

Aetna Medicare Part B Drug Criteria

octreotide acetate for injectable suspension-Sandostatin LAR

This policy is for Aetna Medicare members. [Find the Aetna Commercial Medical Drug Criteria.](#)

For Aetna Medicare members, National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) will be applied to Part B drug requests when applicable. Aetna Medicare Part B Drug Criteria documents will be used in the absence of an NCD and LCD.

POLICY

Products Referenced by this Document

Drugs that are listed in the following table include both brand and generic and all dosage forms and strengths unless otherwise stated. Over-the-counter (OTC) products are not included unless otherwise stated.

Brand Name	Generic Name
Sandostatin LAR Depot	octreotide acetate for injectable suspension

Indications

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered a covered benefit provided that all the approval criteria are met and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

FDA-Approved Indications^{1,12}

Sandostatin LAR Depot is indicated in patients who have responded to and tolerated Sandostatin subcutaneous injection for:

- Long-term maintenance therapy in acromegalic patients who have had an inadequate response to surgery and/or radiotherapy, or for whom surgery and/or radiotherapy is not an option. The goal of treatment in acromegaly is to reduce GH and IGF-1 levels to normal.
- Long-term treatment of the severe diarrhea and flushing episodes associated with metastatic carcinoid tumors.
- Long-term treatment of the profuse watery diarrhea associated with vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP)-secreting tumors.

Limitations of use:

In patients with carcinoid syndrome and VIPomas, the effect of Sandostatin Injection and Sandostatin LAR Depot on tumor size, rate of growth and development of metastases, has not been determined.

Compendial Uses

- Neuroendocrine tumors (NETs)^{3,4}
 - NETs of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, lung, and thymus (carcinoid tumors)
 - NETs of the pancreas (islet cell tumors)
 - Gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (GEP-NETs)
- Pheochromocytoma/paraganglioma^{3,4}
- Meningiomas³
- Thymomas and thymic carcinomas^{2,3,5}
- Bowel obstruction due to peritoneal carcinomatosis²
- Postgastrectomy dumping syndrome²
- Hepatocellular carcinoma²
- Zollinger-Ellison syndrome⁴
- Merkel cell carcinoma³

All other indications will be assessed on an individual basis. Submissions for indications other than those listed in this criteria should be accompanied by supporting evidence from Medicare approved compendia.

Documentation

The following documentation must be available, upon request, for all submissions:

For acromegaly:

- For initial approval: Laboratory report indicating high pretreatment insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1) level and chart notes indicating an inadequate or partial response to surgery or radiotherapy or a clinical reason for not having surgery or radiotherapy.
- For continuation: Laboratory report indicating normal current IGF-1 levels or chart notes indicating that the member's IGF-1 level has decreased or normalized since initiation of therapy.

Coverage Criteria

Acromegaly^{1,5,6,12}

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for the treatment of acromegaly when all of the following criteria are met:

- Member has a high pretreatment insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1) level for age and/or gender based on the laboratory reference range.
- Member had an inadequate or partial response to surgery or radiotherapy OR there is a clinical reason why the member has not had surgery or radiotherapy.

Carcinoid Syndrome^{1,3,12}

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of carcinoid syndrome.

Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide Tumors (VIPomas)^{1,3,12}

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for management of symptoms related to hormone hypersecretion of VIPomas.

Neuroendocrine Tumors (NETs)^{3,4,10}

- Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of NETs of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, lung, and thymus (carcinoid tumors).
- Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of NETs of the pancreas (islet cell tumors) including gastrinomas, glucagonomas, and insulinomas.
- Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (GEP-NETs).

Pheochromocytoma and Paraganglioma^{3,4}

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of pheochromocytoma/paraganglioma.

Meningiomas³

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of meningiomas when member has surgically inaccessible recurrent or progressive disease.

Thymomas and Thymic Carcinomas^{3,5}

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of thymoma and thymic carcinoma.

Bowel Obstruction Due to Peritoneal Carcinomatosis²

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of bowel obstruction due to peritoneal carcinomatosis.

Postgastrectomy Dumping Syndrome²

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of postgastrectomy dumping syndrome.

Hepatocellular Carcinoma²

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma.

Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome²

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for treatment of Zollinger-Ellison syndrome.

Merkel Cell Carcinoma³

Authorization of 12 months may be granted as a single agent for treatment of metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma when one of the following criteria is met:

- The member has contraindication to anti-PD-L1 or anti-PD-1 therapy.
- The member has disease progression while on anti-PD-L1 or anti-PD-1 therapy.

Continuation of Therapy

All members (including new members) requesting authorization for continuation of therapy must be currently receiving therapy with the requested agent.

Authorization for 12 months may be granted when all of the following criteria are met:

- The member is currently receiving therapy with the requested medication.
- The requested medication is being used to treat an indication in the coverage criteria section.
- The member is receiving benefit from therapy. Benefits are defined as:
 - Acromegaly: decreased or normalized IGF-1 level since initiation of therapy.
 - All other indications: improvement or stabilization in clinical signs and symptoms since initiation of therapy.

Summary of Evidence

The contents of this policy were created after examining the following resources:

- The prescribing information for Sandostatin LAR and octreotide acetate for injectable suspension.
- The available compendium
 - National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Drugs and Biologics Compendium
 - Micromedex DrugDex
 - American Hospital Formulary Service- Drug Information (AHFS-DI)
 - Lexi-Drugs
 - Clinical Pharmacology
- NCCN Guideline: Thymomas and thymic carcinomas
- NCCN Guideline: Neuroendocrine and adrenal tumors
- NCCN Guideline: Central nervous system cancers
- NCCN Guideline: Merkel cell carcinoma

After reviewing the information in the above resources, the FDA-approved indications listed in the prescribing information for Sandostatin LAR and octreotide acetate for injectable suspension are covered in addition to the following:

- Neuroendocrine tumors of the gastrointestinal tract, lungs and thymus
- Neuroendocrine tumors of the pancreas (islet cell tumors)
- Gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors
- Pheochromocytoma/paraganglioma
- Meningiomas
- Thymomas and thymic carcinomas
- Bowel obstruction due to peritoneal carcinomatosis
- Postgastrectomy dumping syndrome
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Zollinger-Ellison syndrome
- Merkel cell carcinoma

Explanation of Rationale

Support for FDA-approved indications can be found in the manufacturer's prescribing information.

Support for using Sandostatin LAR and octreotide acetate for injectable suspension to treat neuroendocrine tumors not discussed in the prescribing information can be found in the NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium and the Lexi-Drugs database. Use of information in the NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium and the Lexi-Drugs database for off-label use of drugs and biologicals in an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen is supported by the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, section 50.4.5 (Off-Label Use of Drugs and Biologicals in an Anti-Cancer Chemotherapeutic Regimen).

Support for using Sandostatin LAR to treat meningiomas can be found in the NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Use of information in the NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium for off-label use of drugs and biologicals in an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen is supported by the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, section 50.4.5 (Off-Label Use of Drugs and Biologicals in an Anti-Cancer Chemotherapeutic Regimen).

Support for using Sandostatin LAR to treat pheochromocytomas and paragangliomas can be found in the NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Use of information in the NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium for off-label use of drugs and biologicals in an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen is supported by the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, section 50.4.5 (Off-Label Use of Drugs and Biologicals in an Anti-Cancer Chemotherapeutic Regimen).

Support for using Sandostatin LAR to treat thymomas and thymic carcinomas can be found in the NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Use of information in the NCCN Drugs and Biologics Compendium for off-label use of drugs and biologicals in an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen is supported by the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, section 50.4.5 (Off-Label Use of Drugs and Biologicals in an Anti-Cancer Chemotherapeutic Regimen).

Support for using Sandostatin LAR to treat hepatocellular carcinoma can be found in the Micromedex DrugDex database. Use of information in the DrugDex database for off-label use of drugs and biologicals in an anti-cancer chemotherapeutic regimen is supported by the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, section 50.4.5 (Off-Label Use of Drugs and Biologicals in an Anti-Cancer Chemotherapeutic Regimen).

Support for using Sandostatin LAR to treat bowel obstruction due to peritoneal carcinomatosis can be found in a randomized, double-blind, non-comparative, pilot study in adults with inoperable symptomatic bowel obstruction due to peritoneal carcinomatosis (n=64), an intention-to-treat analysis showed that IM long-acting repeatable (LAR) octreotide administered with immediate-release (IR) octreotide for the first 6 days of therapy yielded success in 38% (12/32) of patients compared with 28% (9/32) of patients randomized to placebo. In addition to corticosteroids (methylprednisolone 3 to 4 mg/kg/day IV days 1 through 6) and best supportive care, eligible patients were randomized to receive either IM octreotide LAR 30 mg every 28 days and octreotide IR 600 mcg/day (given subQ in 2 to 3 divided doses or by continuous infusion) on days 1 through 6 (n=32), or matching placebo (n=32). The primary endpoint, determined at day 14, was a composite of the absence of a nasogastric tube, vomiting less than twice per day, and no requirement for anticholinergic agents. Because only 64 of the planned 102 patients were enrolled in this study, the primary endpoint could not be attained in the overall population, and the analysis was strictly exploratory. Notably, at baseline, a higher proportion of patients in the octreotide group had a Karnofsky score of less than 50 (46.4%) compared with the placebo group (21.9%). In a subgroup analysis of patients with Karnofsky scores of 50 or greater, a higher response rate was observed in the octreotide group compared with the placebo group (60% (9/15) vs 28% (7/25)). Octreotide was well tolerated, with only 3 drug-related events (severe hyperglycemia, mild injection erythema, and mild local inflammation) attributed to octreotide LAR. However, 28 patients withdrew after

randomization (11 in the octreotide group and 17 in the placebo group); insufficient clinical response was the most common reason for discontinuation in the placebo group and death was the most common reason in the octreotide group, most likely due to the poor condition of these patients.

Support for using Sandostatin LAR to treat postgastrectomy dumping syndrome is supported by a prospective study. Didden et al conducted a small, prospective, observational study (n=34) and found both subcutaneous (SUBQ) and long-acting release (LAR) octreotide improved symptoms associated with severe dumping syndrome (early and/or late) after gastric surgery. It should be noted the dropout rate was 59% at the end of a mean of seven and a half years. The mean age was 54 years (range, 27 to 73 years), and the vast majority (71%) of patient underwent partial gastrectomy. Subcutaneous octreotide dose was initiated at 25 to 50 mcg one to three times daily before meals, and intramuscular LAR octreotide was started at 10 mg per month. Dosing regimens were adjusted according to patient response and satisfaction, resulting in a mean SUBQ dose of 183 mcg per day (mcg/d) (range, 50 to 600 mcg), and a mean LAR dose of 475 mcg/d (14 mg per month) (range, 333 to 666 mcg/d). Sixteen (47%) patients discontinued octreotide therapy due to lack of effectiveness (n=7; 21%) or intolerable adverse reactions (n=9; 26%), particularly diarrhea. Among 14 remaining evaluable patients during a mean follow-up of 93 months (range, 7 to 204 months), persistent and frequent early systemic symptom scores were reduced by 50% after initiation of octreotide therapy (p less than 0.05). On the other hand, abdominal symptoms and late dumping symptoms were reduced by 31% and 35%, respectively (all p less than 0.05). The proportion of patients experiencing more than 4 symptoms significantly reduced to 43% during octreotide treatment (p less than 0.05). The 24-hour fecal fat output was 24 grams (normal, less than 7 grams) for patients treated with SUBQ octreotide (n=7) compared with 16 grams for individuals receiving LAR therapy (n=7) (p less than 0.05). Patient ratings on quality of life (80 vs 74) and composite symptom diary score (38 vs 42) were slightly better for SUBQ than LAR formulation.

Additional support for using Sandostatin LAR to treat dumping syndrome can be found in a study by Arts et al. The study included 30 consecutive patients with postoperative dumping, evidenced by oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) results and insufficient response to dietary measures. OGTT, dumping severity score (summary of scores 0-3 for 8 early and 6 late dumping symptoms), and quality-of-life data were evaluated at baseline, after 3 days of subcutaneous administration of octreotide (0.5 mg), and then after 3 monthly intramuscular injections of octreotide LAR (20 mg). Both formulations of octreotide significantly reduced total dumping severity scores (21.7 +/- 1.6 at baseline, 11.2 +/- 1.2 for subcutaneous and 14.0 +/- 1.8 for LAR formulations; P < .05). This reduction was associated with significant improvements in the increase in pulse rate (13.8 +/- 5.8 at baseline vs -0.3 +/- 2.2 and 1.9 +/- 1.7; P < .05) as well as the increase in hematocrit level (4.0 +/- 1.4 at baseline vs 0.3 +/- 0.9 and 0.4 +/- 1.0; P < .05), and the lowest glycemia level in the OGTT (54.1 +/- 6.7 at baseline vs 98.9 +/- 7.1 and 67.8 +/- 5.9; P < .05). LAR octreotide administration significantly improved patients' quality of life. Patients' evaluations of their overall treatment efficacy was higher on LAR compared with the subcutaneous formulation (83% vs 52%; P = .01).

Support for using Sandostatin LAR to treat Zollinger-Ellison syndrome can be found in the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's guideline for neuroendocrine and adrenal tumors. The NCCN Guideline supports the use of lanreotide and octreotide long-acting release (LAR) for symptom and tumor control.

Support for using Sandostatin LAR to treat Merkel cell carcinoma can be found in the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's guideline for Merkel cell carcinoma. The NCCN Guideline supports the use of Sandostatin long-acting release (LAR) if anti-PD-L1 therapy is contraindicated or disease has progressed on anti-PD-L1 or anti-PD-1 therapy.

References

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CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes

Code	Description
Other CPT codes related to the CPB:	
96372	Therapeutic, prophylactic, or diagnostic injection (specify substance or drug); subcutaneous or intramuscular
HCPCS codes covered if selection criteria are met:	
J2353	Injection, octreotide, depot form for intramuscular injection, 1 mg
ICD-10 codes covered if selection criteria are met:	
C22.0	Liver cell carcinoma [Hepatocellular carcinoma]

C37	Malignant neoplasm of thymus
C4A.0-C4A.9	Merkel cell carcinoma
C75.4	Malignant neoplasm of carotid body [paraganglioma]
C75.5	Malignant neoplasm of aortic body and other paraganglia [paraganglioma]
C7A.010-C7A.8	Malignant neuroendocrine tumors
C7B.00-C7B.8	Secondary neuroendocrine tumors
C48.2	Malignant neoplasm of peritoneum, unspecified
D32.0	Benign neoplasm of cerebral meninges [Meningiomas]
D35.00-D35.02	Benign neoplasm of adrenal gland
D35.5	Benign neoplasm of carotid body [paraganglioma]
D35.6	Benign neoplasm of aortic body and other paraganglia [paraganglioma]
D3A.00-D3A.8	Benign neuroendocrine tumors
D44.6	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of carotid body [paraganglioma]
D44.7	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of aortic body and other paraganglia [paraganglioma]
E16.4	Increased secretion of gastrin [Zollinger-Ellison syndrome]
E16.8	Other specified disorders of pancreatic internal secretion [Vasoactive intestinal peptide tumors (VIPomas)]
E22.0	Acromegaly and pituitary gigantism
E34.00-E34.09	Carcinoid syndrome
K56.699	Other intestinal obstruction unspecified as to partial versus complete obstruction [Bowel obstruction due to peritoneal carcinomatosis]
K91.1	Postgastric surgery syndromes [Postgastrectomy dumping syndrome]

Revision History

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Reference number
2748-A

Date	Version	Update	Revisions
01/01/2024	2023	New Criteria	Policy effective.
08/02/2024	2024	Criteria Change	Added coverage for Merkel cell carcinoma per NCCN.
05/01/2025	2024a	Criteria Change	Added Sandostatin LAR generic to the program.
07/01/2025	2025	Criteria Change	For meningiomas, updated clinical settings from “unresectable” to “inaccessible recurrent or progressive” per NCCN.

See Evidence of Coverage for a complete description of plan benefits, exclusions, limitations and conditions of coverage. Plan features and availability may vary by service area.