



**Pemetrexed (Alimta®)**

**Revision: 2**

**Policy Number: M-0013**

**Last Update: 6/4/2014**

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.

When appropriate compendia references the use of one of the chemotherapeutic agents listed in this Article as part of a 'combination therapy', the drug is only approved for use in such 'combinations', and the documentation should reflect, and be specific about, the use of the additional 'combination therapy' drugs.

### **Coverage Guidelines:**

#### FDA Indications

- Locally Advanced or Metastatic Nonsquamous Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer:
  - Initial treatment in combination with cisplatin
  - Maintenance treatment of patients whose disease has not progressed after four cycles of platinum-based first-line chemotherapy
  - After prior chemotherapy as a single-agent
- Mesothelioma: in combination with cisplatin

#### Off Labeled Indications

- Malignant mesothelioma of pleura



**Coding Information:**

HCPCS Code(s)

J9305	INJECTION, PEMETREXED, 10 MG
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ICD-9 Code(s)

158.8	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF SPECIFIED PARTS OF PERITONEUM
162.0 - 162.9	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF TRACHEA - MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF BRONCHUS AND LUNG UNSPECIFIED
163.0 - 163.9	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF PARIETAL PLEURA - MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF PLEURA UNSPECIFIED
183.0 - 183.9	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF OVARY - MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF UTERINE ADNEXA UNSPECIFIED SITE
188.0 - 188.9	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF TRIGONE OF URINARY BLADDER - MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF BLADDER PART UNSPECIFIED
189.1	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF RENAL PELVIS
189.2	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF URETER
V10.43	PERSONAL HISTORY OF MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF OVARY

**Background:**

Pemetrexed is chemically similar to folic acid and is in the class of chemotherapy drugs called folate antimetabolites. Pemetrexed works by inhibiting three enzymes used in purine and pyrimidine synthesis—thymidylate synthase (TS), dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), and glycinamide ribonucleotide formyltransferase (GARFT). By inhibiting the formation of precursor purine and pyrimidine nucleotides, pemetrexed prevents the formation of DNA and RNA, which are required for the growth and survival of both normal cells and cancer cells.

**Definitions:**

Antifolates—drugs that impair the function of folic acids. Many are used in cancer chemotherapy, some are used as antibiotics or antiprotozoal agents.

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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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:

1. Altima [package insert]. Indianapolis, IN: Lilly USA, LLC; December 2011. Available at: <http://pi.lilly.com/us/alimta-pi.pdf>. Accessed May 29, 2012.
2. The NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium™ © 2010 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed May 25, 2012.
3. Local Coverage Article for Drugs and Biologics – Chemotherapeutic Agents (A48896) (R4). Available at: [http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/article-details.aspx?articleId=48896&ver=89&ContrlD=213&ContrVer=1&CntrctrSelected=213\\*1&Date=01%2f01%2f2013&DocID=A48896&bc=hAAAAAgAEAAAA%3d%3d&](http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/article-details.aspx?articleId=48896&ver=89&ContrlD=213&ContrVer=1&CntrctrSelected=213*1&Date=01%2f01%2f2013&DocID=A48896&bc=hAAAAAgAEAAAA%3d%3d&). Accessed June 4, 2014.
4. Micromedex ® 2.0. Alimta. Available at: [http://www.thomsonhc.com/micromedex2/librarian/ND\\_T/evidencexpert/ND\\_PR/evidencexpert/CS/2A8AD8/ND\\_AppProduct/evidencexpert/DUPLICATIONSHIELDSYNC/8FB955/ND\\_PG/evidencexpert/ND\\_B/evidencexpert/ND\\_P/evidencexpert/PFActionId/evidencexpert.DisplayDrugpointDocument?docId=928000&contentSetId=100&title=Pemetrexed&servicesTitle=Pemetrexed&topicId=dosingAndIndicationsSection&subtopicId=nonfdaSection](http://www.thomsonhc.com/micromedex2/librarian/ND_T/evidencexpert/ND_PR/evidencexpert/CS/2A8AD8/ND_AppProduct/evidencexpert/DUPLICATIONSHIELDSYNC/8FB955/ND_PG/evidencexpert/ND_B/evidencexpert/ND_P/evidencexpert/PFActionId/evidencexpert.DisplayDrugpointDocument?docId=928000&contentSetId=100&title=Pemetrexed&servicesTitle=Pemetrexed&topicId=dosingAndIndicationsSection&subtopicId=nonfdaSection). Accessed May 29, 2012.

#### Document History:

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Internal Review: 6/11/2014

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