

Clinical Policy: Edaravone (Radicava)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.343

Effective Date: 07.01.17

Last Review Date: 05.22

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

Edaravone (Radicava[™]) is a member of the substituted 2-pyrazolin-5-one class that acts as a free-radical scavenger of peroxy radicals and peroxytrite.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Radicava is indicated for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

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

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of definite or probable ALS per El Escorial diagnostic criteria (*see Appendix D*);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Concomitant use of riluzole (at up to maximally indicated doses) unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Independent living status (defined as patients who can eat a meal, excrete, or move with oneself alone, and do not need assistance in everyday life);
6. Percent predicted forced vital capacity (% FVC) \geq 80%;
7. Disease duration of \leq 2 years;
8. Baseline revised ALS Functional Rating Scale (ALSFRS-R) score with \geq 2 points in each of the 12 items;
9. Dose does not exceed 60 mg per day for:
 - a. Initial treatment cycle: daily dosing for 14 days followed by a 14-day drug-free period;
 - b. Subsequent treatment cycles: daily dosing for 10 days out of 14-day periods, followed by 14-day drug-free periods.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications:

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is

NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Member continues to meet all of the following criteria (a, b, and c):
 - a. Independent living status;
 - b. Percent predicted forced vital capacity (% FVC) \geq 80%;
 - c. Revised ALSFRS-R score with \geq 2 points in each of the 12 items;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 60 mg/day for each cycle consisting of daily dosing for 10 days out of 14-day periods, followed by 14-day drug-free periods.

Approval duration: 6 months

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

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.

Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or

2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): 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

ALS: amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

ALSFRS-F: revised ALS Functional Rating Scale

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

FVC: forced vital capacity

LMN: lower motor neuron

UMN: upper motor neuron

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
riluzole (Rilutek [®])	50 mg PO BID	100 mg/day

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name[®] (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name[®]) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): hypersensitivity to edaravone or any of the inactive ingredients in Radicava
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

Appendix D: General Information

- Revised El Escorial diagnostic criteria for ALS requires the presence of:
 1. Signs of lower motor neuron (LMN) degeneration by clinical, electrophysiological or neuropathologic examination,
 2. Signs of upper motor neuron (UMN) degeneration by clinical examination, and
 3. Progressive spread of signs within a region or to other regions, together with the absence of:
 - a. Electrophysiological evidence of other disease processes that might explain the signs of LMN and/or UMN degenerations; and
 - b. Neuroimaging evidence of other disease processes that might explain the observed clinical and electrophysiological signs.
- The definitions of ALS diagnoses provided by the El Escorial criteria are as follows:

El Escorial criteria, 1994	
Definite ALS	Upper and lower motor neuron signs in three regions
Probable ALS	Upper and lower motor neuron signs in at least two regions, with upper motor neuron signs rostral to lower motor neuron signs
Possible ALS	Upper and lower motor neuron signs in one region, upper motor neuron signs alone in two or more regions, or lower motor neuron signs rostral to upper motor neuron signs
Suspected ALS	Lower motor neuron signs only, in two or more regions

- Two pivotal phase III trials that were conducted in Japan were used for the approval of Radicava in the USA. One of the phase III trials of Radicava found no statistically significant difference in delay of ALS progression, but a post-hoc analysis found that a certain subset of patients may benefit. Based on the post-hoc analysis, the second phase III was performed with a much more strict eligibility criteria and found a statistically significant difference in ALS progression in favor of Radicava. Therefore, patients not meeting the strict eligibility criteria at any time (at the time of initial or continued approval) can be assumed that no benefit will be provided by the use of Radicava for the treatment of ALS until further studies support its use in a wider population with ALS.
- The revised ALS Functional Rating Scale (ALSFRS-R) score consists of a total of 12 items and 48 points. It is a physician-generated estimate of the patient’s degree of functional impairment. Each item assesses the patient’s functional ability on daily tasks, such as walking and hand-writing. Each item is scored from 0 to 4 points, with 0 indicating no ability and 4 indicating normal ability.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
ALS	60 mg IV (60 mg dose as an intravenous infusion over a total of 60 minutes at an infusion rate approximately 1 mg per minute) as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial treatment cycle: daily dosing for 14 days followed by a 14-day drug-free period • Subsequent treatment cycles: daily dosing for 10 days out of 14-day periods, followed by 14-day drug-free periods. 	60 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

Single-dose polypropylene bag for injection: 30 mg/100 mL

VII. References

1. Radicava Prescribing Information. Jersey City, NJ: MT Phrama America, Inc.; March 2021. Available at: www.radicava.com. Accessed February 8, 2022.
2. The Writing Group. Safety and efficacy of edaravone in well defined patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet Neurol*. 2017; S1474-4422(17)30115-1.
3. Abe K, Itoyama Y, Sobue G, et al. Confirmatory double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled study of efficacy and safety of edaravone (MCI-186) in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis patients. *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Degeneration*. 2014;15(7-8), 610-617.
4. Yoshino H and Kimura A. Investigation of the therapeutic effects of edaravone, a free radical scavenger, on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Phase II study). *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis*. 2006;7(4), 247-251.
5. Anderson PM, Borasio GD, Dengler R, et al. Good practice in the management of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: Clinical guidelines. An evidence-based review with good practice points. EALSC Working Group. *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis*. 2007; 8:195-231.
6. Hardiman O, van den Berg LH, and Kiernan MC. Clinical diagnosis and management of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. *Nature Reviews Neurology* 2011; 7: 639-649. doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2011.153
7. Takei K, Tsuda K, Takahashi F, et al. An assessment of treatment guidelines, clinical practices, demographics, and progression of disease among patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in Japan, the United States, and Europe. *Amyotroph Lateral Scler Frontotemporal Degener* 2017; 18: 88–97. DOI: 10.1080/21678421.2017.1361445.
8. Shoosmith C, Abrahao A, Benstead T, et al. Canadian best practice recommendations for the management of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. *CMAJ*. 2020 Nov;192(46):E1453-E1468.

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
J1301	Injection, edaravone, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P & T Approval Date
2Q 2018 annual review: removed Airlie House diagnostic criteria requirement; policies combined for Medicaid and commercial lines of business; HIM added; references reviewed and updated.	02.02.18	05.18
2Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	02.05.19	05.19
2Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; revised HIM-Medical Benefit line of business to HIM; references reviewed and updated.	02.25.20	05.20
2Q 2021 annual review: added Appendix C for contraindications/boxed warnings and hence renamed previous Appendix C to Appendix D; references for HIM line of business off-label use revised from HIM.PHAR.21 to HIM.PA.154; updated section V administration to align with FDA-labeling; references reviewed and updated.	02.01.21	05.21
Clarified FVC as percent predicted; lowered age limit from 20 years to 18 years per FDA labeling.	09.23.21	
2Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	02.08.22	05.22

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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