

Clinical Policy: Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor (Orkambi)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.213

Effective Date: 05.01.16

Last Review Date: 08.25

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Lumacaftor/ivacaftor (Orkambi[®]) is a combination drug for cystic fibrosis (CF). Lumacaftor improves the conformational stability of F508del-cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR), while ivacaftor is a CFTR potentiator.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Orkambi is indicated for the treatment of CF in patients aged 1 year and older who are homozygous for the F508del mutation in the CFTR gene.

If the patient's genotype is unknown, an FDA-cleared CF mutation test should be used to detect the presence of the F508del mutation on both alleles of the CFTR gene.

Limitation(s) of use: The efficacy and safety of Orkambi have not been established in patients with CF other than those homozygous for the F508del mutation.

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 Orkambi is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. Cystic Fibrosis** (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of CF confirmed by all of the following (a, b, and c):
 - a. Clinical symptoms consistent with CF in at least one organ system, or positive newborn screen or genetic testing for siblings of patients with CF;
 - b. Evidence of CFTR dysfunction confirmed by one of the following (i or ii) (*see Appendix D*):
 - i. Elevated sweat chloride ≥ 60 mmol/L;
 - ii. Genetic testing confirming the presence of two disease-causing mutations in CFTR gene, one from each parental allele;
 - c. Confirmation that member is homozygous for the *F508del* mutation in the CFTR gene;
2. Age ≥ 1 year;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a pulmonologist;

4. For age ≥ 6 years: Documentation of baseline percent predicted forced expiratory volume in 1 second (ppFEV1) performed within the last 90 days;
5. Orkambi is not prescribed concurrently with other CFTR modulators (e.g., Alyftrek[®], Kalydeco[®], Symdeko[®], Trikafta[®]);
6. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, c, or d):
 - a. Age 1 to 2 years, and one of the following (i, ii, or iii):
 - i. Weight 7 kg to < 9 kg (both 1 and 2):
 - 1) Lumacaftor 150 mg/ivacaftor 188 mg per day;
 - 2) 2 packets per day;
 - ii. Weight 9 kg to < 14 kg (both 1 and 2):
 - 1) Lumacaftor 200 mg/ivacaftor 250 mg per day;
 - 2) 2 packets per day;
 - iii. Weight ≥ 14 kg (both 1 and 2):
 - 1) Lumacaftor 300 mg/ivacaftor 376 mg per day;
 - 2) 2 packets per day;
 - b. Age 2 to 5 years, and one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Weight < 14 kg (both 1 and 2):
 - 1) Lumacaftor 200 mg/ivacaftor 250 mg per day;
 - 2) 2 packets per day;
 - ii. Weight ≥ 14 kg (both 1 and 2):
 - 1) Lumacaftor 300 mg/ivacaftor 376 mg per day;
 - 2) 2 packets per day;
 - c. Age 6 to 11 years (both i and ii):
 - i. Lumacaftor 400 mg/ivacaftor 500 mg per day;
 - ii. 4 tablets per day;
 - d. Age ≥ 12 years (both i and ii):
 - i. Lumacaftor 800 mg/ivacaftor 500 mg per day;
 - ii. 4 tablets per day.

Approval duration: 6 months

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. Cystic Fibrosis (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 meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. For age < 6 years: Member is responding positively to therapy (e.g., decreased number of pulmonary exacerbations, increase in body mass index (BMI), improvement in respiratory symptoms);
 - b. For age ≥ 6 years: Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by stabilization or improvement (e.g., increase) in ppFEV1 from baseline;
3. Orkambi is not prescribed concurrently with other CFTR modulators (e.g., Alyftrek, Kalydeco, Symdeko, Trikafta);
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, c, or d):
 - a. Age 1 to 2 years, and one of the following (i, ii, or iii):
 - i. Weight 7 kg to < 9 kg (both 1 and 2):
 - 1) Lumacaftor 150 mg/ivacaftor 188 mg per day;
 - 2) 2 packets per day;
 - ii. Weight 9 kg to < 14 kg (both 1 and 2):
 - 1) Lumacaftor 200 mg/ivacaftor 250 mg per day;
 - 2) 2 packets per day;
 - iii. Weight ≥ 14 kg (both 1 and 2):
 - 1) Lumacaftor 300 mg/ivacaftor 376 mg per day;
 - 2) 2 packets per day;
 - b. Age 2 to 5 years, and one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Weight < 14 kg (both 1 and 2):
 - 1) Lumacaftor 200 mg/ivacaftor 250 mg per day;
 - 2) 2 packets per day;
 - ii. Weight ≥ 14 kg (both 1 and 2):
 - 1) Lumacaftor 300 mg/ivacaftor 376 mg
 - 2) 2 packets per day;
 - c. Age 6 to 11 years (both i and ii):
 - i. Lumacaftor 400 mg/ivacaftor 500 mg per day;
 - ii. 4 tablets per day;
 - d. Age ≥ 12 years (both i and ii):
 - i. Lumacaftor 800 mg/ivacaftor 500 mg;
 - ii. 4 tablets per day.

Approval duration: 12 months

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

ACFLD: advanced cystic fibrosis lung disease

CF: cystic fibrosis

CFTR: cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

LCI: lung clearance index

MBW: multiple-breath washout

ppFEV1: percent predicted forced expiratory volume in 1 second

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

None reported

Appendix D: General Information

- The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) Mutation Analysis Program (MAP) available here: <https://www.cff.org/medical-professionals/mutation-analysis-program>. The MAP is a free and confidential genetic testing program for people with a strongly suspected or confirmed diagnosis of CF.
- Regarding the diagnostic criteria for CF of “genetic testing confirming the presence of two disease-causing mutations in CFTR gene,” this is to ensure that whether

heterozygous or homozygous, there are two disease-causing mutations in the CFTR gene, one from each parental allele.

- Most children can do spirometry by age 6, though some preschoolers are able to perform the test at a younger age. Some young children aren't able to take a deep enough breath and blow out hard and long enough for spirometry.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
CF	Adults and pediatric patients age 12 years and older: two tablets (each containing lumacaftor 200 mg/ivacaftor 125 mg) PO Q12H	Adults and pediatric patients age 12 years and older: lumacaftor 800 mg/ivacaftor 500 mg per day
	Pediatric patients age 6 through 11 years: two tablets (each containing lumacaftor 100 mg/ivacaftor 125 mg) PO Q12H	Pediatric patients age 6 through 11 years: lumacaftor 400 mg/ivacaftor 500 mg per day
	Pediatric patients age 2 through 5 years and weighing < 14 kg: one packet of granules (each containing lumacaftor 100 mg/ivacaftor 125 mg) PO Q12H	Pediatric patients age 2 through 5: < 14 kg: lumacaftor 200 mg/ivacaftor 250 mg per day
	Pediatric patients age 2 through 5 years and weighing ≥ 14 kg: one packet of granules (each containing lumacaftor 150 mg/ivacaftor 188 mg) PO Q12H	≥ 14 kg: lumacaftor 300 mg/ivacaftor 376 mg per day
	Pediatric patients age 1 through 2 years and weighing 7 kg to < 9 kg: one packet of granules (each containing lumacaftor 75 mg/ivacaftor 94 mg) PO Q12H	Pediatric patients age 1 through 2: 7 kg to < 9 kg: lumacaftor 150 mg/ivacaftor 188 mg per day
	Pediatric patients age 1 through 2 years and weighing 9 kg to < 14 kg: one packet of granules (each containing lumacaftor 100 mg/ivacaftor 125 mg) PO Q12H	9 kg to < 14 kg: lumacaftor 200 mg/ivacaftor 250 mg per day
	Pediatric patients age 1 through 2 years and weighing ≥ 14 kg: one packet of granules (each containing 150 mg/ivacaftor 188 mg) PO Q12H	≥ 14 kg: lumacaftor 300 mg/ivacaftor 376 mg per day

VI. Product Availability

- Tablets: lumacaftor 100 mg and ivacaftor 125 mg, lumacaftor 200 mg and ivacaftor 125 mg
- Oral granule packets (56 packets per carton): lumacaftor 75 mg and ivacaftor 94 mg; lumacaftor 100 mg and ivacaftor 125 mg, lumacaftor 150 mg and ivacaftor 188 mg

VII. References

1. Orkambi Prescribing Information. Boston, MA: Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; December 2024. Available at: <https://www.orkambihcp.com/>. Accessed April 14, 2025.
2. Mogayzel PJ, Naureckas ET, Robinson KA, et al. Cystic fibrosis pulmonary guidelines: Chronic medications for maintenance of lung health. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2013; 187(7): 680-689.
3. Farrell PM, White TB, Ren CL et al. Diagnosis of cystic fibrosis: Consensus guidelines from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. J Pediatr. 2017; 181S: S4-15.
4. Ren CL, Morgan RL, Oermann C, et al. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation pulmonary guidelines: Use of cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator modulator therapy in patients with cystic fibrosis. Ann Am Thorac Soc. 2018; 15(3): 271-280.
5. Alexander S, Alshafi K, Al-Yaghchi C, et al. Clinical Guidelines: Care of children with cystic fibrosis. Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS. 2020;(8):22-23.
6. Kapnadak SG, Dimango E, Hadjiliadis D, et al. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation consensus guidelines for the care of individuals with advanced cystic fibrosis lung disease. J Cyst Fibros. 2020 May;19(3):344-354.
7. ClinicalTrials.gov. Safety and pharmacokinetic study of lumacaftor/ivacaftor in subjects 1 to less than 2 years of age with cystic fibrosis, homozygous for F508del. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03601637>. Accessed April 15, 2025.
8. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation: Clinical Care Guidelines. Available at: <https://www.cff.org/medical-professionals/clinical-care-guidelines>. Accessed April 15, 2025.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
1Q 2022 annual review: added legacy Wellcare initial approval duration (WCG.CP.PHAR.213 to be retired); references reviewed and updated.	10.22.21	02.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	10.03.22	
1Q 2023 annual review: RT4: updated FDA approved indication, criteria, and dosing per FDA approved pediatric extension for ages 1 through < 2 years; added new lumacaftor 75 mg and ivacaftor 94 mg oral granule packet strength; consolidated Legacy Wellcare initial approval duration from 12 months to 6 months consistent with standard Medicaid initial approval duration; updated Appendix D; references reviewed and updated.	10.07.22	02.23
3Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	05.04.23	08.23

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Revised initial approval criteria: removed “for age 2 > years” and “ppFEV1 that is between 40 – 90%” in criteria stating documentation of member’s ppFEV1; revised “chart notes that indicate pulmonary function tests” to “documentation of one of the following pulmonary function tests”; for continued therapy criteria: revised criteria from “stabilization in ppFEV1 if baseline was $\geq$ 70%, or increase in ppFEV1 if baseline was <70%” to “stabilization or improvement in ppFEV1” and revised “stabilization in LCI if baseline was $\geq$ 7.4” to “stabilization or decrease in LCI from baseline”; revised Appendix D to remove information on advanced Cystic Fibrosis disease.	01.11.24	02.24
3Q 2024 annual review: for initial therapy, removed criterion “ppFEV1 that is between 40 – 90%” from documentation of member’s ppFEV1” to align with other CFTR modulator criteria; for continued therapy, clarified positive response as an “improvement” (e.g., decrease) of LCL and improvement of ppFEV1 as an “increase from baseline”; for Appendix D, updated LCI supplemental information and removed supplemental pediatric extension clinical trial information for patients ages 12 months to < 24 months; references reviewed and updated.	05.09.24	08.24
Removed lung clearance index from criteria to align with competitor analysis and standard of care.	12.31.24	02.25
3Q 2025 annual review: added Alyftrek to list of CFTR modulator concurrent exclusion criteria; references reviewed and updated.	04.14.25	08.25

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.

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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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