Zoledronic Acid **Policy Number: M-0051**

Payment will not be made for any use of these drugs outside of the criteria without prior authorization. The member may not be billed unless the member explicitly agrees in writing to be responsible for the charges in accordance with the contract/provider manual. Prior authorization will only be given if the provider demonstrates the intended use meets Medicare coverage guidelines.

Coding Information:

HCPCS Code(s)

Q2051	INJECTION, ZOLEDRONIC ACID, NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, 1MG

ICD-9 Code(s)

140.0-208.92	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF UPPER LIP VERMILION BORDER - UNSPECIFIED LEUKEMIA, IN RELAPSE
209.00-209.36	MALIGNANT CARCINOID TUMOR OF THE SMALL INTESTINE, UNSPECIFIED PORTION - MERKEL CELL CARCINOMA OF OTHER SITES
209.70-209-75	SECONDARY NEUROENDOCRINE TUMOR, UNSPECIFIED SITE - SECONDARY MERKEL CELL CARCINOMA
209.79	SECONDARY NEUROENDOCRINE TUMOR OF OTHER SITES
275.42	HYPERCALCEMIA
731.0	OSTEITIS DEFORMANS WITHOUT BONE TUMOR
733.00	OSTEOPOROSIS UNSPECIFIED
733.01	SENILE OSTEOPOROSIS
733.09	OTHER OSTEOPOROSIS
733.90	DISORDER OF BONE AND CARTILAGE UNSPECIFIED

Background:

Zometa contains zoledronic acid, a bisphosphonic acid which is an inhibitor of osteoclastic bone resorption. Although the antiresorptive mechanism is not completely understood, several factors are thought to contribute to this action. *In vitro*, zoledronic acid inhibits osteoclastic activity and induces osteoclast apoptosis. Zoledronic acid also blocks the osteoclastic resorption of mineralized bone and cartilage through its binding to bone. Zoledronic acid inhibits the

increased osteoclastic activity and skeletal calcium release induced by various stimulatory factors released by tumors.

Reclast is a bisphosphonate and acts primarily on bone. It is an inhibitor of osteoclast-mediated bone resorption. The selective action of bisphosphonates on bone is based on their high affinity for mineralized bone. Intravenously administered zoledronic acid rapidly partitions to bone and localizes preferentially at sites of high bone turnover. The main molecular target of zoledronic acid in the osteoclast is the enzyme farnesyl pyrophosphate synthase. The relatively long duration of action of zoledronic acid is attributable to its high binding affinity to bone mineral.

Limitations:

The safety and efficacy of zoledronic acid in the treatment of hypercalcemia associated with hyperparathyroidism or with other non-tumor-related conditions has not been established.

Osteonecrosis of the jaw has been reported rarely in postmenopausal osteoporosis patients treated with bisphosphonates, including zoledronic acid. All patients should have a routine oral exam by the prescriber prior to treatment.

Definitions:

HCPCS Code—Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System - A system of letter and number codes assigned to procedures, medications, supplies and equipment used for pricing and billing.

ICD-9 Code—International Classification of Disease, 9th edition. A standardized classification of disease, injuries, and causes of death, by etiology and anatomic localization and codified into a 6-digit number, which allows clinicians, statisticians, politicians, health planners and others to speak a common language, both US and internationally.

References:

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3. Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for Drugs and Biologicals: Zoledronic Acid (L30035) (Revision 9). Available at: http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=30035&ContrId=213&ver=37&ContrVer=1&CoverageSelection=Both&ArticleType=All&PolicyType=Final&s=Alabama&KeyWord=zoledronic&KeyWordLookUp=Title&KeyWordSearchType=And&bc=gAAAABAAAAAAAA%3d%3d&. Accessed August 30, 2013.
4. The NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium™ © 2010 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. http://www.nccn.org. Accessed May 21, 2012.

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For the Archived Policy, please go to http://www.vivaprovider.com/Resources/CoveragePolicies.aspx and click on the Archived Policies Link.