

<b>HEALTH PLAN POLICY</b>	
<b>Policy Title:</b> Immunotherapy – Checkpoint Inhibitors for Metastatic Malignancies	<b>Policy Number:</b> MUM63 <b>Revision:</b> New
<b>Department:</b> Medical Management	<b>Sub-Department:</b> Utilization Management
<b>Applies to Product Lines:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USFHP <input type="checkbox"/> Children’s Health Insurance Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial Insured <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Insurance Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> Non Insured Business <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicare	
<b>Origination/Effective Date:</b> 10/09/2019	
<b>Reviewed Date(s):</b>	<b>Revision Date(s):</b>

**SCOPE:**

This document addresses a relatively new class of pharmaceutical agents for multiple different metastatic malignancies – Checkpoint Inhibitors known as monoclonal antibodies directed at PDL-1. There are multiple agents in this new class made by a variety of pharmaceutical firms – including Keytruda, Opdivo and Tecentriq.

**DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS:**

- Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG)
- Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (HNSCC)
- Hepatocellular Cancer (HCC)
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) – a consortium of 27 cancer centers
- Non Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)
- Programmed Death Receptor 1 (PDL-1)

**POLICY:**

Treatment with Checkpoint Inhibitor Immunotherapy is medically necessary under specific criteria for at least 12 different metastatic malignancies that are PDL-1 positive. These malignancies are most notably NSCLC – the most common malignancy, and one that accounts for 85% of all lung cancers. Other malignancies include melanoma, colorectal cancer, gastric cancer, HNSCC, HCC, Lymphomas, Mesothelioma, Renal Cell Cancer and Urothelial Cancer. They must be given as single agents without prior exposure to any other Checkpoint inhibitor. These positions have been endorsed by ECOG and NCCN.

**REFERENCES:**

- NCCN Drug and Biologic Compendium 2018
- NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines 2019


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**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

None

  
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Nancy Horstmann  
Chief Executive Officer Health Plans

10/18/19  
Date

  
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David Engleking, M.D.  
Medical Director

10/15/19  
Date

**REVISION HISTORY:**

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>	<b>Committee</b>
New	10/09/2019	Initial release.	Executive Leadership