Xeloda (capecitabine) is a fluoropyrimidine carbamate with antineoplastic activity. It is an orally administered systemic prodrug of 5'-deoxy-5-fluorouridine which is converted to 5-fluorouracil. It is often used in combination with other antineoplastic drugs.

Pre-authorization Criteria:

**Metastatic breast cancer:**
Monotherapy: Treatment of metastatic breast cancer resistant to both paclitaxel (Taxol) and an anthracycline-containing regimen (e.g. Adriamycin), or resistant to paclitaxel in patients for whom further anthracycline therapy is not indicated
Combination therapy: Treatment of metastatic breast cancer (in combination with docetaxel [Taxotere]) after failure of a prior anthracycline-containing regimen

**Metastatic colorectal cancer:** First-line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer when treatment with a fluoropyrimidine alone is preferred; adjuvant therapy of Dukes' C colon cancer after complete resection of the primary tumor when fluoropyrimidine therapy alone is preferred

**Dosing:**

**Breast cancer:** oral 1,250 mg/m^2 twice daily for 2 weeks, every 21 days (as either monotherapy or in combination with docetaxel)

**Colorectal cancer:** oral 1,250 mg/m^2 twice daily for 2 weeks, every 21 days

**Note:** Use in other cancers is off-label. Please see the VCHCP Coverage of Prescription Medication for Off-Label Use policy.
**How Supplied:** tablets 150 mg, 500 mg

**Adverse Reactions/Precautions:** **Black Box Warning** (potentiates the effect of warfarin); bone marrow suppression; cardiotoxicity; hepatotoxicity diarrhea; hand and foot syndrome (palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia);

**Drug Interactions:** capecitabine inhibits CYP2C9; use caution with other drugs metabolized by CYP2C9 (e.g. cannabis, carvedilol, diclofenac, fosphenytoin, phenytoin, some Q-T prolonging drugs); some drugs may decrease effectiveness of capecitabine (e.g. PPIs)

**REFERENCES:**


Xeloda (capecitabine) [prescribing information]. South San Francisco, CA: Genentech USA, Inc; March 2015.

Xeloda (capecitabine) [product monograph]. Mississauga, Ontario: Hoffmann-La Roche Limited; March 2016.

UpToDate 2017: Capecitabine: Drug information
Revision History:

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Date Reviewed/No Updates: 1/24/17 by C. Sanders, MD  
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Date Approved by P&T Committee: 1/22/19

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