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## NEW YORK Provider Communications

### Oncology dose reduction program beginning July 1, 2021

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Empire BlueCross BlueShield (Empire) is committed to be a valued healthcare partner in identifying ways to achieve better health outcomes, lower costs and deliver access to better healthcare experiences for consumers.

Effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2021, providers for our Medicare Advantage plan members covered by Empire will be asked in selective circumstances to voluntarily reduce the requested dose to the nearest whole vial for over 40 oncology medications, listed below. Reviews for these oncology drugs will continue to be administered by the reviewing company, either AIM Specialty Health®\* or IngenioRx. \*

Providers will be asked whether they will accept the dose reduction at the initial review point in the prior authorization process. Within the provider portal, a pop-up question will appear related to dose reduction. If the patient is considered unable to have his or her dose reduced, then a second question will appear asking for the provider's clinical reasoning. For requests made outside of the provider portal (for example, called-in or faxed-in prior authorization requests), the same questions will be asked by the registered nurse or medical director who is reviewing the request. Since this program is voluntary, the decision made regarding dose reduction will not affect the final decision on the prior authorization.

The dose reduction questions will appear only if the originally requested dose is within 10% of the nearest whole vial. This threshold is based on current medical literature and recommendations from the Hematology and Oncology Pharmacists Association (HOPA) that it is appropriate to consider dose rounding within 10%. HOPA recommendations can be found [here](#).

The Voluntary Dose Reduction Program only applies to specific oncology drugs, listed below. Providers can view prior authorization requirements for Empire members on the *Medical Policy and Clinical Utilization Management Guidelines* page at <https://www.empireblue.com/medicareprovider>.

<b>Drug name</b>	<b>HCPCS code</b>	<b>Drug name</b>	<b>HCPCS code</b>
Abraxane (paclitaxel protein-bound)	J9264	Istodax (romidepsin)	J9315
Actimmune (interferon gamma-1B)	J9216	Ixempra (ixabepilone)	J9207
Adcetris (brentuximab vedotin)	J9042	Jevtana (cabazitaxel)	J9043
Alimta (pemetrexed)	J9305	Kadcyla (ado-trastuzumab emtansine)	J9354
Asparlas (calaspargase pegol-mknl)	J9118	Keytruda (pembrolizumab)	J9271
Avastin (bevacizumab)	J9035	Kyprolis (carfilzomib)	J9047
Bendeka (bendamustine)	J9034	Lartruvo (olaratumab)	J9285
Besponsa (inotuzumab ozogamicin)	J9229	Lumoxiti (moxetumomab pasudotox-tdfk)	J9313
Blinicyto (blinatumomab)	J9039	Mylotarg (gemtuzumab ozogamicin)	J9203
Cyramza (ramucirumab)	J9308	Neupogen (filgrastim)	J1442
Darzalex (daratumumab)	J9145	Oncaspar (pegaspargase)	J9266
Doxorubicin liposomal	Q2050	Opdivo (nivolumab)	J9299
Elzonris (tagraxofusp-erzs)	J9269	Padcev (enfortumab vedotin-ejfv)	J9177
Empliciti (elotuzumab)	J9176	Polivy (polatuzumab vedotin-piiq)	J9309

Drug name	HCPCS code	Drug name	HCPCS code
Enhertu (fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki)	J9358	Rituxan (rituximab)	J9312
Erbitux (cetuximab)	J9055	Sarclisa (isatuximab-irfc)	J9999
Erwinase (asparginase)	J9019	Sylvant (siltuximab)	J2860
Ethyol (amifostine)	J0207	Treanda (bendamustine)	J9033
Granix (tbo-filgrastim)	J1447	Vectibix (panitumumab)	J9303
Halaven (eribulin mesylate)	J9179	Yervoy (ipilimumab)	J9228
Herceptin (trastuzumab)	J9355	Zaltrap (ziv-aflibercept)	J9400
Imfinzi (durvalumab)	J9173		

Providers should continue to verify eligibility and benefits for all members prior to rendering services.

If you have questions, please call the Provider Service phone number on the back of the member's ID card.

Note: In some plans, *dose reduction to nearest whole vial* or *waste reduction* may be the term used in benefit plans, provider contracts or other materials instead of or in addition to *dose reduction to nearest whole vial*. In some plans, these terms may be used interchangeably. For simplicity, we have uses *dose reduction (to nearest whole vial)*.

\* AIM Specialty Health is an independent company providing some utilization review services on behalf of Empire BlueCross BlueShield. IngenioRx, Inc. is an independent company providing some utilization review services on behalf of Empire BlueCross BlueShield.

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URL: <https://providernews.empireblue.com/article/oncology-dose-reduction-program-beginning-july-1-2021-1>

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