



## **MVP Health Care Medical Policy**

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# **Medicare Part B: Dose Rounding for Systemic Therapy**

**Type of Policy:** Drug/Medical Therapy

**Prior Approval Date:** 12/01/2024

**Approval Date:** 12/01/2025

**Effective Date:** 01/01/2026

**Related Policies:** NA

Refer to the MVP Medicare website for the Medicare Part D formulary and Part D policies.

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## **Overview**

As part of an effort to work with our providers to reduce waste, minimize healthcare worker exposure, ensure treatment accuracy, and reduce the total cost of cancer care, Optum's Cancer Guidance Program is implementing dose rounding on select cancer drugs (see Definitions for full list of drugs).

The Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) position statement supports rounding of biologic and cytotoxic agents within 10% of the ordered dose as routine clinical care. The HOPA position statement has been reviewed and endorsed by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and published by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

In line with this guidance, Optum's Cancer Guidance Program will round a select set of cancer drugs down to the nearest vial size in cases where rounding would result in fewer vials used per treatment without reducing treatment efficacy (i.e., rounding down less than 10%).

## **Considerations**

Optum's Cancer Guidance Program (CGP) is implementing dose rounding on select cancer drugs (see table for full list of drugs). Working with providers to reduce waste,

ensure treatment accuracy, ensure treatment efficacy, and reduce the total cost of cancer care.

### Recommendation

When a provider, or operations user, submits a prior authorization request through MBMNow, Optum's Cancer Guidance Program automatically determines cases where dose rounding would apply and calculate the per treatment dosage based on the member's height and/or weight, and the NCCN-recommended dosage for that regimen.

- A rounded dose is recommended in cases where rounding down (less than 10%) the NCCN recommendation per treatment results in the use of fewer vial(s) and less waste. If rounding down will not result in the use of fewer vial(s) per treatment, dose rounding is not applied.
- If the rounded dose is accepted by the provider (when offered in MBMNow), the request may be able to be automatically approved. The authorization will include the total approved billable units for the course of the treatment based on the rounded dose and the approved cycles.
  - If the member's weight changes significantly ( $\geq 10\%$ ) during the course of therapy, a new authorization will need to be submitted to ensure the total authorized dose is not exceeded.
- If the rounded dose is not accepted, the request will require custom review and a Cancer Guidance Program Nurse may reach out for more information.
- Acceptance of rounded dose is voluntary and is not required to receive a prior authorization for cancer treatment. Clinicians must use independent medical judgment in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine any member's care or treatment. Care decisions are between the provider and member.

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### Drug table for Dose Rounding

HCP Code	Drug
J0893	Decitabine(sun pharma)
J0894	Decitabine (Dacogen®)
J9025	Azacitidine (Vidaza®)
J9033	Bendamustine (Treanda®)
J9035	Bevacizumab (Avastin®)

J9041	Bortezomib (Velcade®)
J9042	Brentuximab (Adcetris®)
J9043	Cabazitaxel (Jevtana®)
J9046	Bortezomib(dr. reddy's)
J9064	Cabazitaxel
J9047	Carfilzomib (Kyprolis®)
J9048	Bortezomib(Fresenius kabi)
J9049	Bortezomib(Hospira)
J9055	Cetuximab (Erbix®)
J9145	Daratumumab (Darzalex®)
J9176	Elotuzumab (Empliciti®)
J9179	Eribulin Mesylate (Halaven®)
J9207	Ixabepoline (Ixempra®)
J9228	Ipilimumab (Yervoy®)
J9271	Pembrolizumab (Keytruda®)
J9294	Pemetrexed(Hospira)
J9296	Pemetrexed(Accord)
J9297	Pemetrexed(Sandoz)
J9299	Nivolumab (Opdivo®)
J9303	Panitumumab (Vectibix®)
J9304	Pemetrexed (Pemfexy®)
J9305	Pemetrexed (Alimta®)
J9312	Rituximab (Rituxan®)
J9314	Pemetrexed(teva)
J9322	Pemetrexed(Bluepoint)
J9323	Pemetrexed ditromethamine
J9324	Pemetrexed (Pemrydi RTU®)
J9352	Trabectedin (Yondelis®)
J9354	Ado-trastuzumab emtansine (Kadcyla®)
Q2050	Doxorubicin, Liposomal (Doxil®)
Q5107	Bevacizumab-awwb, biosimilar (Mvasi™)
Q5115	Rituximab-abbs, biosimilar (Truxima®)
Q5118	Bevacizumab-bvzr, biosimilar (Zirabev®)
Q5119	Rituximab-pvvr, biosimilar (Ruxience®)
Q5123	Rituximab-arrr, biosimilar (Riabni®)
Q5126	Bevacizumab-maly, biosimilar (Alymsys®)
Q5129	Bevacizumab-adcd, biosimilar (Vegzelma®)
J9292	J9292 Pemetrexed (Avyxia)
J9051	Bortezomib (Bortezo)

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## References

1. Dose Rounding of Biologic and Cytotoxic Anticancer Agents. A Position State of the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association. Available at [www.hopa.org](http://www.hopa.org). Accessed March 30, 2023.