

Clinical Policy: Sebelipase Alfa (Kanuma)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.159

Effective Date: 02.01.16

Last Review Date: 05.25

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Sebelipase alfa (Kanuma[®]) is a hydrolytic lysosomal cholesteryl ester and triacylglycerol-specific enzyme.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Kanuma is indicated for the treatment of patients with a diagnosis of lysosomal acid lipase (LAL) deficiency.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation[®] that Kanuma is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Lysosomal Acid Lipase Deficiency (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of LAL deficiency confirmed by one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Enzyme assay demonstrating a deficiency of LAL activity;
 - b. Lipase A - lysosomal acid type (LIPA) gene mutation;
2. Age \geq 1 month;
3. Documentation of member's current weight (in kg);
4. Request meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Dose does not exceed 3 mg/kg every other week;
 - b. For members with rapidly progressive disease presenting within the first 6 months of life: Dose does not exceed any of the following (i or ii):
 - i. 3 mg/kg per week;
 - ii. 5 mg/kg per week, upon documentation of suboptimal clinical response to 3 mg/kg per week.*

**Suboptimal clinical response is defined as any of the following: poor growth, deteriorating biochemical markers, or persistent or worsening organomegaly.*

Approval duration:

Medicaid/HIM – 6 months

Commercial – 6 months or to the member's renewal date, whichever is longer

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Lysosomal Acid Lipase Deficiency (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by documentation of clinical response which may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. For members with rapidly progressive disease presenting within first 6 months of life: continued survival;
 - b. For all other members: decrease in low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-c), non-high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (non-HDL-c), or triglycerides; increase in HDL-c; normalization of alanine aminotransferase (ALT) or aspartate aminotransferase (AST); reduction in hepatic fat content, steatosis, or liver volume;
3. Documentation of member's current weight (in kg);
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed any of the following (a or b):
 - a. 3 mg/kg every other week;
 - b. For members with rapidly progressive disease presenting within the first 6 months of life: Dose does not exceed any of the following (i or ii):
 - i. 3 mg/kg per week;
 - ii. 5 mg/kg per week, upon documentation of suboptimal clinical response to 3 mg/kg per week.*

**Suboptimal clinical response is defined as any of the following: poor growth, deteriorating biochemical markers, or persistent or worsening organomegaly.*

Approval duration:

Medicaid/HIM – 12 months

Commercial – 6 months or to the member’s renewal date, whichever is longer

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid, or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

ALT: alanine aminotransferase

AST: aspartate aminotransferase

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

HDL-c: non-high-density lipoprotein cholesterol

LAL: lysosomal acid lipase

LDL-c: low-density lipoprotein cholesterol

LIPA: lipase A – lysosomal acid type

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

None reported

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Appendix D: Measures of Therapeutic Response

- LAL normally causes the breakdown of lipid particles, including LDL-c. A lack of LAL results in accumulation of cholesteryl esters and triglycerides. Therefore, LDL-c, non-HDL-c, triglycerides, and HDL-c are clinical parameters that can indicate therapeutic response to Kanuma. In clinical trials, there were initial increases in LDL-c and triglycerides within the first 2-4 weeks of treatment; however, this was followed by a decrease to below pre-treatment values within 8 weeks of treatment.
- In addition, the lipid accumulation seen in LAL deficiency can occur in multiple organs, including the liver. This results in increased liver fat content and progression of liver disease, including fibrosis and cirrhosis. In clinical trials, patients receiving Kanuma had normalization of ALT and AST levels, reduction in hepatic fat content and steatosis (defined as the absolute decrease of $\geq 5\%$ from baseline in assessment of hepatic fat content)*, and decrease in baseline liver volume* when compared to patients receiving placebo. As such, improvement in these areas may also indicate positive response to Kanuma.

**Not statistically significant*

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
LAL deficiency: rapidly progressive disease presenting within first 6 months of life	1 mg/kg IV once weekly For patients with a suboptimal clinical response, increase the dosage to 3 mg/kg once weekly. For patients with continued suboptimal clinical response, further increase the dosage to 5 mg/kg once weekly.* <i>*Suboptimal clinical response is defined as any of the following: poor growth, deteriorating biochemical markers, or persistent or worsening organomegaly.</i>	5 mg/kg/week
LAL deficiency	1 mg/kg IV every other week For patients with a suboptimal clinical response, increase the dosage to 3 mg/kg once every other week.** <i>**Suboptimal clinical response is defined as any of the following: poor growth, deteriorating biochemical markers [e.g., alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST)], and/or parameters of lipid metabolism [e.g., low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-c), triglycerides (TG)].</i>	3 mg/kg every other week

VI. Product Availability

Single-use vial: 20 mg/10 mL

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VII. References

1. Kanuma Prescribing Information. Cheshire, CT: Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Cambridge, MA: Genzyme Corporation; July 2024. Available at <http://www.kanuma.com/>. Accessed January 8, 2025.
2. Zhang B, Porto AF. Cholesteryl ester storage disease: protean presentations of lysosomal acid lipase deficiency. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr.* 2013;56(6):682.
3. Kohli R, Ratzu V, Fiel MI, et al. Initial assessment, and ongoing monitoring of lysosomal acid lipase deficiency in children and adults: consensus recommendations from an international collaborative working group. *Molecular Genetics and Metabolism.* 2020;129:59-66.

Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J2840	Injection, sebelipase alfa, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
2Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; revised HIM.PHAR.21 to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	02.28.21	05.21
2Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; added requirement for documentation of member’s current weight for dose calculation purposes; updated max recommended dose for members with rapidly progressive disease presenting within the first 6 months of life per the Prescribing Information and clarified documentation requirements for max dose requests for this population; references reviewed and updated.	02.26.22	05.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	09.30.22	
2Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; added definition of “suboptimal clinical response” for determining the need for further dose increases; references reviewed and updated.	02.09.23	05.23
2Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	01.09.24	05.24
2Q 2025 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	03.10.25	05.25

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Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members, and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members

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and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note: For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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