patient meets any one of the items listed below (A, B, C, D or E). Chart notes documenting the issue must be provided at time of request:

- F. The patient is *not* considered a new start to the non-preferred product (new start is defined as no use of the requested product in the previous 365 days) OR

- G. Allergic reaction to a specific inactive ingredient in all preferred biologic products or biosimilars OR
- H. Adverse reaction to a specific inactive ingredient in all preferred biologic products or biosimilars OR
- I. Therapeutic success while taking a non-preferred biologic product or biosimilar and therapeutic failure during an adequate trial of all preferred biologic products or biosimilars which allowed sufficient time for a positive treatment outcome documented by medical chart notes OR
- J. The patient has a diagnosis not included in the FDA-approved indications of all preferred products, but is included in the FDA-approved indications of the non-preferred product

Please note:

- Factors such as patient or prescriber preference or healthcare facility's or pharmacy's inability or unwillingness to order or stock the preferred product(s) will not be considered
- Common side effects to all products and infusion-related reactions are not considered documented allergic reactions to a preferred product as they would be expected with the innovator and biosimilar products.
- Generally, an adequate trial of a drug is considered to be three months or longer in order to allow time for efficacy to be established

FDA-Approved Indications

6. Atypical Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome. [^]

Criteria. Approve for 1 year if the patient does not have signs of Shiga toxin *E. coli* related hemolytic uremic syndrome. ^{IC-L}

Dosing. Approve if the dose meets the following (A or B):

- C)** For patients ≥ 18 years of age, the dose is administered intravenously and meets ONE of the following (i or ii):
 - iii.** The dose is ≤ 900 mg weekly for the first 4 weeks; OR
 - iv.** The dose is $\leq 1,200$ mg every 2 weeks thereafter.
- D)** For patients < 18 years of age, the dose is administered intravenously and meets ONE of the following (i, ii, iii, iv, or v):
 - vi.** ≥ 40 kg: 900 mg intravenously weekly x 4 doses, 1,200 mg at week 5; then 1,200 mg every 2 weeks.
 - vii.** 30 kg to < 40 kg: 600 mg intravenously weekly x 2 doses, 900 mg at week 3; then 900 mg every 2 weeks.
 - viii.** 20 kg to < 30 kg: 600 mg intravenously weekly x 2 doses, 600 mg at week 3; then 600 mg every 2 weeks.

- ix. 10 kg to < 20 kg: 600 mg intravenously weekly x 1 dose, 300 mg at week 2; then 300 mg every 2 weeks.
- x. 5 kg to < 10 kg: 300 mg intravenously weekly x 1 dose, 300 mg at week 2; then 300 mg every 3 weeks.

7. Generalized Myasthenia Gravis. [^]

Criteria. Approve Soliris if the patient meets ONE of the following criteria (A or B):

C) Initial therapy: Approve for 6 months if the patient meets the following criteria (i, ii, and iii):

- iv. The patient is ≥ 6 years of age; ^{IC-L} AND
- v. The patient has confirmed anti-acetylcholine receptor antibody positive generalized Myasthenia Gravis; ^{IC-L} AND
- vi. The patient received or is currently receiving or has had inadequate efficacy, a contraindication, or significant intolerance to at least one conventional therapy; ^{IC-ISGP} OR
Note: Examples of conventional therapy include pyridostigmine, a corticosteroid, azathioprine, cyclosporine, mycophenolate mofetil, methotrexate, tacrolimus, cyclophosphamide).

D) Patient currently receiving Eculizumab: Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (i and ii):

- i. Patient is ≥ 6 years of age; ^{IC-L} AND
- ii. The patient is continuing to derive benefit from eculizumab, according to the prescriber. ^{IC-ISGP}

Note: Examples of derived benefit include reductions in exacerbations of myasthenia gravis, improvements in speech, swallowing, mobility, and respiratory function.

Dosing. Approve if the dose is administered intravenously and meets ONE of the following (A or B):

C) Adults ≥ 18 years of age: Approve the following regimen (i or ii):

- iii. The dose is ≤ 900 mg weekly for the first 4 weeks; OR
- iv. The dose is $\leq 1,200$ mg every 2 weeks thereafter; OR

D) Pediatric patients ≥ 6 and < 18 years of age. Approve ONE of the following regimens (based on body weight) [i, ii, iii, iv, or v]:

- vi. 40 kg and over: 900 mg weekly for the first 4 weeks; 1,200 mg at Week 5; then 1,200 mg every 2 weeks; OR
- vii. 30 kg to < 40 kg: 600 mg for the first 2 weeks; 900 mg at Week 3; then 900 mg every 2 weeks; OR
- viii. 20 kg to < 30 kg: 600 mg for the first 2 weeks; 600 mg at Week 3; then 600 mg every 2 weeks; OR
- ix. 10 kg to < 20 kg: 600 mg single dose at Week 1; 300 mg at Week 2; then 300 mg every 2 weeks; OR
- x. 5 kg to < 10 kg: 300 mg single dose at Week 1; 300 mg at Week 2; then 300 mg every 3 weeks.

8. Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria. [^]

Criteria. Approve if the patient meets ONE of the following (A or B):

C) Initial therapy: Approve for 6 months if the patient meets the following criteria (i and ii):

- i.** The patient is ≥ 18 years of age; ^{IC-COMP} AND
- ii.** Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria diagnosis was confirmed by peripheral blood flow cytometry results showing the absence or deficiency of glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI)-anchored proteins on at least two cell lineages; ^{IC-ISGP} OR

D) Patient currently receiving Eculizumab: Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (i and ii):

- i.** Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; ^{IC-COMP} AND
- ii.** The patient is continuing to derive benefit from eculizumab, according to the prescriber. ^{IC-ISGP}

Note: Examples of benefit include stabilization of hemoglobin levels, decreased transfusion requirements or transfusion independence, reductions in hemolysis, improvement in Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT)-Fatigue score.

Dosing. Approve if the dose is administered intravenously and meets ONE of the following (A or B):

C) The dose is ≤ 600 mg weekly for the first 4 weeks; OR

D) The dose is ≤ 900 mg every 2 weeks thereafter.

9. Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder. [^]

Criteria. Approve if the patient meets ONE of the following criteria (A or B):

A) Initial Therapy. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (i and ii):

- i.** Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; ^{IC-L} AND
- ii.** Diagnosis was confirmed by a positive blood serum test for anti-aquaporin-4 antibody; ^{IC-L} OR

B) Patients Currently Receiving Eculizumab. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (i, ii, iii, and iv):

- i.** Patient is ≥ 18 years of age; ^{IC-L} AND
- ii.** Diagnosis was confirmed by a positive blood serum test for anti-aquaporin-4 antibody; ^{IC-L} AND
- iii.** According to the prescriber, patient has had clinical benefit from the use of eculizumab. ^{IC-ISGP}

Note: Examples of clinical benefit include reduction in relapse rate, reduction in symptoms (e.g., pain, fatigue, motor function), and a slowing progression in symptoms.

Dosing. Approve if the dose is administered intravenously and meets ONE of the following (A or B):

C) The dose is ≤ 900 mg weekly for the first 4 weeks; OR

D) The dose is $\leq 1,200$ mg every 2 weeks thereafter.

OTHER USES WITH SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE

10. Dense Deposit Disease. [#]

Criteria. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (A and B):

- C)** Dense deposit disease has been proven by a biopsy; AND
- D)** The patient has documented elevated serum levels of sC5b-9 (serum Membrane Attack Complex [sMAC]).

Dosing: Induction dose is 900 mg per week for 4 weeks; maintenance dose is 1,200 mg every 2 weeks starting at week 5.¹⁴

Conditions Not Recommended for Approval

Coverage of eculizumab is not recommended in the following situations:

- 2.** Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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31. Eculizumab for the Treatment of Dense-Deposit Disease. *N Engl J Med* 2012; 366:1163-1165

32. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Government Services, Inc, Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Drugs and Biologicals, Coverage of, for Label and Off-Label Uses (L33394) [original date 10/01/2015; revision effective date 8/1/24]. Accessed on April 8, 2025.

History

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Date
Policy created	New Medicare Advantage Medical Policy	07/11/2018
Policy revision	Reviewed and revised original policy created 07/11/2018 in accordance with Local Coverage Article A54548 and Soliris Utilization Review Policy.	08/28/2019
Policy revision	Completion of 2019 monthly monitoring process. Removed criteria for Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder to align with LCA A54548.	11/06/2019
Policy revision	Completion of 2019 monthly monitoring process in accordance with Local Coverage Determination L33394, Local Coverage Article A54548, and Complement Inhibitors – Soliris Utilization Review Policy.	11/27/2019
Policy revision	Non-clinical update to policy to add the statement “This policy incorporates Medicare coverage guidance as set forth in National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), as well as in companion policy articles and other guidance applicable to the relevant service areas. These documents are cited in the References section of this policy. In some cases, this guidance includes specific lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes to help inform the coverage determination process. The Articles that include specific lists for billing and coding purposes will be included in the Reference section of this policy. However, to the extent that this policy cites such lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes, they should be used for reference purposes only. The presence of a specific HCPCS or ICD-10 code in a chart or companion article to an LCD is not by itself sufficient to approve coverage. Similarly, the absence of such a code does <u>not</u> necessarily mean that the applicable condition or diagnosis is excluded from coverage.”	1/30/2020
Policy revision	*Added the following to the Policy Statement “ Note: Conditions for coverage outlined in this Medicare Advantage Medical Policy may be less restrictive than those found in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles. Examples of situations where this clinical policy may be less restrictive include, but are not limited to, coverage of additional indications supported by CMS-approved compendia and the exclusion from this policy of additional coverage criteria requirements outlined in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles.” *Updated references *removed criteria requiring evidence of clinically significant hemolysis or documented history of a major adverse event from thromboembolism from PNH indication. *removed from aHUS indication the following criteria: Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) has been ruled out (for example, normal ADAMTS 13 activity and no evidence of an ADAMTS 13 inhibitor); OR if TTP cannot be ruled out by laboratory and clinical evaluation, a trial of plasma exchange has not resulted in clinical improvement. also removed continuation criteria from this indication. *removed continuation criteria from dense deposit disease.	09/09/2020
Policy Revision	Generalized Myasthenia Gravis (gMG). For patients currently receiving Soliris, examples of the patient continuing to derive benefit was changed to a Note and prescribing physician was changed to prescriber.	09/21/2020

	<p>Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria. For patients currently receiving Soliris, examples of the patient continuing to derive benefit was changed to a Note and prescribing physician was changed to prescriber.</p> <p>Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder. Criteria was separated into Initial Therapy and Patients Currently Receiving Soliris. For both sections, criteria for approval duration, age restriction, diagnosis confirmation, and specialist requirement remained the same as before. For Initial Therapy, a Note was created to allow an exception to previously tried systemic therapies for patients who have tried Enspryng or Uplizna. For Patients Currently Receiving Soliris, criteria were added to show the patient is receiving a clinical benefit from Soliris.</p>	
Policy revision	<p>Generalized Myasthenia Gravis: For a patient who is currently receiving Soliris, age requirement of ≥ 18 years of age was added as criteria.</p> <p>Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria: For a patient who is currently receiving Soliris, age requirement of ≥ 18 years of age was added as criteria.</p>	06/21/2021
Policy revision	<p>Generalized Myasthenia Gravis: Wording in the requirements for a trial of conventional therapy was changed from “has tried and has contraindications, intolerance, or failed” to “has tried and has had inadequate efficacy, a contraindication, or significant intolerance to”.</p>	12/30/2021
Policy review	No Criteria Changes	05/24/2023
Policy review	No Criteria Changes	09/20/2023
Policy review	No Criteria Changes (based on review of commercial policy update)	02/21/2024
Policy revision	<p>Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder – Initial Therapy: Removed criterion that required prior use of two systemic therapies. Soliris is listed as a first-line treatment option in the Neuromyelitis Optica Study Group (NEMOS) recommendations for the treatment of Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (2024).</p>	4/22/2024
UCare P&T Review	Policy reviewed and approved by UCare P&T committee. Annual review process	09/16/2024
Policy revision	<p>Bkemv (biosimilar to Soliris): This agent was added to the policy; the same criteria apply as that for Soliris. Policy Name Change: The generic name replaced the brand name in the policy title: Complement Inhibitors – Eculizumab Products UM Medical.</p> <p>Revision based on commercial policy update.</p>	03/18/2025
Policy revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epysqli (biosimilar to Soliris): This agent was added to the policy; the same criteria apply as that for Soliris. • Generalized Myasthenia Gravis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Age requirement (for initial and continuation of therapy) was changed to “≥ 6 years of age”; previously it was “≥ 18 years of age”. <p>Corticosteroid was added to the Note of examples of immunosuppressant therapies.</p>	04/08/2025
Aspirus Policy Update	Updated preferred product to Epysqli, which will no longer require a review as of 1/1/2026 for members on a Medicare plan. Updated step therapy criteria to require chart note documentation to support the need for a non-preferred product.	09/15/2025
Aspirus P&T Review	Policy reviewed and approved by Aspirus P&T committee. Annual review process	09/15/2025