

Clinical Policy: Zoledronic Acid (Reclast, Zometa)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.59

Effective Date: 03.11

Last Review Date: 02.18

Line of Business: Commercial, Medicaid

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

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

Description

Zoledronic acid (Reclast[®], Zometa[®]) is a bisphosphonate.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Reclast is indicated:

- For the treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women. In postmenopausal women with osteoporosis, diagnosed by bone mineral density (BMD) or prevalent vertebral fracture, Reclast reduces the incidence of fractures (hip, vertebral, and non-vertebral osteoporosis-related fractures). In patients at high risk of fracture, defined as a recent low-trauma hip fracture, Reclast reduces the incidence of new clinical fractures;
- For the prevention of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women;
- For the treatment to increase bone mass in men with osteoporosis;
- For the treatment and prevention of glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis in men and women who are either initiating or continuing systemic glucocorticoids in a daily dosage equivalent to 7.5 mg or greater of prednisone and who are expected to remain on glucocorticoids for at least 12 months;
- For the treatment of Paget's disease of bone in men and women with elevations in serum alkaline phosphatase (ALP) of two times or higher than the upper limit of the age-specific normal reference range, or those who are symptomatic, or those at risk for complications from their disease.

Limitation(s) of use: The safety and effectiveness of Reclast for the treatment of osteoporosis is based on clinical data of three years duration. The optimal duration of use has not been determined. All patients on bisphosphonate therapy should have the need for continued therapy re-evaluated on a periodic basis. Patients at low-risk for fracture should be considered for drug discontinuation after 3 to 5 years of use. Patients who discontinue therapy should have their risk for fracture re-evaluated periodically.

Zometa is indicated:

- For the treatment of hypercalcemia of malignancy defined as an albumin-corrected calcium (cCa) of greater than or equal to 12 mg/dL (3.0 mmol/L);
- For the treatment of patients with multiple myeloma;
- For the treatment of patients with documented bone metastases from solid tumors, in conjunction with standard antineoplastic therapy. Prostate cancer should have progressed after treatment with at least one hormonal therapy.

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Limitation(s) of use: The safety and efficacy of Zometa in the treatment of hypercalcemia associated with hyperparathyroidism or with other non-tumor-related conditions have not been established.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (including 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 Reclast and Zometa are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. Osteoporosis and Paget's Disease of Bone (must meet all):**

1. Request is for Reclast for one of the following indications (a, b, or c):
 - a. Osteoporosis;
 - b. Prevention of osteoporosis;
 - c. Paget's disease of bone;
 - i. Serum alkaline phosphatase is elevated ≥ 2 times the upper limit of the age-specific normal reference range;
 - ii. Member is symptomatic;
 - iii. At risk for complications from the disease;
2. For osteoporosis-related indications, member must meet one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Prescribed by or in consultation with one of the following specialists: a gynecologist, endocrinologist, rheumatologist, orthopaedist, or physiatrist for postmenopausal osteoporosis;
 - b. Failure of a 12-month trial of an oral bisphosphonate (*alendronate is preferred*) unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
3. Not currently receiving therapy with Zometa;
4. Dose does not exceed 5 mg.

Approval duration:

Medicaid - Postmenopausal osteoporosis prevention - 24 months (one infusion); all other indications - 12 months (one infusion)

B. Hypercalcemia, Multiple Myeloma, and Bone Metastases (must meet all):

1. Request is for Zometa for one of the following indications (a, b, or c):
 - a. Hypercalcemia of malignancy evidenced by an albumin-corrected calcium (cCa) ≥ 12 mg/dL (*see Appendix C*);
 - b. Multiple myeloma when used in conjunction with standard antineoplastic therapy;
 - c. Bone metastases from solid tumors and both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. Standard antineoplastic therapy;
 - ii. If prostate cancer, documented evidence that prostate cancer has progressed after treatment with at least one hormonal therapy (*see Appendix C*);
2. Not currently receiving therapy with Reclast;
3. Dose does not exceed 4 mg.

Approval duration:

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Medicaid - Hypercalcemia of malignancy - 1 week (one infusion); Multiple myeloma and bone metastases - 3 months (one infusion every 3 weeks)

Commercial – Length of benefit

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, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy**A. Osteoporosis and Paget's Disease of Bone** (must meet all):

1. Request is for Reclast;
2. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met all initial approval criteria;
3. For osteoporosis-related indications, member is responding positively to therapy;
4. For Paget's disease, disease has relapsed or progressed (e.g., increases in or failure to achieve normalization of serum ALP);
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 5 mg.

Approval duration: Postmenopausal osteoporosis prevention - 24 months (one infusion); All other indications - 12 months (one infusion).

B. Hypercalcemia, Multiple Myeloma, and Bone Metastases (must meet all):

1. Request is for Zometa;
2. Currently receiving the medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met all initial approval criteria;
3. For hypercalcemia of malignancy, member meets both of the following (a and b):
 - a. At least 7 days have elapsed since last treatment;
 - b. Documented evidence that serum calcium has not returned to normal or remained normal after initial treatment;
4. For multiple myeloma and bone metastases, member continues to receive standard antineoplastic therapy and is responding positively to therapy with Zometa (e.g., no significant toxicity);
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 4 mg.

Approval duration: Hypercalcemia of malignancy - 1 week (one infusion); multiple myeloma and bone metastases - 12 months (one infusion every 3 weeks)

C. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 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, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

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

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- 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, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

ALP: alkaline phosphatase

CrCl: creatinine clearance

BMD: bone mineral density

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

cCa: albumin-corrected calcium

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 and may require prior authorization.

Drug	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
alendronate (Fosamax®)	Osteoporosis 10 mg PO QD or 70 mg PO q week	Osteoporosis 10 mg/day or 70 mg/week
	Glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis 5 mg PO QD or 10 mg PO QD (in postmenopausal women not receiving estrogen)	Glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis 5 mg/day or 10 mg/day (in postmenopausal women not receiving estrogen)
	Osteoporosis prophylaxis 5 mg PO QD or 35 mg PO q week	Osteoporosis prophylaxis 5 mg/day or 35 mg/week
	Paget's disease 40 mg PO QD for 6 months; may re-treat if needed	Paget's disease 40 mg/day
Fosamax® Plus D (alendronate/cholecalciferol)	Osteoporosis 70 mg alendronate/2,800 units cholecalciferol or 70 mg alendronate/5,600 units cholecalciferol PO q week	Osteoporosis 70 mg alendronate/5,600 units cholecalciferol/week
risedronate (Actonel®, Atelvia®)	Osteoporosis (including prophylaxis) 5 mg PO QD or 35 mg PO q week or 75 mg PO QD for 2 consecutive days for 2 doses/month or 150 mg PO q month	Osteoporosis (including prophylaxis) 5 mg/day or 35 mg/week or 75 mg/day for 2 days per month or 150 mg/month
	Glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis 5 mg PO QD	Glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis 5 mg/day

Drug	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	Paget's disease 30 mg PO QD for 2 months; may re-treat if needed after 2 months	Paget's disease 30 mg/day
ibandronate (Boniva [®])	Osteoporosis 150 mg PO q month or 3 mg IV q 3 months Osteoporosis prophylaxis 150 mg PO q month	Osteoporosis 150 mg/month or 3 mg/3 month Osteoporosis prophylaxis 150 mg/month
etidronate disodium (Didronel [®])	Paget's disease 5 to 10 mg/kg/day PO (not to exceed 6 months) or 11 to 20 mg/kg/day PO (not to exceed 3 months); may re-treat if needed	20mg/kg/day
pamidronate disodium (Aredia [®])	Paget's disease 30 mg IV over 4 hours QD for 3 consecutive days (total dose of 90 mg); may re-treat if needed	30 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: General Information

- The World Health Organization uses the following classifications for osteoporosis and osteopenia:

Category	T-score
Normal	-1.0 or above
Low bone mass (osteopenia)	Between -1.0 and -2.5
Osteoporosis	-2.5 or below

- Formula for Albumin-Corrected Calcium Level: $cCa \text{ in mg/dL} = Ca \text{ in mg/dL} + 0.8 (4.0 \text{ g/dL} - \text{patient albumin [g/dL]})$
- Hormonal therapy for prostate cancer includes regimens containing luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH) agonists (e.g., goserelin, histrelin, leuprolide, triptorelin), LHRH antagonists (e.g., degarelix), antiandrogens (e.g., nilutamide, flutamide, bicalutamide, enzalutamide), and/or an androgen biosynthesis inhibitor (e.g., abiraterone) per NCCN guidelines.

V. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Zoledronic acid (Reclast)	Treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis, treatment to	5 mg IV once a year	5 mg/year

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	increase bone mass in men with osteoporosis, and treatment and prevention of glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis		
	Prevention of postmenopausal osteoporosis	5 mg IV once every 2 years	5 mg/2 years
	Treatment of Paget's disease of bone	5 mg IV once; retreatment may be considered	5 mg
Zoledronic acid (Zometa)	Hypercalcemia of malignancy	4 mg as a single-use IV infusion; may re-treat with 4 mg after a minimum of 7 days	4 mg/infusion
	Multiple myeloma and bone metastases from solid tumors	4 mg as a single-use IV infusion every 3 to 4 weeks	4 mg/3 weeks

VI. Product Availability

Ready-to-infuse solution: 5 mg/100 mL

VII. References

1. Reclast Prescribing Information. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation; July 2017. Available at <http://www.reclast.com>. Accessed November 17, 2017.
2. Zometa Prescribing Information. East Hanover NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; December 2016. Available at <http://www.pharma.us.novartis.com/product/pi/pdf/Zometa.pdf>. Accessed November 17, 2017.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Multiple Myeloma Version 2.2018. Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/myeloma.pdf. Accessed November 17, 2017.
4. Gralow JR, Bierman JS, Farooki A, et al. NCCN task force report: bone health in cancer care. J Natl Compr Canc Netw. 2013; 11(Suppl 3): S1-S57.
5. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Prostate Cancer Version 2.2017. Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/prostate.pdf. Accessed November 17, 2017.
6. Cosman F, de Beur SJ, LeBoff MS, et al. Position paper: clinician's guide to prevention and treatment of osteoporosis. Osteoporosis Int. 2014; 25(10): 2359-2381.
7. Camacho PM, Petak SM, Binkley N, et al. American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and American College of Endocrinology practice guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis – 2016. Endocrin Pract. 2016; 22(Suppl 4).
8. Watts NB, Adler RA, Bilezikian JP, et al. Osteoporosis in men: an Endocrine Society clinical practice guideline. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2012; 97(6): 1802-1822.

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9. Singer FR, Bone HG, Hosking DJ, et al. Paget’s disease of the bone: an Endocrine Society clinical practice guideline. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2014; 99(12): 4480-4422.
10. Buckley L, Guyatt G, Fink HA, et al. 2017 American College of Rheumatology guideline for the prevention and treatment of glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis. Arthritis Rheumatol. 2017; 69(8): 1521-1537.
11. National Osteoporosis Foundation. Clinician’s Guide to Prevention and Treatment of Osteoporosis. Available at: <http://nof.org/files/nof/public/content/file/2791/upload/919.pdf>. Accessed November 17, 2017.
12. The North American Menopause Society. Management of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women: 2010 position statement of the North American Menopause Society. Menopause 2010;17(1):22-54.

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
J3489	Injection, zoledronic acid, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
<p>Zometa criteria</p> <p>Hypercalcemia of malignancy initial – renal dose adjustment and co-administration with saline hydration criteria removed; max dose added; re-auth - max total doses removed; signs of jaw osteonecrosis removed; renal deterioration removed; approval changed from 3 to 6 months.</p> <p>Multiple myeloma initial - definition of MM active (symptomatic) disease added; modified dosing criteria to max of ≤ 4mg; lytic destruction of bone/spine compression/osteopenia criteria removed-; re-auth - 2 year treatment limit criteria removed- ; signs of jaw osteonecrosis criteria removed; renal deterioration criteria removed since tx interruption vs. hard stop; approval changed to 6 months.</p> <p>Bone metastases from solid tumors - initial: modified dosing criteria to max dose of ≤ 4mg; criteria for prostate cancer added as noted in PI; re-auth: 2 year treatment limit criteria removed; signs of jaw osteonecrosis criteria removed-; renal deterioration criteria removed; approval changed to 6 months.</p>	01.16	2.16

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Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
<p>Reclast criteria split from CP.PHAR.20.Osteoporosis Inj policy.</p> <p>For men, criteria changed to require testosterone only for hypogonadal rather than primary osteoporosis, removed year-long testosterone therapy prior to Reclast.</p> <p>Added “at femoral neck or spine” for T score.</p> <p>Removed requirement must be > 50 in cases where osteoporosis diagnosis relies on history of an osteoporotic fracture.</p> <p>Certain conditions representing potential contraindications to therapy are and other safety criteria removed as the PI does not instruct that they be ruled out prior to initiating therapy or specify a test and measureable outcome by which to do so.</p> <p>Retained contraindication that are objective and verifiable and should be checked prior to therapy per PI (Hypocalcemia & CrCl)</p> <p>Added additional criteria if purpose is prevention of osteoporosis per UpToDate and FRAX.</p> <p>Added definition of bisphosphonate trial failure and, if contraindication/intolerance, that it be to one of the two oral drugs listed</p> <p>Calcium/vitamin D requirement language edited to be less specific.</p> <p>Approval duration broken up across indications.</p> <p>Edited to allow continued therapy for Paget’s disease in some cases per PI.</p>	3.16	03.16
<p>Removed age restriction. Added maximum dose to continued therapy.</p> <p>Certain conditions representing potential contraindications to therapy and other safety criteria removed.</p> <p>Osteoporosis and Paget’s disease: Removed high risk of fracture (recent low-trauma hip fracture). Added “at total hip” to T score. Added requirement for T score/history of fracture to confirm diagnosis of male osteoporosis, and combined treatment of osteoporosis of postmenopausal women and males. Removed requirement for administration of calcium/vitamin D if appropriate.</p> <p>For Paget’s disease, removed requirement for trial/failure of an oral bisphosphonate.</p> <p>Hypercalcemia, multiple myeloma, and bone metastases: Removed requirement that multiple myeloma must be</p>	02.17	03.17

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Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
active, and deleted appendix C (definition of active MM). Removed CrCl < 30 (a warning) and hypercalcemia associated with hyperparathyroidism (a limitation of use) from contraindications. Added requirement for member to continue to be receiving oral calcium and vitamin D to continued therapy. Added reasons to discontinue to continued therapy		
1Q18 annual review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies combined commercial and Medicaid. • Converted to new template. • Modified diagnoses and removed requirements for evidence of diagnoses for Reclast indications. • Modified age requirement. Modified criteria to add specialist requirement or trial and failure of a bisphosphonate (alendronate is preferred). Removed definition of treatment failure. • Removed contraindication of hypocalcemia. • Modified approval duration of 24 months to apply only to postmenopausal osteoporosis prevention; modified approval duration for other diagnoses/indications to 12 months. • Removed requirements for calcium and vitamin D supplementation. • Modified definitions for positive response to therapy • Added requirement for continuation of standard antineoplastic therapy for multiple myeloma and bone metastases. • References reviewed and updated. 	11.22.17	02.18

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.

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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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