

Clinical Policy: Toripalimab-tpzi (Loqtorzi)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.668

Effective Date: 03.01.24

Last Review Date: 02.26

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

Toripalimab-tpzi (Loqtorzi®) is a programmed death receptor-1 (PD-1)-blocking antibody.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Loqtorzi is indicated for the treatment of:

- In combination with cisplatin and gemcitabine, for first-line treatment of adults with metastatic or with recurrent locally advanced nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC)
- As a single agent for the treatment of adults with recurrent unresectable or metastatic NPC with disease progression on or after a platinum-containing chemotherapy

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

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. Advanced Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of NPC;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age ≥18 years;
4. Disease is unresectable, recurrent, or metastatic;
5. Loqtorzi is prescribed in one of the following ways (a or b):
 - a. In combination with cisplatin and gemcitabine;
 - b. As a single agent for disease that has progressed on or after platinum-containing chemotherapy;
6. Member has not received prior treatment with an anti-PD-(L)1 antibody;
7. Request meets one of the following (a, b, or c):*
 - a. In combination with cisplatin and gemcitabine: 240 mg every three weeks;
 - b. As a single agent for disease that has progressed on or after platinum-containing chemotherapy: 3 mg/kg intravenously every two weeks;
 - c. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (prescriber must submit supporting evidence).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN.*

Medicaid/HIM – 12 months

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

B. NCCN Recommended Uses (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Anal carcinoma;
 - b. One of the following deficient mismatch repair/microsatellite instability-high [dMMR/MSI-H] or polymerase epsilon/delta [POLE/POLD1] mutation with ultra-hypermutated phenotype [eg, tumor mutational burden (TMB) > 50 mut/Mb]) cancers (i, ii, iii, or iv):
 - i. Small bowel adenocarcinoma;
 - ii. Appendiceal neoplasms and cancers;
 - iii. Colon cancer;
 - iv. Rectal cancer;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Prescribed as a single agent;
5. For anal carcinoma, disease is metastatic, recurrent, or progressive and one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Prescribed before proceeding to abdominoperineal resection;
 - ii. Prescribed as second-line and subsequent therapy;
6. Dose is within FDA maximum limit for any FDA-approved indication or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).*

** Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration:

Medicaid/HIM – 12 months

Commercial – 6 months or duration of request, whichever is less

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

7. 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
8. 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. All Indications in Section I (must meet all):

1. Member is Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Loqtorzi for a covered indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a, b, or c):*
 - a. In combination with cisplatin and gemcitabine: new dose does not exceed 240 mg every three weeks for up to total maximum of 24 months;
 - b. As a single agent: new dose does not exceed 3 mg/kg every two weeks;
 - c. New dose is with FDA maximum limit for any FDA-approved indication or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (prescriber must submit supporting evidence).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN.*

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

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network

NPC: Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

None reported

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
First-line treatment for NPC	<u>In combination with cisplatin and gemcitabine:</u> 240 mg IV every three weeks up to 24 months	240 mg/3 weeks
Previously treated, unresectable or metastatic NPC	<u>As a single agent:</u> 3 mg/kg IV every two weeks	3 mg/kg every two weeks

VI. Product Availability

Solution, single-dose vial: 240mg/6mL

VII. References

1. Loqtorzi Prescribing Information. Redwood City, CA: Coherus BioSciences, Inc; April 2024. Available at: www.loqtorzi.com. Accessed November 25, 2025.
2. Toripalimab In: National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug_compendium/content/. Accessed November 19, 2025.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Head and Neck Cancers Version 5.2025. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/head-and-neck.pdf. Accessed November 7, 2024.
4. Rui-hua Xu, Hai-Qiang Mai, JUPITER-02: Randomized, double-blind, phase III study of toripalimab or placebo plus gemcitabine and cisplatin as first-line treatment for recurrent or metastatic nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC). Journal of Clinical Oncology 2021. 39:18_suppl, LBA2.
5. Wang FH, Wei XL, Efficacy, Safety, and Correlative Biomarkers of Toripalimab in Previously Treated Recurrent or Metastatic Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma: A Phase II Clinical Trial. Journal of Clinical Oncology 2021. 39(7):704-712.

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.

HCP Codes	Description
J3263	Injection, toripalimab-tpzi, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	11.16.23	02.24
Added HCPCS code [J3263] and removed HCPCS codes [J3590, C9399].	06.03.24	
1Q 2025 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	10.22.24	02.25
1Q 2026 annual review: added NCCN recommended off-label indications for anal carcinoma, small bowel adenocarcinoma, appendiceal neoplasms and cancers, colon cancer and rectal cancer per NCCN; extended initial approval duration from 6 to 12 months for this maintenance medication for a chronic condition; references reviewed and updated.	11.06.25	02.26

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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