
5.21.164

Section:	Prescription Drugs	Effective Date:	April 1, 2021
Subsection:	Antineoplastic Agents	Original Policy Date:	January 8, 2021
Subject:	Danyelza	Page:	1 of 5

Last Review Date: March 12, 2021

Danyelza

Description

Danyelza (naxitamab-gqgk)

Background

Danyelza (naxitamab-gqgk) is a monoclonal antibody that binds to the glycolipid GD2. GD2 is a disialoganglioside that is overexpressed on neuroblastoma cells and other cells of neuroectodermal origin, including the central nervous system and peripheral nerves. In vitro, Danyelza was able to bind to cell surface GD2 and induce complement dependent cytotoxicity and antibody dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (1).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications: Danyelza is indicated, in combination with granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), for the treatment of pediatric patients 1 year of age and older and adult patients with relapsed or refractory high-risk neuroblastoma in the bone or bone marrow who have demonstrated a partial response, minor response, or stable disease to prior therapy (1).

Danyelza has a boxed warning regarding severe infusion reactions including hypotension, bronchospasm, hypoxia, and stridor. Patients should be premedicated with an antihistamine, acetaminophen, an H2 antagonist, and corticosteroid as recommended. Patients should be monitored closely for signs and symptoms of infusion reactions during and for at least 2 hours following completion of each Danyelza infusion in a setting where cardiopulmonary resuscitation medication and equipment are available (1).

Section:	Prescription Drugs	Effective Date:	April 1, 2021
Subsection:	Antineoplastic Agents	Original Policy Date:	January 8, 2021
Subject:	Danyelza	Page:	2 of 5

Danyelza also has a boxed warning for neurotoxicity. It can cause severe neurotoxicity, including severe neuropathic pain, transverse myelitis, and reversible posterior leukoencephalopathy syndrome (RPLS). Premedicate to treat neuropathic pain as recommended (1).

Danyelza may also cause hypertension. Danyelza should not be initiated in patients with uncontrolled hypertension. Blood pressure should be monitored during infusion, and at least daily on Days 1 to 8 or each cycle of Danyelza (1).

Danyelza may cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Females of reproductive potential, including pregnant women, should be advised of the potential risk to a fetus. Females of reproductive potential should be advised to use effective contraception during treatment with Danyelza and for two months after the final dose (1).

The safety and effectiveness of Danyelza in pediatric patients less than 1 year of age have not been established (1).

Related policies

Unituxin

Policy

This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.

Danyelza may be considered **medically necessary** in patients 1 year of age or older for the treatment of neuroblastoma in the bone or bone marrow and if the conditions indicated below are met.

Danyelza may be considered **investigational** in patients less than 1 year of age and for all other indications.

Prior-Approval Requirements

Age 1 year of age or older

Diagnosis

Section:	Prescription Drugs	Effective Date:	April 1, 2021
Subsection:	Antineoplastic Agents	Original Policy Date:	January 8, 2021
Subject:	Danyelza	Page:	3 of 5

Patient must have the following:

Relapsed or refractory high-risk neuroblastoma in the bone or bone marrow

AND ALL of the following

1. Patient has demonstrated a partial response, minor response, **OR** stable disease to prior therapy
2. **NO** uncontrolled hypertension
3. Used in combination with a granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF)
4. Patient will be monitored for infusion reactions during each infusion and for at least 2 hours following each infusion
5. Prescriber agrees to monitor for neurotoxicity
6. Prescriber agrees to monitor blood pressure during each infusion and daily on Days 1 to 8 of each cycle of Danyelza
7. Females of reproductive potential **only**: patient will be advised to use effective contraception during treatment with Danyelza and for 2 months after the final dose

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

Age 1 year of age or older

Diagnosis

Patient must have the following:

Neuroblastoma in the bone or bone marrow

AND ALL of the following

1. **NO** disease progression or unacceptable toxicity
2. Used in combination with a granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF)
3. Patient will be monitored for infusion reactions during each infusion and for at least 2 hours following each infusion
4. Prescriber agrees to monitor for neurotoxicity
5. Prescriber agrees to monitor blood pressure during each infusion and daily on Days 1 to 8 of each cycle of Danyelza

Section:	Prescription Drugs	Effective Date:	April 1, 2021
Subsection:	Antineoplastic Agents	Original Policy Date:	January 8, 2021
Subject:	Danyelza	Page:	4 of 5

6. Females of reproductive potential **only**: patient will be advised to use effective contraception during treatment with Danyelza and for 2 months after the final dose

Policy Guidelines

Pre - PA Allowance

None

Prior - Approval Limits

Duration 12 months

Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Same as above

Rationale

Summary

Danyelza (naxitamab-gqqk) is a monoclonal antibody that binds to the glycolipid GD2. GD2 is a disialoganglioside that is overexpressed on neuroblastoma cells and other cells of neuroectodermal origin, including the central nervous system and peripheral nerves. In vitro, Danyelza was able to bind to cell surface GD2 and induce complement dependent cytotoxicity and antibody dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (1).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate and cost-effective use of Danyelza while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

1. Danyelza [package insert]. New York, NY: Y-mAbs Therapeutics, Inc.; November 2020.

Policy History

Date	Action
January 2021	Addition to PA
March 2021	Annual editorial review

Keywords

Section:	Prescription Drugs	Effective Date:	April 1, 2021
Subsection:	Antineoplastic Agents	Original Policy Date:	January 8, 2021
Subject:	Danyelza	Page:	5 of 5

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on March 12, 2021 and is effective on April 1, 2021.