



UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT MEDICAL POLICY

POLICY: Oncology (Injectable) – Fulvestrant Utilization Management Medical Policy

- Faslodex[®] (fulvestrant intramuscular injection – AstraZeneca; generic)

REVIEW DATE: 05/24/2023

OVERVIEW

Fulvestrant, an estrogen receptor antagonist, is indicated for **breast cancer** in the following situations¹:

- As monotherapy:
 - Hormone receptor-positive (HR+) [i.e., estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) or progesterone receptor-positive (PR+)], human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative advanced breast cancer in postmenopausal women not previously treated with endocrine therapy.
 - HR+ advanced breast cancer in postmenopausal women with disease progression following endocrine therapy.
- Combination therapy:
 - HR+, HER2-negative advanced or metastatic breast cancer in postmenopausal women, in combination Kisqali[®] (ribociclib tablets), as initial endocrine based therapy or following disease progression on endocrine therapy.
 - HR+, HER2-negative advanced or metastatic breast cancer, in combination with Ibrance[®] (palbociclib capsules) or Verzenio[®] (abemaciclib tablets), in women with disease progression after endocrine therapy.

Fulvestrant binds to the estrogen receptor in a competitive manner.¹ Its affinity to the estrogen receptor is comparable to that of estradiol. By binding to the estrogen receptor, fulvestrant downregulates the estrogen receptor protein in human breast cancer cells.

The recommended dose of fulvestrant as monotherapy and for combination therapy is 500 mg administered intramuscularly (IM) as two 5 mL injections (one to two minutes per injection) on Days 1, 15, 29, and once monthly thereafter. Pre/perimenopausal women treated with the combination fulvestrant and cyclin dependent kinase 4/6 (CDK4/6) inhibitors (Ibrance, Kisqali, Verzenio) should be treated with gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonists for ovarian suppression. The modified dose for moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh class B) for monotherapy and combination therapy is fulvestrant 250 mg IM as one 5 mL injection on Days 1, 15, 29, and once monthly thereafter. Fulvestrant is available as 5-mL prefilled syringes containing 250 mg/5 mL.

Guidelines

Fulvestrant is addressed in National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines:

- **Breast Cancer:** NCCN guidelines (version 4.2023 – March 23, 2023) recommend fulvestrant as monotherapy and in combination with other agents for the treatment of HR+ breast cancer in postmenopausal women or premenopausal women receiving ovarian ablation or suppression.² Fulvestrant is recommended for use as monotherapy or in combination with trastuzumab in women with HR+, HER2-positive breast cancer (category 2A). In women with HR+, HER2-negative breast cancer, fulvestrant is recommended as a “Preferred”, first-line regimen with a CDK4/6 inhibitor (Kisqali, Verzenio) [both category 1]. It is a category 2A regimen for fulvestrant use in combination with Ibrance. Fulvestrant is recommended as one of the “Other Recommended Regimens” in combination with a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor (anastrozole, letrozole). Fulvestrant monotherapy is also recommended as first- and subsequent-line therapy as “Other Recommended Regimens”

(category 2A). In these women, fulvestrant is recommended in the second- and subsequent-line setting in combination with CDK4/6 inhibitor (if a CDK4/6 inhibitor was not previously used) [category 1], everolimus (category 2A), or Piqray® (alpelisib tablets) [if the patient has a phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate 3-kinase catalytic subunit alpha (*PIK3CA*)-activating mutation] {category 1}. Men with breast cancer should be treated similarly to postmenopausal women, except that the use of an aromatase inhibitor is ineffective without concomitant suppression of testicular steroidogenesis. Fulvestrant with or without Nerlynx® (neratinib tablets) is listed as “Useful in Certain Circumstances” for patients with estrogen receptor-positive (ER+)/HER2-negative disease who have already received CDK4/6 inhibitor therapy (category 2B).

- **Ovarian Cancer, including Fallopian Tube Cancer and Primary Peritoneal Cancer:** NCCN guidelines (version 1.2023 – December 22, 2022) recommend single-agent fulvestrant as a useful agent for the treatment of low-grade serous carcinoma (category 2A).³
- **Uterine Neoplasms:** NCCN guidelines (version 2.2023 – April 28, 2023) recommend fulvestrant for low grade endometrial carcinoma and for uterine sarcoma (low-grade endometrial stromal sarcoma, adenocarcinoma without sarcomatous overgrowth, or HR+ uterine sarcoma preferably in patients with small tumor volume or an indolent growth pace).⁴

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for medical benefit coverage of fulvestrant. Approval is recommended for those who meet the **Criteria** and **Dosing** for the listed indications. Extended approvals are allowed if the patient continues to meet the Criteria and Dosing. Requests for doses outside of the established dosing documented in this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis by a clinician (i.e., Medical Director or Pharmacist). All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with fulvestrant, as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, approval requires fulvestrant to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

In the approval indication, as appropriate, an asterisk (*) is noted next to the specified gender. In this context, the specified gender is defined as follows: men/males are defined as individuals with the biological traits of a man, regardless of the individual’s gender identity or gender expression. Female/women are defined as individuals with the biological traits of a woman, regardless of the individual’s gender identity or gender expression.

Automation: None.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of fulvestrant is recommended in those who meet one of the following criteria:

FDA-Approved Indications

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1. **Breast Cancer – Fulvestrant Monotherapy.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (A, B, and C):
 - A) Patient has recurrent or metastatic hormone receptor (HR)-positive (i.e., estrogen receptor [ER]- or progesterone receptor [PR]-positive) disease; **AND**
 - B) Patient meets one of the following criteria (i or ii):
 - i. Patient is a postmenopausal female* or a male*; **OR**
 - ii. Patient is pre/perimenopausal female* and meets one of the following (a or b):

- a) Patient is receiving ovarian suppression/ovarian ablation with a gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonist; OR
Note: Examples of a GnRH agonist include leuprolide acetate, Lupron Depot (leuprolide acetate intramuscular injection), Trelstar (triptorelin pamoate intramuscular injection), or Zoladex (goserelin acetate subcutaneous implant).
- b) Patient has had surgical bilateral oophorectomy or ovarian irradiation; AND
- C) The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist.

* Refer to the Policy Statement.

Dosing. 500 mg intramuscularly as two 5 mL injections, on Days 1, 15, 29 and once monthly thereafter.

2. Breast Cancer – Fulvestrant Combination Therapy. Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (A, B, C, and D):

- A) Patient has recurrent or metastatic hormone receptor (HR)-positive (i.e., estrogen receptor [ER]- or progesterone receptor [PR]-positive) disease; AND
- B) Patient meets ONE of the following criteria (i or ii):
 - i. Patient is a postmenopausal female* or a male*; OR
 - ii. Patient is pre/perimenopausal female* and meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a) Patient is receiving ovarian suppression/ovarian ablation with a gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonist; OR
Note: Examples of a GnRH agonist include leuprolide acetate, Lupron Depot (leuprolide acetate intramuscular injection), Trelstar (triptorelin pamoate intramuscular injection), or Zoladex (goserelin acetate subcutaneous implant).
 - b) Patient had had surgical bilateral oophorectomy or ovarian irradiation; AND
- C) Patient meets one of the following criteria (i or ii):
 - i. Patient has human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative breast cancer and meets one of the following criteria (a or b):
 - a) Patient has progressed on or after at least one prior endocrine-based therapy and patient meets one of the following [(1) or (2)]:
Note: Examples of endocrine therapy are tamoxifen, anastrozole, letrozole, exemestane.
 - (1) Patient has a phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate 3-kinase catalytic subunit alpha (*PIK3CA*)-mutated tumor and the medication is used in combination with Piqray (alpelisib tablets); OR
 - (2) The medication will be used in combination with everolimus; OR
 - b) The medication will be used in combination with a cyclin dependent kinase 4/6 (CDK 4/6) inhibitor or a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor (i.e., anastrozole or letrozole); OR
Note: Examples of CDK4/6 inhibitors are Kisqali (ribociclib tablets), Ibrance (palbociclib capsules), Verzenio (abemaciclib tablets).
 - ii. Patient has human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-positive breast cancer and the medication is used in combination with a trastuzumab product; AND
- D) The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist.

* Refer to the Policy Statement.

Dosing. 500 mg intramuscularly as two 5 mL injections, on Days 1, 15, 29 and once monthly thereafter.

Other Uses with Supportive Evidence

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- 3. Endometrial Carcinoma.** Approve for 1 year if the medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist.

Dosing. 500 mg intramuscularly as two 5 mL injections, on Days 1, 15, 29 and once monthly thereafter.

Limited dosing is available. The dose listed is recommended in the product labeling for approved uses.¹

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- 4. Ovarian/Fallopian Tube/Primary Peritoneal Cancer.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (A and B):

A) Patient has recurrent low-grade serous carcinoma; AND

B) The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist.

Dosing. 500 mg intramuscularly as two 5 mL injections, on Days 1, 15, 29 and once monthly thereafter.

Limited dosing is available. The dose listed is recommended in the product labeling for approved uses.¹

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- 5. Uterine Sarcoma.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following criteria (A and B):

A) Patient meets one of the following criteria (i, ii, or iii):

i. Patient has low-grade endometrial stromal sarcoma; OR

ii. Patient has adenosarcoma without sarcomatous overgrowth; OR

iii. Patient has hormone receptor-positive uterine sarcoma; AND

B) The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist.

Dosing. 500 mg intramuscularly as two 5 mL injections, on Days 1, 15, 29 and once monthly thereafter.

Limited dosing is available. The dose listed is recommended in the product labeling for approved uses.¹

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Fulvestrant 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.

REFERENCES

1. Faslodex® intramuscular injection [prescribing information]. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca; January 2021.
2. The NCCN Breast Cancer Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 4.2023 – March 23, 2023). © 2023 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on May 22, 2023.
3. The NCCN Ovarian Cancer Including Fallopian Tube Cancer and Primary Peritoneal Cancer Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 1.2023 – December 22, 2022). © 2022 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on May 22, 2023.
4. The NCCN Uterine Neoplasms Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (version 2.2023 –April 28, 2023). © 2023 National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Available at: <http://www.nccn.org>. Accessed on May 22, 2023.

HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
Annual Revision	<p>The policy name was changed from Oncology (Injectable) Fulvestrant (Faslodex) UM Medical Policy to Oncology (Injectable) – Fulvestrant UM Medical Policy.</p> <p>Breast Cancer – Fulvestrant Monotherapy: Criteria for a “premenopausal” patient was reworded to “pre/perimenopausal female,” and an option was added to the criteria for a patient who has had surgical bilateral oophorectomy or ovarian irradiation. This was previously addressed as a Note.</p> <p>Breast Cancer – Fulvestrant Combination Therapy: Criteria for a “premenopausal” patient was reworded to “pre/perimenopausal female,” and an option was added to the criteria for a patient who has had surgical bilateral oophorectomy or ovarian irradiation. This was previously addressed as a Note. Combination use with everolimus was moved to the requirement that the patient has progressed on or after endocrine therapy for a patient with HER-2 negative disease.</p> <p>Uterine Sarcoma: Patient has adenosarcoma without sarcomatous overgrowth was added as a type of uterine sarcoma. Criteria which states that patient has “hormone receptor positive uterine leiomyosarcoma” was reworded to “hormone receptor positive uterine sarcoma”.</p>	06/01/2022
Annual Revision	No criteria changes	05/24/2023