Clinical Policy: Sunitinib (Sutent)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.73
Effective Date: 09.01.11
Last Review Date: 05.21
Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Sunitinib (Sutent®) is a kinase inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Sutent is indicated in the treatment of adults with:

- Gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) after disease progression on or intolerance to imatinib mesylate
- Advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC)
- High risk of recurrent RCC following nephrectomy as adjuvant treatment
- Progressive, well-differentiated pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (pNET) with unresectable locally advanced or metastatic disease

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 Sutent is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of GIST;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Disease progression on or intolerance to imatinib (Gleevec®);
   **Prior authorization may be required for imatinib.*
5. For Sutent requests, member must use generic sunitinib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
   a. Dose does not exceed 50 mg per day - 4 weeks on/2 weeks off (or 87.5 mg/day - 4 weeks on/2 weeks off if co-administered with a CYP3A4 inducer - e.g., dexamethasone, phenytoin, carbamazepine, rifampin, rifabutin, rifapentin, phenobarbital, St. John's Wort);
   b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

   **Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration:

Medicaid/HIM – 6 months
Commercial – Length of Benefit

B. Renal Cell Carcinoma (must meet all)**:**
1. Diagnosis of RCC;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Sutent is requested for (a or b):
   a. Adjuvant therapy post-nephrectomy;
   b. Treatment of relapsed or stage IV RCC;
5. For Sutent requests, member must use generic sunitinib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
   a. Dose does not exceed 50 mg per day - 4 weeks on/2 weeks off; (or 87.5 mg/day - 4 weeks on/2 weeks off if co-administered with a CYP3A4 inducer - e.g., dexamethasone, phenytoin, carbamazepine, rifampin, rifabutin, rifapentin, phenobarbital, St. John's Wort).
   b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration:
Medicaid/HIM – 6 months
Commercial – Length of Benefit

C. Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumor (must meet all)**:**
1. Diagnosis of pNET;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. Disease is unresectable or metastatic;
5. Prescribed as a single agent;
6. For Sutent requests, member must use generic sunitinib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
7. Request meets one of the following (a or b):*
   a. Dose does not exceed 37.5 mg per day; (or 62.5 mg/day if co-administered with a CYP3A4 inducer - e.g., dexamethasone, phenytoin, carbamazepine, rifampin, rifabutin, rifapentin, phenobarbital, St. John's Wort).
   b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration:
Medicaid/HIM – 6 months
Commercial – Length of Benefit

D. NCCN Compendium Indications (off-label) (must meet all)**:**
1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a, b, c, d, e, or f):
   a. Chordoma;
   b. One of the following soft tissue sarcomas (i, ii, or iii):

i. Angiosarcoma;
ii. Solitary fibrous tumor/hemangiopericytoma;
iii. Alveolar soft part sarcoma;

c. Thymic carcinoma;
d. Differentiated thyroid cacinoma (i.e., papillary carcinoma, follicular carcinoma, Hurthle cell carcinoma) and documentation supports failure of or presence of clinically significant adverse effects or contraindication to at least two FDA approved medications for the relevant diagnosis (provided that such agent is commercially available) (e.g., Lenvima®, Nexavar®);
**Prior authorization may be required for Lenvima and Nexavar.*
e. Medullary thyroid carcinoma and documentation supports failure of or presence of clinically significant adverse effects or contraindication to at least two FDA approved medications for the relevant diagnosis (provided that such agent is commercially available) (e.g., Caprelsa® and Cometriq®);
**Prior authorization may be required for Caprelsa and Cometriq.*
f. Myeloid/lymphoid neoplasms with eosinophilia and documentation of FLT3 rearrangement;

2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;
4. For Sutent requests, member must use generic sunitinib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Dose is within FDA maximum limit for any FDA-approved indication or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).*
**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*
Approval duration:
Medicaid/HIM – 6 months
Commercial – Length of Benefit

E. 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. All Indications in Section I (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Sutent for a covered indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If receiving adjuvant therapy for RCC, member has not yet received nine 6-week cycles of therapy (one 6-week cycle consists of 4 weeks on/2 weeks off);
4. For Sutent requests, member must use generic sunitinib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a, b, or c)**:***

a. New dose for GIST or RCC does not exceed 50 mg/day 4 weeks on/2 weeks off (or 87.5 mg/day 4 weeks on/2 weeks off if co-administered with a CYP3A4 inducer - e.g., dexamethasone, phenytoin, carbamazepine, rifampin, rifabutin, rifapentin, phenobarbital, St. John's Wort);
b. New dose for pNET does not exceed 37.5 mg/day (or 62.5mg per day if co-administered with a CYP3A4 inducer - e.g., dexamethasone, phenytoin, carbamazepine, rifampin, rifabutin, rifapentin, phenobarbital, St. John's Wort);
c. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration:
Medicaid/HIM – 6 months
Commercial – Length of Benefit

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**
1. Currently receiving medication via Centene 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

FDA: Food and Drug Administration
GIST: gastrointestinal stromal tumor
pNET: pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor
RCC: renal cell carcinoma

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
imatinib mesylate (Gleevec®)	GIST 400 mg/day up to 400 mg BID	800 mg/day
Lenvima® (lenvatinib)	Differentiated thyroid carcinoma 24 mg PO QD	24 mg/day
Nexavar® (sorafenib)	Differentiated thyroid carcinoma 400 mg PO BID	800 mg/day

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Caprelsa® (vandetanib)	Medullary thyroid carcinoma 300 mg PO QD	300 mg/day
Cometriq® (cabozantinib)	Medullary thyroid carcinoma 140 mg PO QD	140 mg/day

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

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

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
GIST	50 mg/day PO - 4 weeks/2 weeks off OR 87.5 mg/day PO - 4 weeks on/2 weeks off if co-administered with a CYP3A4 inducer.	87.5 mg/day
RCC	50 mg/day PO - 4 weeks/2 weeks off OR 87.5 mg/day PO - 4 weeks on/2 weeks off if co-administered with a CYP3A4 inducer. *(Limited to nine 6-week cycles in the adjuvant setting.)*	87.5 mg/day
pNET	37.5 mg/day PO OR 62.5 mg/day PO if coadministered with a CYP3A4 inducer.	62.5 mg/day

VI. Product Availability

Capsules: 12.5 mg, 25 mg, 37.5 mg, 50 mg

VII. References

1. Sutent Prescribing Information. New York, NY: Pfizer Inc.; August 2020. Available at: http://labeling.pfizer.com/ShowLabeling.aspx?id=607. Accessed February 19, 2021.
2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at http://www.nccn.org/professionlas/drug_compendium. Accessed February 19, 2021.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Kidney Cancer Version 2.2021. Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/kidney.pdf. Accessed February 19, 2021.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Under pNET, "unresectable locally advanced" is edited to "unresectable" for clarity. Under dosing, additional CYP inducer examples are added. NCCN coverage is limited to 1 and 2a (2b removed); central nervous system cancers (meningioma) and alveolar soft part sarcoma consequently are removed.	07.17	08.17

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
NCCN uses falling within FDA labeled indications are not listed separately. Safety information removed.		
Criteria added for new FDA indication: adjuvant RCC post-nephrectomy. Policy converted to new template. Added age restriction and prescriber specialty requirement to all indications. Revised off-label indications: removed neuroendocrine tumors for lung (category III) and thymomas (NCCN guidelines specific thymic carcinoma only), added trial of FDA-approved drugs for thyroid carcinoma. Appendices and references updated.	01.02.17	02.18
2Q 2018 annual review: no significant changes; added HIM and Commercial lines of business; references reviewed and updated.	02.13.18	05.18
2Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	02.19.19	05.19
2Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	02.15.20	05.20
2Q 2021 annual review: clarified Sutent use in PNET be as a single agent per NCCN; added NCCN-supported indications of myeloid/lymphoid neoplasms with eosinophilia and alveolar soft part sarcoma; removed "second line therapy" from off-label thymic carcinoma indication per NCCN; references for HIM line of business off-label use revised from HIM.PHAR.21 to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	02.19.21	05.21
For brand Sutent requests added requirement for use of generic.	08.24.21	

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.

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.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

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.