

Clinical Policy: Sebelipase Alfa (Kanuma)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.159

Effective Date: 02.01.16

Last Review Date: 05.21

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

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

Description

Sebelipase alfa (Kanuma[®]) is a hydrolytic lysosomal cholesteryl ester and triacylglycerol-specific enzyme.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Kanuma is indicated for the treatment of patients with a diagnosis of Lysosomal Acid Lipase (LAL) deficiency.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (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 Kanuma is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Lysosomal Acid Lipase Deficiency (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of LAL deficiency confirmed by one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Enzyme assay demonstrating a deficiency of LAL activity;
 - b. Lipase A - lysosomal acid type (LIPA) gene mutation;
2. Age \geq 1 month;
3. Dose does not exceed 1 mg per kg every other week (*1 mg per kg per week for members with rapidly progressive disease presenting within first 6 months of life; may be increased to 3 mg per kg per week upon documentation of suboptimal clinical response to 1 mg per kg per week*).

Approval duration: 6 months

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, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Lysosomal Acid Lipase Deficiency (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;

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2. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by documentation of clinical response which may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. For members with rapidly progressive disease presenting within first 6 months of life: continued survival;
 - b. For all other members: decrease in low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-c), non-high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (non-HDL-c), or triglycerides; increase in HDL-c; normalization of alanine aminotransferase (ALT) or aspartate aminotransferase (AST); reduction in hepatic fat content, steatosis, or liver volume;
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 1 mg per kg every other week (*1 mg per kg per week for members with rapidly progressive disease presenting within first 6 months of life; may be increased to 3 mg per kg per week upon documentation of suboptimal clinical response to 1 mg per kg per week*).

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. Currently receiving medication via health plan 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, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

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

- 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, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid, or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

ALT: alanine aminotransferase	LAL: lysosomal acid lipase
AST: aspartate aminotransferase	LDL-c: low-density lipoprotein cholesterol
FDA: Food and Drug Administration	LIPA: lipase A – lysosomal acid type
HDL-c: non-high-density lipoprotein cholesterol	

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): none reported.
- Boxed warning(s): none reported.

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Appendix D: Measures of Therapeutic Response

- LAL normally causes the breakdown of lipid particles, including LDL-c. A lack of LAL results in accumulation of cholesteryl esters and triglycerides. Therefore, LDL-c, non-HDL-c, triglycerides, and HDL-c are clinical parameters that can indicate therapeutic response to Kanuma. In clinical trials, there were initial increases in LDL-c and triglycerides within the first 2-4 weeks of treatment; however, this was followed by a decrease to below pre-treatment values within 8 weeks of treatment.
- In addition, the lipid accumulation seen in LAL deficiency can occur in multiple organs, including the liver. This results in increased liver fat content and progression of liver disease, including fibrosis and cirrhosis. In clinical trials, patients receiving Kanuma had normalization of ALT and AST levels, reduction in hepatic fat content and steatosis (defined as the absolute decrease of $\geq 5\%$ from baseline in assessment of hepatic fat content)*, and decrease in baseline liver volume* when compared to patients receiving placebo. As such, improvement in these areas may also indicate positive response to Kanuma.

**Not statistically significant*

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
LAL deficiency: rapidly progressive disease presenting within first 6 months of life	1 mg/kg IV once weekly	3 mg/kg/week
LAL deficiency	1 mg/kg IV every other week	1 mg/kg every other week

VI. Product Availability

Single-use vial: 20 mg/10 mL

VII. References

1. Kanuma Prescribing Information. Cheshire, CT: Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Cambridge, MA: Genzyme Corporation; December 2015. Available at <http://www.kanuma.com/>. Accessed February 28, 2021.
2. Zhang B, Porto AF. Cholesteryl ester storage disease: protean presentations of lysosomal acid lipase deficiency. J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr. 2013;56(6):682.

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
J2840	Injection, sebelipase alfa, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Age restriction removed. Allergy history is removed as the drug can be continued in some cases. Positive response to therapy added. Background section converted to new template.	12.16	02.17
Added age restriction and max dose criteria. Added examples of what may constitute positive response to therapy.	08.24.17	11.17
2Q 2018 annual review: no significant changes; added HIM; references reviewed and updated.	02.26.18	05.18
2Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	02.28.18	05.19
2Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; revised HIM-Medical Benefit to HIM line of business; references reviewed and updated.	02.21.20	05.20
2Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; revised HIM.PHAR.21 to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	02.28.21	05.21

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.

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.

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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.

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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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