Evolent Clinical Guideline 3201 for Hepzato™ (melphalan)

Guideline Number:	Applicable Codes	
Evolent_CG_3201		
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Original Date:	**Last Revised Date:**	**Implementation Date:**
October 2023	October 2025	October 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEMENT

Purpose

To define and describe the accepted indications for Hepzato (melphalan) usage in the treatment of cancer, including FDA approved indications, and off-label indications.

Evolent is responsible for processing all medication requests from network ordering providers. Medications not authorized by Evolent may be deemed as not approvable and therefore not reimbursable.

The use of this drug must be supported by one of the following: FDA approved product labeling, CMS-approved compendia, National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) clinical guidelines, or peer-reviewed literature that meets the requirements of the CMS Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 15.

INDICATIONS

Continuation requests for a not-approvable medication shall be exempt from this Evolent policy provided

- The member has not experienced disease progression on the requested medication AND
- The requested medication was used within the last year without a lapse of more than 30 days of having an active authorization AND
- Additional medication(s) are not being added to the continuation request.

Uveal Melanoma

- Hepzato (melphalan) may be used in adult members with uveal melanoma with unresectable hepatic metastases affecting less than 50% of the liver and no extrahepatic disease or extrahepatic disease limited to the bone, lymph nodes, subcutaneous tissues, or lung that is amenable to resection or radiation.

CONTRAINDICATIONS/WARNINGS

- Contraindications
  - History of allergies or hypersensitivity to melphalan or any component of the Hepzato Kit
  - History of hypersensitivity/allergy to heparin or the presence of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia
  - History of severe allergic reaction to iodinated contrast not controlled by premedication with antihistamines and steroids
  - Active intracranial metastases or brain lesions with a propensity to bleed
  - Liver failure, portal hypertension, or known varices at risk for bleeding
  - Surgery or medical treatment of the liver in the previous 4 weeks

- Active cardiac conditions which include (but are not limited to) unstable coronary syndromes (unstable or severe angina or myocardial infarction), worsening or new-onset congestive heart failure, significant arrhythmias, or severe valvular disease.

- US Boxed Warning
  - Myelosuppression with resulting severe infection, bleeding, or symptomatic anemia may occur with melphalan administered intra-arterially as a percutaneous hepatic perfusion (PHP) (Hepzato).
  - Severe periprocedural complications, including hemorrhage, hepatocellular injury, and thromboembolic events may occur via hepatic intra-arterial administration of melphalan. Assess patients for these adverse reactions during and for at least 72 hours following administration of melphalan.
  - Melphalan for intra-arterial infusion via PHP is available only through a restricted program under a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy called the Hepzato Kit REMS.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Disease progression while taking Hepzato (melphalan).
- Concurrent use with other anticancer therapies.
- Dosing exceeds single dose limit of Hepzato (melphalan) 220 mg.
- Investigational use of Hepzato (melphalan) with an off-label indication that is not sufficient in evidence or is not generally accepted by the medical community. Sufficient evidence that is not supported by CMS recognized compendia or acceptable peer reviewed literature is defined as any of the following:
  - Whether the clinical characteristics of the patient and the cancer are adequately represented in the published evidence.
  - Whether the administered chemotherapy/biologic therapy/immune therapy/targeted therapy/other oncologic therapy regimen is adequately represented in the published evidence.
  - Whether the reported study outcomes represent clinically meaningful outcomes experienced by patients. Generally, the definitions of Clinically Meaningful outcomes are those recommended by ASCO, e.g., Hazard Ratio of less than 0.80 and the recommended survival benefit for OS and PFS should be at least 3 months.
  - Whether the experimental design, considering the drugs and conditions under investigation, is appropriate to address the investigative question. (For example, in some clinical studies, it may be unnecessary or not feasible to use randomization, double blind trials, placebos, or crossover).
  - That non-randomized clinical trials with a significant number of subjects may be a basis for supportive clinical evidence for determining accepted uses of drugs.
  - That case reports are generally considered uncontrolled and anecdotal information and do not provide adequate supportive clinical evidence for determining accepted uses of drugs.

- That abstracts (including meeting abstracts) without the full article from the approved peer-reviewed journals lack supporting clinical evidence for determining accepted uses of drugs.

CODING AND STANDARDS

Codes

- J9248 - Injection, melphalan (hepzato), 1 mg

Applicable Lines of Business

☐	CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)
☒	Commercial
☒	Exchange/Marketplace
☒	Medicaid
☐	Medicare Advantage

POLICY HISTORY

Date	Summary
October 2025	• Converted to new Evolent guideline template • This guideline replaces UM ONC_1486 Hepzato (melphalan) • Updated references
October 2024	• Updated indication verbiage

LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE

Guideline Approval

Committee

Reviewed / Approved by Evolent Specialty Services Clinical Guideline Review Committee

Disclaimer

Evolent Clinical Guidelines do not constitute medical advice. Treating health care professionals are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment, and medical advice. Evolent

uses Clinical Guidelines in accordance with its contractual obligations to provide utilization management. Coverage for services varies for individual members according to the terms of their health care coverage or government program. Individual members' health care coverage may not utilize some Evolent Clinical Guidelines. Evolent clinical guidelines contain guidance that requires prior authorization and service limitations. A list of procedure codes, services or drugs may not be all inclusive and does not imply that a service or drug is a covered or non-covered service or drug. Evolent reserves the right to review and update this Clinical Guideline in its sole discretion. Notice of any changes shall be provided as required by applicable provider agreements and laws or regulations. Members should contact their Plan customer service representative for specific coverage information.

REFERENCES

1. Zager JS, et al. Efficacy and Safety of the Melphalan/Hepatic Delivery System in Patients with Unresectable Metastatic Uveal Melanoma: Results from an Open-Label, Single-Arm, Multicenter Phase 3 Study. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2024 Aug;31(8):5340-5351. doi: 10.1245/s10434-024-15293-x.
2. Hepzato prescribing information. Delcath Systems, Inc. Queensbury, NY 2023.
3. Clinical Pharmacology Elsevier Gold Standard 2025.
4. Micromedex® Healthcare Series: Micromedex Drugdex Ann Arbor, Michigan 2025.
5. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Cancer Guidelines and Drugs and Biologics Compendium 2025.
6. AHFS Drug Information. American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists or Wolters Kluwer Lexi-Drugs. Bethesda, MD 2025.
7. Ellis LM, et al. American Society of Clinical Oncology perspective: Raising the bar for clinical trials by defining clinically meaningful outcomes. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014 Apr 20;32(12):1277-80.
8. Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 15 Covered Medical and Other Health Services: **https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c15.pdf**.
9. Current and Resolved Drug Shortages and Discontinuations Reported to the FDA: **http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/default.cfm**.