

PHARMACY POLICY STATEMENT

Marketplace

DRUG NAME	Xermelo (telotristat ethyl)
BILLING CODE	Must use valid NDC
BENEFIT TYPE	Pharmacy
SITE OF SERVICE ALLOWED	Home
STATUS	Prior Authorization Required

Xermelo is a small molecule tryptophan hydroxylase (TPH) inhibitor indicated for the treatment of carcinoid syndrome diarrhea in combination with somatostatin analog (SSA) therapy in adults inadequately controlled by SSA therapy. TPH mediates the rate limiting step in serotonin biosynthesis, which is overproduced in carcinoid syndrome. Inhibiting TPH therefore reduces the production of peripheral serotonin and the frequency of related diarrhea.

Carcinoid syndrome (CS) refers to a collection of symptoms that primarily occurs with well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) originating midgut with metastases to the liver. Flushing and diarrhea are the most common manifestations. NETs release a variety of biologically active products, with serotonin thought to be the most important factor in the etiology of CS diarrhea. It is considered refractory if symptoms are inadequately controlled with a long acting SSA. Xermelo is specifically recommended for refractory cases.

Xermelo (telotristat ethyl) will be considered for coverage when the following criteria are met:

Carcinoid Syndrome Diarrhea

For **initial** authorization:

1. Member is 18 years old or older; AND
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or gastroenterologist; AND
3. Member has a neuroendocrine tumor; AND
4. Member has a diagnosis of refractory diarrhea secondary to carcinoid syndrome, despite a stable dose of long-acting somatostatin analog (i.e., octreotide, lanreotide) for at least 3 months, as evidenced by at least one of the following:
 - a) Member is experiencing 4 or more bowel movements per day
 - b) Member has an elevated urinary 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid (u5-HIAA) level; AND
5. Member will continue somatostatin therapy in addition to Xermelo.
6. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** 250 mg three times daily.

If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for 3 months.

For **reauthorization**:

1. Chart notes have been provided that show a decrease in frequency of bowel movements; AND
2. Member is continuing somatostatin analog unless contraindicated or not tolerated.

If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for an additional 12 months.

CareSource considers Xermelo (telotristat ethyl) not medically necessary for the treatment of conditions that are not listed in this document. For any other indication, please refer to the Off-Label policy.

DATE	ACTION/DESCRIPTION
11/12/2020	New policy for Xermelo created.
04/18/2022	Transferred to new template. Added supporting references. Specified SSA therapy as long acting.

References:

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- Hofland J, Herrera-Martínez AD, Zandee WT, de Herder WW. Management of carcinoid syndrome: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Endocr Relat Cancer*. 2019;26(3):R145-R156. doi:10.1530/ERC-18-0495

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Revised date: 04/18/2022