

Clinical Policy: Goserelin Acetate (Zoladex)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.171

Effective Date: 10.01.16

Last Review Date: 11.19

Line of Business: HIM, Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)
[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Goserelin acetate (Zoladex[®]) is a gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) receptor agonist.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Zoladex is indicated for:

- Use in combination with flutamide for the management of locally confined Stage T2b-T4 (Stage B2-C) carcinoma of the prostate; treatment with Zoladex and flutamide should start 8 weeks prior to initiating radiation therapy and continue during radiation therapy:
 - Zoladex – 3.6 mg implant; 10.8 mg implant
- Palliative treatment of advanced carcinoma of the prostate:
 - Zoladex – 3.6 mg implant; 10.8 mg implant
- Management of endometriosis, including pain relief and reduction of endometriotic lesions for the duration of therapy; experience with Zoladex for the management of endometriosis has been limited to women 18 years of age and older treated for 6 months:
 - Zoladex – 3.6 mg implant
- Use as an endometrial thinning agent prior to endometrial ablation for dysfunctional uterine bleeding:
 - Zoladex – 3.6 mg implant
- Use in the palliative treatment of advanced breast cancer in pre- and perimenopausal women:
 - Zoladex – 3.6 mg implant

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

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Prostate Cancer (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of prostate cancer;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or urologist;
3. Age \geq 18 years;
4. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. Dose does not exceed 3.6 mg per month and/or 10.8 mg per 3 months;
 - b. 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*

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Breast Cancer (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of breast cancer;
2. Request is for Zoladex 3.6 mg;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
4. Age \geq 18 years;
5. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. Dose does not exceed 3.6 mg per month;
 - b. 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*

Approval duration: 12 months

C. Endometriosis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of endometriosis;
2. Request is for Zoladex 3.6 mg;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gynecologist;
4. Age \geq 18 years;
5. Endometriosis as a cause of pain is one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Surgically confirmed;
 - b. Clinically suspected and member has failed a 3-month trial of one of the following agents within the last year or has a documented intolerance or contraindication to the agent (i, ii, or iii):
 - i. A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug;
 - ii. An oral or depot contraceptive;
 - iii. A progestin;
6. Dose does not exceed 3.6 mg per month.

Approval duration: 6 months

Total duration of therapy should not exceed 12 months.

D. Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of dysfunctional uterine bleeding;
2. Request is for Zoladex 3.6 mg;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with a gynecologist;
4. Age \geq 18 years;
5. Prescribed as an endometrial-thinning agent prior to endometrial ablation;
6. Member has not yet received two implants;
7. Dose does not exceed 3.6 mg per month.

Approval duration: 2 implants per ablation procedure

E. 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): HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Prostate Cancer (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Zoladex for prostate cancer 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 or b):*
 - a. New dose does not exceed 3.6 mg per month and/or 10.8 mg per 3 months;
 - b. New 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*

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Breast Cancer (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Zoladex for breast cancer and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Request is for Zoladex 3.6 mg;
3. Member is responding positively to therapy;
4. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a or b):*
 - a. New dose does not exceed 3.6 mg per month;
 - b. New 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*

Approval duration: 12 months

C. Endometriosis (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Request is for Zoladex 3.6 mg;
3. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by, including but not limited to, improvement in any of the following parameters: improvement in dysmenorrhea, dyspareunia, pelvic pain/induration/tenderness, size of endometrial lesions;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 3.6 mg per month.

Approval duration: 6 months

Total duration of therapy should not exceed 12 months.

D. Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Request is for Zoladex 3.6 mg;
3. Member has not yet received two implants;
4. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by, including but not limited to, improvement in any of the following parameters: improvement in

dysmenorrhea, dyspareunia, pelvic pain/induration/tenderness, size of endometrial lesions;

- If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 3.6 mg per month.

Approval duration: 2 implants total per ablation procedure

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

- 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

- 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): HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

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

- 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 – HIM.PHAR.21 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

GnRH: gonadotropin-releasing hormone

NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network

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
NSAIDs*: ibuprofen, naproxen, fenoprofen, ketoprofen, mefenamic acid, meclofenamate, indomethacin, tolmetin, diclofenac, etodolac, diflunisal, meloxicam, piroxicam	Endometriosis Varies – refer to specific prescribing information	Varies – refer to specific prescribing information
Combined oral estrogen-progesterone contraceptives*: ethinyl estradiol + (desogestrel, ethynodiol diacetate, drospirenone, etonogestrel, levonorgestrel, norelgestromin, norethindrone, norgestimate, or norgestrel); estradiol valerate + dienogest; mestranol + norethindrone	Endometriosis 1 tablet PO QD (may vary per specific prescribing information)	1 tablet per day (may vary per specific prescribing information)

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Progestin-only oral contraceptives*: norethindrone	Endometriosis 0.35 mg PO QD	0.35 mg PO QD
Depot progestin contraceptive*: medroxyprogesterone acetate	Endometriosis IM: 150 mg per 3 months (every 13 weeks) SC: 104 mg per 3 months (every 12-14 weeks)	See regimen

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.

**Examples provided may not be all-inclusive*

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s):
 - Hypersensitivity
 - Pregnancy unless used for treatment of advanced breast cancer
- Boxed warning(s): None reported

V. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Goserelin acetate (Zoladex 3.6, 10.8)	Prostate cancer - stage B2-C	3.6 mg SC 8 weeks before radiotherapy, followed by 10.8 mg SC in 28 days (alternative: 4 injections of 3.6 mg at 28-day intervals, 2 preceding and 2 during radiotherapy)	See regimen
Goserelin acetate (Zoladex 3.6)	Prostate cancer - palliative therapy	3.6 mg SC every 28 days	3.6 mg per 28 days
	Endometriosis	3.6 mg SC every 28 days	3.6 mg per 28 days
	Dysfunctional uterine bleeding	3.6 mg SC every 28 days	3.6 mg per 28 days (2 doses total per ablation procedure)
	Breast cancer - palliative therapy	3.6 mg SC every 28 days	3.6 mg per 28 days

VI. Product Availability

Implant: 3.6 mg, 10.8 mg

VII. References

1. Zoladex (3.6 mg) Prescribing Information. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; July 2017. Available at <https://www.zoladexhcp.com>. Accessed July 29, 2019.
2. Zoladex (10.8 mg) Prescribing Information. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; July 2017. Available at <https://www.zoladexhcp.com>. Accessed July 29, 2019.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Goserelin acetate. Available at nccn.org. Accessed July 29, 2019.
4. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Prostate cancer (Version 2.2019). Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/prostate.pdf. Accessed July 29, 2019.
5. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Breast cancer (Version 2.2019). Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/breast.pdf. Accessed July 29, 2019.
6. Committee on Practice Bulletins - Gynecology. Management of endometriosis. July 2010 (reaffirmed 2016); 116(1): 223-236.

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
J9202	Goserelin acetate implant, per 3.6 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
<p>Policy split from CP.PHAR.118.GnRH Analogs.</p> <p>Prostate cancer – locally confined with radiation therapy; age added 18 or older per PI; max dose added; staging restated per PI</p> <p>Approval period limited to 6 months total with radiation therapy per guidelines</p> <p>Prostate cancer – advanced/palliative; age added 18 or older per PI; max dose added; removed preferencing other than a trial of injectables before receiving implant; staging of advanced prostate cancer restated as stage T3 through T4 or high risk through nodal/metastatic disease per guidelines; added confirmation that treatment intent is palliative if designated in PI; approval period extended to q 12 months</p> <p>Breast cancer – advanced/palliative; age added 18 or older per PI; max dose added; defined advanced as stage IV or recurrent metastatic disease per guidelines; removed requirement for ER/PR+ status as guidelines note status not always clear and that GnRH analogs can be effective in either case; add peri-menopausal status per Zoladex guideline; FDA approved and off-label breast cancer criteria is stated the same based on Zoladex PI and guidelines; added confirmation</p>	02.16	02.16

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
<p>that treatment intent is palliative as designated in Zoladex PI; approval period; extended to q 12 months Endometriosis - age added 18 or older per PI; max dose added; removed that surgical diagnosis had to be within last year; for clinical diagnosis, restated failure of one three-month trial to analgesics and/or contraceptives per UpToDate; approval period restated per PIs as follows: 6 months total if Zoladex, up to 12 months total for all others per products. Endometrial thinning prior to ablation - age added 18 or older per PI; max dose added</p>		
<p>Endometriosis: Changed 3 month trial of analgesics and/or hormonal contraceptives to NSAIDS and/or hormonal contraceptives.</p>	05.16	
<p>Per the PI, pregnancy is not a contraindication in cases of advanced breast cancer so it is removed as such in sections I.B and II.B above.</p>	10.16	
<p>Age removed. Formulations added. Off-label NCCN recommended uses added (prostate and breast cancer; doses removed; 3-month injectable requirement removed).</p>	01.17	02.17
<p>Age and dosing added to oncology criteria; age added to gynecology criteria. Positive therapeutic response examples added for oncology and endometriosis criteria. Oncology FDA/NCCN (categories 1 and 2A) indications listed separately. Endometriosis step therapy edited from estrogen/progestin OC to OC or depot contraceptive or progestin. Total approval duration increased from 6 to 12 months. Specialist requirement added for endometriosis, DUB. Safety information removed with the exception of pregnancy; pregnancy added for breast cancer per expert recommendation.</p>	09.17	11.17
<p>4Q 2018 annual review: no significant changes; added HIM; for oncology, summarized NCCN and FDA-approved uses for improved clarity (limited to diagnosis); specialist involvement in care and continuation of care added; references reviewed and updated.</p>	08.07.18	11.18
<p>4Q 2019 annual review: removed pregnancy safety requirement for breast cancer and endometriosis indications; added oncologist prescriber requirement for breast cancer; for prostate cancer removed requirement for use of 3.6 mg or 10.8 mg strengths as those are the only available strengths, added urologist specialist option; for dysfunctional uterine bleeding added requirement to Section I and II to validate member has not yet received two implants; references reviewed and updated.</p>	07.29.19	11.19

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.

For Health Insurance Marketplace members, when applicable, this policy applies only when the prescribed agent is on your health plan approved formulary. Request for non-formulary drugs must be reviewed using the non-formulary policy; HIM.PA.103.

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