

Zynteglo (betibeglogene autotemcel)

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

Beta thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder caused by mutations in the beta-globin gene, leading to reduced or absent beta-globin production. In transfusion-dependent beta thalassemia, the severe imbalance in alpha- and beta-globin chains results in ineffective erythropoiesis (creation of red blood cells), severe anemia, and complications from iron overload due to chronic transfusions. Standard treatment is regular red blood cell transfusions and iron chelation therapy. Allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant can be curative but is limited by donor availability and transplant-related risks.

Zynteglo (betibeglogene autotemcel) is FDA-approved for the treatment of adult and pediatric individuals with beta thalassemia who require regular red blood cell (RBC) transfusions. It works by helping the body make healthy red blood cells, thereby reducing the need for blood transfusions.

Treatment varies depending on the type and severity of the condition. It may include:

- Blood transfusions
- Folic acid (vitamin B) supplements
- Calcium and vitamin D supplements
- Drugs to help remove iron buildup (chelation), which happens due to blood transfusions
- Removal of the spleen, if it becomes damaged
- Stem cell or bone marrow transplant, if transfusions are not working

- Novel therapies such as Reblozyl (luspatercept) or Zynteglo (betibeglogene autotemcel)

Definitions

“Anemia” is a condition in which there is a low level of red blood cells.

“Blood transfusion” is when a person gets blood that was given (donated) by another person.

“Bone marrow transplant” also known as “stem cell transplant” is a procedure that involves getting bone marrow cells from a donor (usually a sibling with similar genes, without or with a milder form of the condition/mutation).

“Hemoglobin” is a protein in red blood cells that carry oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body.

Medical Necessity Criteria for Authorization

The Plan considers Zynteglo (betibeglogene autotemcel) medically necessary when ALL of the following criteria are met:

1. Prescribed by or in consultation with a hematologist; *AND*
2. The member is 4 years of age or older; *AND*
3. The member has a confirmed diagnosis β -thalassemia major *AND* a history of ONE (1) of the following in the previous 2 years:
 - a. Transfusion of at least 100 mL/kg of body weight of packed red blood cells (pRBCs) per year; *or*
 - b. Eight or more (≥ 8) transfusions of pRBCs per year; *AND*
4. The member is an appropriate candidate for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) but without a matched related (i.e., family) donor; *AND*
5. The member meets ALL of the following criteria:
 - a. No evidence of a known and available human leukocyte antigen (HLA) matched family donor; *and*
 - b. No evidence of active bacterial, viral, fungal, or parasitic infection; *and*
 - c. No evidence of advanced liver disease, defined as:
 - i. Baseline alanine aminotransferase, aspartate aminotransferase or direct bilirubin value greater than ($>$)3 times the upper limit of normal (ULN); *or*
 - ii. Liver biopsy demonstrating cirrhosis, any evidence of bridging fibrosis, or active hepatitis; *or*
 - d. No evidence of any prior or current malignancy or myeloproliferative or significant immunodeficiency disorder; *and*
 - e. No evidence of contraindications to the conditioning regimen; *and*
 - f. No evidence of severe iron overload; *and*

- g. No evidence of pregnancy or breast-feeding; *and*
 - h. No evidence of presence of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 or 2 (HIV-1, HIV-2), hepatitis B virus (HBV), or hepatitis C (HCV); *and*
 - i. No evidence of prior treatment with HSCT or Zynteglo (betibeglogene autotemcel); *and*
 - j. No evidence of renal impairment, defined as creatinine clearance ≤ 70 mL/min/1.73 m²; *AND*
6. Dose is within the recommended range of:
- a. Minimum of 5.0×10^6 CD34+ cells/kg; *and*
 - b. Maximum of 42.1×10^6 CD34+ cells/kg.

If the above criteria are met, Zynteglo (betibeglogene autotemcel) will be authorized for one dose per lifetime, with an approval duration of 18 months.

Experimental or Investigational / Not Medically Necessary

Zynteglo (betibeglogene autotemcel) for any other indication is *not covered* by the Plan, as it is considered experimental or investigational. Non-covered indications include, but are not limited to, the following:

- For the treatment of severe sickle cell disease (SCD). There is no high-quality evidence to support the safety and efficacy of Zynteglo (betibeglogene autotemcel) for the management of sickle cell disease.
- Re-treatment. Zynteglo (betibeglogene autotemcel) is indicated for one-time single-dose intravenous use only.

Applicable Billing Codes (HCPCS/CPT Codes)

<i>Service(s) name</i>	
CPT/HCPCS Codes considered medically necessary if criteria are met:	
<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
96365	Intravenous infusion, for therapy, prophylaxis, or diagnosis (specify substance or drug); initial, up to 1 hour
J3393	Injection, betibeglogene autotemcel, per treatment
ICD-10 codes considered medically necessary if criteria are met:	
<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
D56.1	Beta thalassemia
D56.2	Delta-beta thalassemia
D56.5	Hemoglobin E-beta thalassemia

ICD-10 codes *not* considered medically necessary:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
D50.0	Iron deficiency anemia secondary to blood loss (chronic)
D50.1	Sideropenic dysphagia
D50.8	Other iron deficiency anemias
D50.9	Iron deficiency anemia, unspecified
D55.21	Anemia due to pyruvate kinase deficiency
D55.29	Anemia due to other disorders of glycolytic enzymes
D59.10	Autoimmune hemolytic anemia, unspecified
D59.11	Warm autoimmune hemolytic anemia
D59.12	Cold autoimmune hemolytic anemia
D59.13	Mixed type autoimmune hemolytic anemia
D59.19	Other autoimmune hemolytic anemia
D57.00	Hb-SS disease with crisis, unspecified
D57.01	Hb-SS disease with acute chest syndrome
D57.02	Hb-SS disease with splenic sequestration
D57.03	Hb-SS disease with cerebral vascular involvement
D57.09	Hb-SS disease with crisis with other specified complication
D57.1	Sickle-cell disease without crisis
D57.20	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease without crisis
D57.211	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with acute chest syndrome
D57.212	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with splenic sequestration
D57.219	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with crisis, unspecified
D57.80	Other sickle-cell disorders without crisis
D57.811	Other sickle-cell disorders with acute chest syndrome
D57.812	Other sickle-cell disorders with splenic sequestration
D57.819	Other sickle-cell disorders with crisis, unspecified
D63.0	Anemia in neoplastic disease
D63.1	Anemia in chronic kidney disease
D63.8	Anemia in other chronic diseases classified elsewhere
D64.81	Anemia due to antineoplastic chemotherapy

CPT/HCPCS Codes covered but may be subject to medical-necessity review:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
96366	Intravenous infusion, for therapy, prophylaxis, or diagnosis (specify substance or drug); each additional hour (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

References

1. Cappellini MD, Farmakis D, Porter J, et al, eds. Guidelines for the Management of Transfusion Dependent Thalassaemia (TDT). 4th ed. Nicosia (CY): Thalassaemia International Federation; 2021. Available at: <https://thalassaemia.org.cy/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GUIDELINE-4th-DIGITAL-BY-PAGE.pdf>
2. Cappellini MD, Motta I. New therapeutic targets in transfusion-dependent and -independent thalassemia. *Hematology Am Soc Hematol Educ Program*. 2017;2017(1):278-283. doi:10.1182/asheducation-2017.1.278
3. Chapin J, Cohen AR, Neufeld EJ, et al. An update on the US adult thalassaemia population: a report from the CDC thalassaemia treatment centres. *Br J Haematol*. 2022;196(2):380-389. doi:10.1111/bjh.17920
4. Kwiatkowski JL, Walters MC, Hongeng S, et al. Betibeglogene autotemcel gene therapy in patients with transfusion-dependent, severe genotype β -thalassaemia (HGB-212): a non-randomised, multicentre, single-arm, open-label, single-dose, phase 3 trial. *Lancet*. 2024 Nov 30;404(10468):2175-2186. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(24)01884-1. Epub 2024 Nov 8.
5. Lal A, Wong T, Keel S, et al. The transfusion management of beta thalassemia in the United States. *Transfusion*. 2021;61(10):3027-3039. doi:10.1111/trf.16640
6. Locatelli F, Thompson AA, Kwiatkowski JL, et al. Betibeglogene autotemcel gene therapy for non- β^0/β^0 genotype β -thalassemia. *N Engl J Med*. 2022;386(5):415-427. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2113206
7. Magrin E, Semeraro M, Hebert N, et al. Long-term outcomes of lentiviral gene therapy for the β -hemoglobinopathies: the HGB-205 trial. *Nat Med*. 2022;28(1):81-88. doi:10.1038/s41591-021-01650-w
8. Sayani FA, Kwiatkowski JL. Increasing prevalence of thalassemia in America: implications for primary care. *Ann Med*. 2015;47(7):592-604. doi:10.3109/07853890.2015.1091942
9. Thompson AA, Walters MC, Kwiatkowski J, et al. Gene therapy in patients with transfusion-dependent β -thalassemia. *N Engl J Med*. 2018;378(16):1479-1493. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1705342.
10. Zynteglo (betibeglogene autotemcel) [prescribing information]. Somerville, MA: Bluebird Bio Inc; August 2022.

Clinical Guideline Revision / History Information

Original Date: 12/08/2022

Reviewed/Revised: 12/14/2023, 8/29/2024, 11/01/2025