

Imcivree (setmelanotide)

Disclaimer

Clinical guidelines are developed and adopted to establish evidence-based clinical criteria for utilization management decisions. Clinical guidelines are applicable according to policy and plan type. The Plan may delegate utilization management decisions of certain services to third parties who may develop and adopt their own clinical criteria.

Coverage of services is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of a member's policy, as well as applicable state and federal law. Clinical guidelines are also subject to in-force criteria such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) national coverage determination (NCD) or local coverage determination (LCD) for Medicare Advantage plans. Please refer to the member's policy documents (e.g., Certificate/Evidence of Coverage, Schedule of Benefits, Plan Formulary) or contact the Plan to confirm coverage.

Summary

Imcivree (setmelanotide) injection for subcutaneous (SC or SQ) use is indicated for chronic weight management in adult and pediatric individuals 2 years of age and older with monogenic or syndromic obesity due to:

1. Pro-opiomelanocortin (POMC), proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 1 (PCSK1), or leptin receptor (LEPR) deficiency as determined by an FDA-approved test demonstrating variants in POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR genes that are interpreted as pathogenic, likely pathogenic, or of uncertain significance (VUS)
2. Bardet-Biedl syndrome (BBS)

Imcivree (setmelanotide) is NOT indicated for the treatment of those with the following conditions as Imcivree (setmelanotide) would not be expected to be effective:

- Obesity due to suspected POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR deficiency with POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR variants classified as benign or likely benign
- Other types of obesity not related to POMC, PCSK1 or LEPR deficiency or BBS, including obesity associated with other genetic syndromes and general (polygenic) obesity

Melanocortin 4 (MC4) receptors in the brain are involved in regulation of hunger, satiety, and energy expenditure. POMC, PCSK1, and LEPR deficiencies, though extremely rare, are associated with

insufficient activation of the MC4 receptors. Imcivree (setmelanotide) addresses the underlying cause of obesity in these rare instances, when gene variation is interpreted as pathogenic, likely pathogenic, or of uncertain significance, by restoring MC4 receptor activity resulting in reduced hunger and enhanced weight loss through decreased caloric intake and increased energy expenditure. Information on an FDA-approved test for the detection of variants in the POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR is available at <http://www.fda.gov/CompanionDiagnostics>.

Definitions

“Bardet-Biedl syndrome (BBS)” is a rare disorder caused by genetic changes in many genes that affects many parts of the body. Signs and symptoms for this condition vary depending on the person, but it may cause problems such as loss of vision, obesity, extra fingers or toes (polydactyly), abnormalities of the genitalia, kidney abnormalities, and learning difficulties.

“Body Mass Index (BMI)” is a value that is calculated based on an individual’s weight and height and helps determine whether a person is underweight, overweight, or normal weight.

“Deficiency” is the state of lacking a required amount of something or possessing defective versions which results in decreased function.

“Genetic variation” is a permanent alteration in the sequence, number, structure, or function of the unit of inheritance, also known as a gene.

“Heterozygous” describes a genetic disorder inherited from one parent.

“Homozygous” describes a rare genetic disorder inherited from both parents.

“Monogenic” means involving or controlled by a single gene.

“No evidence of” indicates that the reviewer has not identified any records of the specified item or condition within the submitted materials or claims history. In the absence of such evidence, the member is considered eligible. If any evidence of the item or condition is present upon review of the request, the applicant does not qualify.

“Obesity” is a condition diagnosed when a person has a body mass index (BMI) of 30 kg/m² or higher.

“Pathogenic” describes a condition that causes or is capable of causing disease or dysfunction.

“Syndromic” means occurring or associated with a syndrome, such as Alström syndrome, Bardet-Biedl syndrome, or Prader-Willi syndrome.

Medical Necessity Criteria for Initial Authorization

The Plan considers Imcivree (setmelanotide) medically necessary when ALL of the following criteria are met:

1. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an endocrinologist, a geneticist, or a physician who specializes in metabolic disorders; *AND*
2. The member is 2 years of age or older; *AND*
3. The member requires treatment for monogenic or syndromic obesity due to ONE (1) of the following:
 - a. Bardet-Biedl syndrome (BBS) meeting BOTH of the following:
 - i. At least ONE (1) of the following diagnostic requirements for BBS (see [Appendix A](#), Table 1):
 1. 4 primary features; *or*
 2. 3 primary and 2 secondary features; *and*
 - ii. Meets ONE (1) of the following:
 1. Is 16 years of age or older and has a BMI greater than or equal to (\geq) 30 kg/m²; *or*
 2. Is between 2 to 15 years of age and weight is greater than ($>$) 97th percentile for age and sex on growth chart assessment; *or*
 - b. Pro-opiomelanocortin (POMC), proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 1 (PCSK1), or leptin receptor (LEPR) deficiency *AND* BOTH of the following:
 - i. Has been confirmed by genetic testing (by an FDA-approved/cleared test) demonstrating variants in POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR genes that are BOTH:
 1. Homozygous or compound heterozygous (a different gene mutation on each allele); *and*
 2. Interpreted as pathogenic, likely pathogenic, or of uncertain significance; *and*
 - ii. Meets ONE (1) of the following:
 1. Is 18 years of age or older and has a BMI greater than or equal to (\geq) 30 kg/m²; *or*
 2. Is between 2 to 17 years of age with weight greater than or equal to (\geq) 95th percentile for age and sex on growth chart assessment; *AND*
4. The member meets ALL of the following:
 - a. No evidence of prior gastric bypass surgery resulting in $>10\%$ weight loss durably maintained from the baseline pre-operative weight with no evidence of weight regain; *or*
 - b. No evidence of end stage renal disease (eGFR less than 15 mL/min/1.73 m²); *AND*
5. Clinical chart documentation is provided for review to substantiate the above listed requirements.

If the above prior authorization criteria are met, Imcivree (setmelanotide) will be approved for:

- Up to 12-months for Obesity and a Clinical Diagnosis of BBS; *or*
- Up to 4-months for Obesity Due to POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR Deficiency

Medical Necessity Criteria for Reauthorization

Reauthorization for up to 12 months will be granted if **BOTH** of the following are met:

1. The member still meets the applicable initial criteria; **AND**
2. Recent (within the last 3 months) chart documentation shows **ONE (1)** of the following:
 - a. For Obesity and a Clinical Diagnosis of BBS - the member lost at least 5% of baseline body weight or 5% of baseline BMI for members aged less than 18 years; *or*
 - b. For Obesity Due to POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR Deficiency - the member lost at least 5% of baseline body weight or 5% of baseline BMI for members with continued growth potential.

Experimental or Investigational / Not Medically Necessary

Imcivree (setmelanotide) for any other indication is considered not medically necessary by the Plan, as it is deemed to be experimental, investigational, or unproven. Imcivree (setmelanotide) is not approved and is considered experimental/investigational for the treatment of general obesity or weight loss in individuals without confirmed pathogenic variants in POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR genes, or without a clinical diagnosis of Bardet-Biedl syndrome. This includes use for:

1. Polygenic or common obesity.
2. Obesity associated with other genetic syndromes not specified in the FDA-approved indications.
3. Weight loss in individuals without rare genetic disorders of obesity.

References

1. Argente J, Verge CF, Okorie U, et al. Setmelanotide in patients aged 2-5 years with rare MC4R pathway-associated obesity (VENTURE): a 1 year, open-label, multicenter, phase 3 trial. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.* 2025 Jan;13(1):29-37. doi: 10.1016/S2213-8587(24)00273-0. Epub 2024 Nov 13.
2. Beales PL, Elcioglu N, Woolf AS, Parker D, Flintner FA. New criteria for improved diagnosis of Bardet-Biedl syndrome: results of a population survey. *J Med Genet.* 1999 Jun;36(6):437-46. PMID: 10874630; PMCID: PMC1734378.
3. Beales PL. Lifting the lid on Pandora's box: the Bardet-Biedl syndrome. *Curr Opin Genet Dev.* 2005 Jun;15(3):315-23. doi: 10.1016/j.gde.2005.04.006. PMID: 15917208.
4. Clément K, van den Akker E, Argente J, Bahm A, Chung WK, Connors H, De Waele K, Farooqi IS, Gonneau-Lejeune J, Gordon G, Kohlsdorf K, Poitou C, Puder L, Swain J, Stewart M, Yuan G, Wabitsch M, Kühnen P; Setmelanotide POMC and LEPR Phase 3 Trial Investigators. Efficacy and safety of setmelanotide, an MC4R agonist, in individuals with severe obesity due to LEPR or POMC deficiency: single-arm, open-label, multicentre, phase 3 trials. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.* 2020 Dec;8(12):960-970. doi: 10.1016/S2213-8587(20)30364-8
5. Forsythe E, Haws RM, Argente J, et al. Quality of life improvements following one year of setmelanotide in children and adult patients with Bardet-Biedl syndrome: phase 3 trial results. *Orphanet J Rare Dis.* 2023 Jan 16;18(1):12. doi: 10.1186/s13023-022-02602-4.
6. Haqq AM, Chung WK, Dollfus H, et al. Efficacy and safety of setmelanotide, a melanocortin-4 receptor agonist, in patients with Bardet-Biedl syndrome and Alström syndrome: a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial with an open-label period. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.* 2022 Dec;10(12):859-868. doi: 10.1016/S2213-8587(22)00277-7. Epub

2022 Nov 7. Erratum in: Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2023 Feb;11(2):e2. doi: 10.1016/S2213-8587(22)00360-6.

7. Haqq AM, Poitou C, Chung WK, et al. Impact of Setmelanotide on Metabolic Syndrome Risk in Patients With Bardet-Biedl Syndrome. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2025 Sep 16;110(10):e3271-e3282. doi: 10.1210/clinem/dgaf079.
8. Haws RM, Gordon G, Han JC, Yanovski JA, Yuan G, Stewart MW. The efficacy and safety of setmelanotide in individuals with Bardet-Biedl syndrome or Alström syndrome: Phase 3 trial design. Contemp Clin Trials Commun. 2021 May 3;22:100780. doi: 10.1016/j.conctc.2021.100780
9. Imcivree (setmelanotide) [prescribing information]. Boston, MA; Rhythm Pharmaceuticals Inc; March 2025.
10. Kühnen P, Wabitsch M, von Schnurbein J, et al. Quality of life outcomes in two phase 3 trials of setmelanotide in patients with obesity due to LEPR or POMC deficiency. Orphanet J Rare Dis. 2022 Feb 5;17(1):38. doi: 10.1186/s13023-022-02186-z.
11. Mayoclinic.org. Obesity. 2020. Available at: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/obesity/symptoms-causes/syc-20375742>. Accessed 23 Feb 2021.
12. Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary. Merriam-Webster. Available at: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>. Accessed 23 Feb 2021.
13. Muller J, Stoetzel C, Vincent MC, Leitch CC, Laurier V, Danse JM, Hellé S, Marion V, Bennouna-Greene V, Vicaire S, Megarbane A, Kaplan J, Drouin-Garraud V, Hamdani M, Sigaudy S, Francannet C, Roume J, Bitoun P, Goldenberg A, Philip N, Odent S, Green J, Cossée M, Davis EE, Katsanis N, Bonneau D, Verloes A, Poch O, Mandel JL, Dollfus H. Identification of 28 novel mutations in the Bardet-Biedl syndrome genes: the burden of private mutations in an extensively heterogeneous disease. Hum Genet. 2010 Mar;127(5):583-93. doi: 10.1007/s00439-010-0804-9. Epub 2010 Feb 23. PMID: 20177705; PMCID: PMC3638942.
14. Sarah E. Hampl, Sandra G. Hassink, Asheley C. Skinner, et al; Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Obesity. Pediatrics February 2023; 151 (2): e2022060640. 10.1542/peds.2022-060640
15. Wabitsch, M., Fehnel, S., Mallya, U. G., Sluga-O'Callaghan, M., Richardson, D., Price, M., & Kühnen, P. (2022). Understanding the Patient Experience of Hunger and Improved Quality of Life with Setmelanotide Treatment in POMC and LEPR Deficiencies. Advances in therapy, 39(4), 1772-1783.

Appendix A

Table 1: Diagnostic criteria for Bardet-Biedl syndrome (BBS)

Requirement	Primary/major features	Secondary/minor features
<p>A. 4 primary features; <i>or</i></p> <p>B. 3 primary and 2 secondary features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypogonadism in males • Learning disabilities • Obesity • Polydactyly • Renal anomalies • Rod-cone dystrophy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ataxia/poor coordination/imbalance • Brachydactyly/Syndactyly • Dental crowding/hypodontia/small roots/high arched palate • Developmental delay • Diabetes mellitus • Hepatic fibrosis • Left ventricular hypertrophy/congenital heart disease

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild spasticity (especially lower limbs) • Polyuria/Polydipsia (nephrogenic diabetes insipidus) • Speech disorder/delay • Strabismus/Cataracts/Astigmatism
--	--	---

Clinical Guideline Revision / History Information

Original Date: 03/11/2021

Reviewed/Revised: 12/01/2021, 03/17/2022, 12/08/2022, 12/14/2023, 12/19/2024, 1/01/2026