

SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT

Antiemetic Therapy (fosaprepitant [Emend], aprepitant [Cinvanti], rolapitant [Varubi], palonosetron [Aloxi], granisetron [Sustol])

POLICY

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care authorizes medically necessary use of palonosetron [Aloxi®], fosaprepitant [Emend®], aprepitant [Cinvanti®], rolapitant [Varubi®], granisetron [Sustol®], for treatment of nausea and vomiting when their use (including dosage, frequency, site of administration, and duration of therapy) is reasonable and necessary, clinically appropriate, and supported by evidence-based literature.

Criteria:

Fosaprepitant [Emend]:

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care considers fosaprepitant [Emend®] as reasonable and medically necessary for nausea and vomiting related to oncology when the following criteria are met:

- Documented use of a moderate or high emetogenic potential IV antineoplastic agent, as listed in current NCCN Guidelines; OR
- Prior trial and failure of granisetron [Kytril®], ondansetron [Zofran®], dolasetron [Anzemet®]).

Aprepitant [Cinvanti]:

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care considers aprepitant [Cinvanti®] as reasonable and medically necessary for nausea and vomiting related to oncology, when the following criteria are met:

- Documented use of a moderate or high emetogenic potential IV antineoplastic agent, as listed in current NCCN Guidelines; AND
- Use will be as a part of combination therapy with dexamethasone and a 5-HT₃ antagonist (e.g., palonosetron [Aloxi®], granisetron [Kytril®], ondansetron [Zofran®], dolasetron [Anzemet®]) unless there is an intolerance of or contraindication to one or both drugs;

Rolapitant [Varubi]:

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care considers rolapitant [Varubi®] as reasonable and medically necessary for nausea and vomiting related to oncology when the following criteria are met:

- Documented use of a moderate or high emetogenic potential IV antineoplastic agent, as listed in current NCCN Guidelines; AND
- Use will be as a part of combination therapy with dexamethasone and a 5-HT₃ antagonist (e.g., palonosetron [Aloxi®], granisetron [Kytril®], ondansetron [Zofran®], dolasetron [Anzemet®]) unless there is an intolerance of or contraindication to one or both drugs

Palonosetron [Aloxi]:

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care considers palonosetron [Aloxi®] as reasonable and medically necessary for nausea and vomiting related to oncology, post-radiation therapy, pregnancy, post-surgery, and eating disorders when the following criteria are met:

- Documented use of a moderate or high emetogenic potential IV antineoplastic agent, as listed in NCCN Guidelines; OR
- Prior trial and failure of an alternative, granisetron [Kytril®], ondansetron [Zofran®], dolasetron [Anzemet®])

Granisetron [Sustol]:

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care considers granisetron [Sustol®] as reasonable and medically necessary for nausea and vomiting related to oncology when the following criteria are met:

- Documented use of a moderate or high emetogenic potential IV antineoplastic agent, as listed in current NCCN Guidelines; AND
- Use will be as part of combination therapy with dexamethasone

Reauthorization:

For reauthorization for ongoing treatment, clinicians must submit documentation outlining continued need for therapy.

Exclusions: Harvard Pilgrim Health Care does not cover palonosetron [Aloxi®], fosaprepitant [Emend®], aprepitant [Cinvanti®], rolapitant [Varubi®], or granisetron [Sustol®], or Anzemet® for conditions other than those listed in the policy above.

Coding:

Codes are listed below for informational purposes only, and do not guarantee member coverage or provider reimbursement. The list may not be all-inclusive. Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible.

CPT® Code	Description
C9463	Injection, aprepitant, 1 mg
C9464	Injection, rolapitant, 0.5 mg
J1453	Injection, fosaprepitant, 1 mg
J1627	Injection, granisetron, extended-release, 0.1 mg
J2469	Injection, palonosetron HCl, 25 mcg

References:

1. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology. Antiemesis. https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/default.aspx#antiemesis
2. Hesketh, PJ. Prevention and treatment of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. In: UpToDate, Post, TS (ed), Waltham, MA, 2015.
3. Longstreth, GF. Approach to the adult with nausea and vomiting. In: UpToDate, Post, TS (ed), Waltham, MA, 2015.
4. Di Lorenzo, C. Approach to the infant or child with nausea and vomiting. In: UpToDate, Post, TS (ed), Waltham, MA, 2015.