

# Short-Acting GCSFs:

**Granix (Tbo-filgrastim), Neupogen (filgrastim), Nivestym (filgrastim-aafi), Releuko (filgrastim-ayow), Zarxio (filgrastim-sndz)**

**Effective Date:** 5/2/2022

**Revision Date(s):** 10/2021; 3/18/23; 1/16/24; 1/1/2025

**Review Date:** 10/24/2024

**Policy type:** Medical Necessity

**Line of Business:** Commercial

Authorizations are issued for 6 (six) months, unless the ordering physician requests a different timespan or the patients' unique circumstance or condition supports the medical necessity for a different authorization timeframe. Reauthorization requests are reviewed for efficacy, safety and tolerability.

Preference	Requires Prior Auth	Drug Name	HCPCS Code	Description
Preferred	No	<b>Zarxio</b>	<b>Q5101</b>	Injection, filgrastim-sndz, biosimilar, (zarxio), 1 microgram
Non-Preferred	Yes	<b>Neupogen</b>	<b>J1442</b>	Injection, filgrastim (g-csf), excludes biosimilars, 1 microgram
Non-Preferred	Yes	<b>Granix</b>	<b>J1447</b>	Injection, tbo-filgrastim, 1 microgram
Non-Preferred	Yes	<b>Nivestym</b>	<b>Q5110</b>	Injection, filgrastim-aafi, biosimilar, (nivestym), 1 microgram
Non-Preferred	Yes	<b>Releuko</b>	<b>Q5125</b>	Injection, filgrastim-ayow, biosimilar, (releuko), 1 microgram

- Member must have documentation of a history of use of at least one preferred product resulting in substandard response to therapy OR member must have documentation of a contraindication, failure, or intolerance to any of the preferred agents prior to approval of a non-preferred product.
- Preferred product requirements apply to ALL requests, both new starts and reauthorizations.**
- Step Therapy applies to all overlapping compendia supported indications/regimens.

## Indication Specific Criteria:

### **Febrile neutropenia prophylaxis following myelosuppressive chemotherapy**

- The patient has a solid tumor or a non-myeloid malignancy, **AND**
- GCSF is administered 24-72 hours following myelosuppressive chemotherapy; **AND**
  - The patient experienced a febrile neutropenic event with prior administration of the same or similar chemotherapy regimen, **OR**
  - The patient is receiving dose-dense myelosuppressive chemotherapy, **OR**
  - The patient is receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy with a risk of febrile neutropenia of at least 20%, **OR**
  - The patient is receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy with an intermediate risk of febrile neutropenia of 10-20%, **AND** one of the following risk factors:

- Persistent neutropenia (Absolute Neutrophil Count  $< 500/\text{mm}^3$  or  $< 1000/\text{mm}^3$  and expected to decline to less than  $500/\text{mm}^3$  within the next 48 hours)
- Bone marrow involvement by tumor
- Liver dysfunction with a total bilirubin  $> 2 \text{ mg/dL}$
- Renal dysfunction with a creatinine clearance  $< 50 \text{ mL/min}$
- Age  $> 65$  years and receiving full chemotherapy dose intensity
- History of extensive chemotherapy/radiation therapy
- The patient is receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy that has a low risk of febrile neutropenia of  $< 10\%$  **AND**
  - Dose reduction is not clinically appropriate; **AND**
  - at least two of the following risk factors are present:
    - Persistent neutropenia (Absolute Neutrophil Count  $< 500/\text{mm}^3$  or  $< 1000/\text{mm}^3$  and expected to decline to less than  $500/\text{mm}^3$  within the next 48 hours)
    - Bone marrow involvement by tumor
    - Liver dysfunction with a total bilirubin  $> 2 \text{ mg/dL}$
    - Renal dysfunction with a creatinine clearance  $< 50 \text{ mL/min}$
    - Age  $> 65$  years and receiving full chemotherapy dose intensity
    - History of extensive chemotherapy/radiation therapy

### Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)

- The patient must be scheduled to receive either induction or consolidation chemotherapy; **OR**
- The patient has relapsed/refractory disease and is being treated with cladribine and cytarabine; **OR**
- The patient has relapsed/refractory disease and is being treated with fludarabine and cytarabine

### Febrile Neutropenia Prophylaxis, in patients with nonmyeloid malignancies undergoing myeloablative chemotherapy followed by bone marrow transplantation

### Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS)

- Patient's MDS is lower risk (IPSS-R very low, low, or intermediate); **AND**
- Patient's serum erythropoietin  $\leq 500 \text{ mU/mL}$ ; **AND**
- In combination with an erythropoiesis-stimulating agent (ESA)

### Treatment of Febrile Neutropenia

- The patient must have a diagnosis of febrile neutropenia; **AND**
- must be used in adjunct with appropriate antibiotics in high risk members

## Management of Immunotherapy or CAR T-Cell-Related Neutropenia

### Wilms Tumor

- Patient is scheduled to receive cyclophosphamide with etoposide; **OR**
- Patient is scheduled to receive combination therapy with cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, and vincristine

### Universal Approval Criteria:

Unless otherwise noted, the review criteria used by OncoHealth to determine medical necessity for anticancer treatments and supportive agents include, but is not limited to:

- National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN) - use consistent with NCCN recommendations carrying a Category 1 or 2A level of evidence; **OR**
- United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling - new drugs or regimens (combinations of drugs) consistent with all components of the product labeling; **OR**
- Indications not included in the official FDA labeling or recommended by NCCN (Category 1 or 2A level of evidence) may be considered if determined to be medically necessary per one or more of the following compendia:
  - Clinical Pharmacology (Strong For); **OR**
  - Wolters Kluwer Lexi-Drugs® (Level A); **OR**
- Other uses of drugs and biologics may be considered medically necessary if supported as safe and effective according to peer-reviewed articles from one of the following journals:
  - American Journal of Medicine; Annals of Internal Medicine; Annals of Oncology; Annals of Surgical Oncology; Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation; Blood; Bone Marrow Transplantation; British Journal of Cancer; British Journal of Hematology; British Medical Journal; Cancer; Clinical Cancer Research; Drugs; European Journal of Cancer (formerly the European Journal of Cancer and Clinical Oncology); Gynecologic Oncology; International Journal of Radiation, Oncology, Biology, and Physics; The Journal of the American Medical Association, Journal of Clinical Oncology; Journal of the National Cancer Institute; Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN); Journal of Urology; Lancet; Lancet Oncology; Leukemia; The New England Journal of Medicine; Radiation Oncology;
  - **Meeting abstracts and case reports are excluded from consideration;**
- Non-standard protocols may be approved based on unique clinical circumstances;
- Dose and frequency should be consistent with United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling, National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN), or indication specific peer-reviewed literature;
- In the instance that a request is made for drug(s) that was (were) previously tried (including in the same pharmacologic class or with the same mechanism of action) and such drug(s) was (were) discontinued due to a lack of efficacy the request may be subject to an off-label review for medical necessity unless supported by the NCCN or high quality literature (prospective phase 2 or 3 studies published as full manuscripts in a CMS-supported journal).

## Billing Codes

Drug Name	HCPCS Code	Description
Neupogen	J1442	Injection, filgrastim (g-csf), excludes biosimilars, 1 microgram
Granix	J1447	Injection, tbo-filgrastim, 1 microgram
Releuko	Q5125	Injection, filgrastim-ayow, biosimilar, (releuko), 1 microgram
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Nivestym	Q5110	Injection, filgrastim-aafi, biosimilar, (nivestym), 1 microgram

## References

1. Granix [package insert]. Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc., North Wales, PA. Available at: <https://www.granixhcp.com/globalassets/granix-hcp/prescribing-information.pdf>
2. Granix. NCCN Cancer Guidelines and Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at: [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug\\_compendium/content/](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug_compendium/content/)
3. Neupogen [package insert]. Amgen Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA. Available at: [https://www.pi.amgen.com/~media/amgen/repositorysites/pi-amgen-com/neupogen/neupogen\\_pi\\_hcp\\_english.pdf](https://www.pi.amgen.com/~media/amgen/repositorysites/pi-amgen-com/neupogen/neupogen_pi_hcp_english.pdf)
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5. Nivestym [package insert]. Hospira, Inc., Lake Forest, IL. Available at: <http://labeling.pfizer.com/ShowLabeling.aspx?id=10899>
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9. Zarxio. NCCN Cancer Guidelines and Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at: [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug\\_compendium/content/](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug_compendium/content/)
10. Referenced with permission from the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®). National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. 2023. All rights reserved. Accessed October 24, 2024. To view the most recent and complete version of the guideline, go online to NCCN.org.

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### Revision History

Date	Updates
5/2/2022	Added preferred products and recommended step-therapy options. Added Wilms tumor per NCCN, added H-ARS per PI/NCCN, Updated MDS criteria per NCCN, updated AML per NCCN. Added Releuko per FDA approval. Removed stem cell transplant and H-ARS indications (out of scope for OH)
1/16/2024	Updated Step Therapy to Table; Addition of Universal Criteria and Approval Criteria; updated Releuko HCPCS; Updated references
10/24/2024	For 1/1/2025 - Updated Universal Criteria. Removed step only applying to new starts. Will now apply to all requests.