

## **Clinical Policy: Sorafenib (Nexavar)**

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.69

Effective Date: 07.01.11

Last Review Date: 05.23

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

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

### **Description**

Sorafenib (Nexavar<sup>®</sup>) is a kinase inhibitor.

### **FDA Approved Indication(s)**

Nexavar (sorafenib) is indicated for the treatment of:

- Unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC);
- Advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC);
- Locally recurrent or metastatic, progressive, differentiated thyroid carcinoma (DTC) that is refractory to radioactive iodine treatment.

### **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<sup>®</sup> that Nexavar is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### **I. Initial Approval Criteria**

##### **A. Hepatocellular Carcinoma (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of HCC;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. Confirmation of Child-Pugh class A or B7 status;
5. For Nexavar requests, member must use sorafenib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. Dose does not exceed 800 mg per day;
  - 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** – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

##### **B. Renal Cell Carcinoma (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of advanced, relapsed, or stage IV RCC;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;

3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. For Nexavar requests, member must use sorafenib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. Dose does not exceed 800 mg per day;
  - 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** – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

**C. Differentiated Thyroid Carcinoma (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of DTC (includes papillary, follicular, Hürthle cell carcinoma);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. Disease is refractory to radioactive iodine treatment;
5. Disease is progressive and unresectable, locally recurrent, persistent, or metastatic;
6. For Nexavar requests, member must use sorafenib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
7. Request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. Dose does not exceed 800 mg per day;
  - 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** – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

**D. Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC);
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
  - a. Disease progression on Caprelsa<sup>®</sup> or Cometriq<sup>®</sup>, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;
  - b. Clinical trials are not available or appropriate;
5. For Nexavar requests, member must use sorafenib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. Dose does not exceed 800 mg per day;
  - 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** – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

**E. Acute Myeloid Leukemia (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. Disease is FLT3-ITD mutation-positive;
5. One of the following (a or b):
  - a. Prescribed in combination with azacitidine or decitabine;
  - b. As a single agent for maintenance therapy for member in remission post-allogeneic stem cell transplantation;
6. For Nexavar requests, member must use sorafenib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
7. Request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. Dose does not exceed 800 mg per day;
  - 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** – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

**F. Bone Cancer (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of one of the following bone cancers (a or b):
  - a. Osteosarcoma, and Nexavar will be used for second-line therapy as a single agent or in combination with everolimus;\*  
*\*Prior authorization may be required for everolimus*
  - b. Chordoma, and Nexavar will be used as single agent therapy for treatment of recurrent disease;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. For Nexavar requests, member must use sorafenib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. Dose does not exceed 800 mg per day;
  - 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** – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

**G. Soft Tissue Sarcoma (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of one of the following soft tissue sarcomas (a, b, c, or d):
  - a. Angiosarcoma as single-agent therapy;
  - b. Desmoid Tumors (aggressive fibromatosis) as single-agent therapy;
  - c. Solitary Fibrous Tumor/Hemangiopericytoma as single-agent therapy;

- d. Gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) with disease progression after single-agent therapy with imatinib, Sutent<sup>®</sup>, Sprycel<sup>®</sup>, Stivarga<sup>®</sup>, and Qinlock<sup>™</sup>;<sup>\*</sup>  
*\*Prior authorization may be required for these agents*
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. For Nexavar requests, member must use sorafenib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Request meets one of the following (a or b):<sup>\*</sup>
  - a. Dose does not exceed 800 mg per day;
  - b. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).*\*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

**Approval duration:**

**Medicaid/HIM** – 6 months

**Commercial** – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

**H. Ovarian Cancers (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a - f):
  - a. Epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer;
  - b. Clear cell carcinoma of the ovary;
  - c. Mucinous carcinoma of the ovary;
  - d. Carcinosarcoma (malignant mixed Müllerian tumors);
  - e. Low-grade serous carcinoma;
  - f. Grade 1 endometrioid carcinoma;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;
4. Disease is platinum-resistant (i.e., cancer returns less than 6 months after finishing platinum-based chemotherapy);
5. Disease is persistent or recurrent;
6. Prescribed in combination with topotecan;
7. For Nexavar requests, member must use sorafenib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
8. Request meets one of the following (a or b):<sup>\*</sup>
  - a. Dose does not exceed 800 mg per day;
  - 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** – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

**I. Myeloid/Lymphoid Neoplasms (off-label) (must meet all):**

1. Diagnosis of lymphoid, myeloid or mixed lineage neoplasms with eosinophilia and FLT3 rearrangement in blast or chronic phase;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
3. Age  $\geq$  18 years;

4. For Nexavar requests, member must use sorafenib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. Dose does not exceed 800 mg per day;
  - 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** - 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

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

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
  - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
  - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: 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 Nexavar for a covered indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. For Nexavar requests, member must use sorafenib, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a or b):\*
  - a. New dose does not exceed 800 mg per day;
  - b. 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** – 12 months

**Commercial** – 12 months or duration of request, whichever is less

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

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
  - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
  - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: 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*

DTC: differentiated thyroid carcinoma  
 FDA: Food and Drug Administration  
 HCC: hepatocellular carcinoma

MTC: medullary thyroid carcinoma  
 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
Caprelsa <sup>®</sup> (vandetanib)	MTC: 300 mg PO QD	300 mg/day
Cometriq <sup>®</sup> (cabozantinib)	MTC: 140 mg PO QD	180 mg/day
imatinib (Gleevec <sup>®</sup> )	Soft Tissue Sarcoma: 400 mg PO QD	800 mg/day
Sutent <sup>®</sup> (sunitinib)	Soft Tissue Sarcoma: 37.5 to 50 mg PO QD	50 mg/day
Stivarga <sup>®</sup> (regorafenib)	Soft Tissue Sarcoma: 160 mg PO QD	160 mg/day
Qinlock <sup>™</sup> (ripretinib)	GIST: 150 mg PO QD	150 mg/day
Sprycel <sup>®</sup> (dasatinib)	GIST: 70 mg PO BID	140 mg/day

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



*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*

- Contraindication(s):
  - Known severe hypersensitivity to sorafenib or any other component of Nexavar
  - Nexavar use in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel in patients with squamous cell lung cancer
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
HCC, RCC, DTC	400 mg PO BID	800 mg/day

**VI. Product Availability**

Tablet: 200 mg

**VII. References**

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3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors (GISTs) Version 2.2022. Available at: [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/gist.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/gist.pdf). Accessed January 12, 2023.
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9. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Soft Tissue Sarcoma Version 2.2022. Available at: [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/sarcoma.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/sarcoma.pdf). Accessed January 12, 2023.
10. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Thyroid Carcinoma Version 3.2022. Available at: [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/thyroid.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/thyroid.pdf). Accessed January 12, 2023.

11. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Kidney Cancer Version 3.2023. Available at: [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/kidney.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/kidney.pdf). Accessed January 11, 2023.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
2Q 2019 annual review: no significant changes; added commercial line of business; references reviewed and updated.	02.26.19	05.19
2Q 2020 annual review: added NCCN compendium-supported indication of ovarian cancers; references reviewed and updated.	02.15.20	05.20
2Q 2021 annual review: clarified RCC criteria to be advanced RCC per PI; added requirement for Child-Pugh class A or B7 for HCC per NCCN; added requirement for disease progression to include Qinlock for GIST as 4 <sup>th</sup> line therapy per off-label recommendation of NCCN category 2A; references for HIM line of business off-label use revised from HIM.PHAR.21 to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	02.14.21	05.21
2Q 2022 annual review: modified commercial approval duration from length of benefit to “12 months or duration of request, whichever is less”; added oral oncology generic redirection if available language per template; per NCCN for RCC added additional diagnosis options for relapsed or stage IV disease, for DTC added additional diagnosis options for unresectable or persistent disease, for AML removed requirement that disease is relapsed or refractory as Nexavar can be used for induction, for AML added additional option for use as a single agent for maintenance therapy for member in remission post-allogeneic stem cell transplantation, for soft tissue sarcoma clarified desmoid tumors requests should be used as single-agent therapy, for GIST added Sprycel as a possible prior therapy option, added off-label criteria set for lymphoid, myeloid or mixed lineage neoplasms; references reviewed and updated.	02.10.22	05.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications.	10.12.22	
2Q 2023 annual review: for generic redirection removed “if available” as generic is now available; per NCCN Compendium added additional ovarian cancer subtypes; references reviewed and updated.	01.06.23	05.23

**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.

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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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