

Sample Letter of Medical Necessity

for AZEDRA® (iobenguane I 131) Injection for Intravenous Use

[Date]

[Contact at Health Insurance Company]
[Title]
[Name of Health Insurance Company]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip Code]

Insurance Policy Holder: [First and last name]
Patient: [First and last name]
Policy Number: [Number]
Group Number: [Number]
Patient Date of Birth: [MM/DD/YYYY]

Dear [Name of Contact],

I am writing on behalf of my patient, [name of patient], to request that [name of insurance company] approve coverage for AZEDRA® (iobenguane I 131), which is indicated for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients 12 years and older with iobenguane scan positive, unresectable, locally advanced or metastatic pheochromocytoma or paraganglioma who require systemic anticancer therapy. This letter documents the medical necessity for the use of AZEDRA for my patient, provides information about [name of patient]'s medical history and treatment, and also includes a copy of the AZEDRA full prescribing information.

[Name of patient] is [age] years old, with a diagnosis of [patient's diagnosis] as of [date of diagnosis]. [Name of patient] has been in [my or treating physician's name] care for [patient's diagnosis] since [date]. [Provide a summary statement about recent recurrence].

[Provide a brief discussion of patient's relevant medical information and history, such as condition/symptoms and therapy to date, including other treatments attempted and results].

In clinical trials, the overall tumor response over time was assessed radiographically per RECIST 1.0 criteria as a key secondary efficacy endpoint (see Table 7 in the full prescribing information). 22% of patients achieved a response with 53% of those responses lasting for 6 months or longer. Based on the potential positive outcome, I respectfully request access to AZEDRA for [patient name].

If you should have any further questions, please contact me at [physician's phone number].

Thanking you in advance for your immediate attention to this request,

[Physician's Name]
[Physician's Practice Name]

Attachments: [original claim form, copy of patient's insurance card, AZEDRA prescribing information, any pertinent documentation such as clinical notes and labs not captured in the second paragraph, etc.]

Indication

AZEDRA® (iobenguane I 131) is indicated for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients 12 years and older with iobenguane scan positive, unresectable, locally advanced or metastatic pheochromocytoma or paraganglioma who require systemic anticancer therapy.

Please see Important Safety Information on page 2. For important risk and use information about AZEDRA, please see the full [Prescribing Information](#).

Important Safety Information (continued)

Warning and Precautions:

- **Risk from radiation exposure:** AZEDRA contributes to a patient's overall long-term radiation exposure. Long-term cumulative radiation exposure is associated with an increased risk for cancer. These risks of radiation associated with the use of AZEDRA are greater in pediatric patients than in adults. Minimize radiation exposure to patients, medical personnel, and household contacts during and after treatment with AZEDRA consistent with institutional good radiation safety practices and patient management procedures.
- **Myelosuppression:** Severe and prolonged myelosuppression occurred during treatment with AZEDRA. Among the 88 patients who received a therapeutic dose of AZEDRA, 33% experienced Grade 4 thrombocytopenia, 16% experienced Grade 4 neutropenia, and 7% experienced Grade 4 anemia. Five percent of patients experienced febrile neutropenia. Monitor blood cell counts weekly for up to 12 weeks or until levels return to baseline or the normal range. Withhold and dose reduce AZEDRA as recommended in the prescribing information based on severity of the cytopenia.
- **Secondary myelodysplastic syndrome, leukemia, and other malignancies:** Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and acute leukemias were reported in 6.8% of the 88 patients who received a therapeutic dose of AZEDRA. The time to development of MDS or acute leukemia ranged from 12 months to 7 years. Two of the 88 patients developed a non-hematological malignancy.
- **Hypothyroidism:** Hypothyroidism was reported in 3.4% of the 88 patients who received a therapeutic dose of AZEDRA. Initiate thyroid-blocking medications starting at least 1 day before and continuing for 10 days after each AZEDRA dose to reduce the risk of hypothyroidism or thyroid neoplasia. Evaluate for clinical evidence of hypothyroidism and measure thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) levels prior to initiating AZEDRA and annually thereafter.
- **Elevations in blood pressure:** Eleven percent of the 88 patients who received a therapeutic dose of AZEDRA experienced a worsening of pre-existing hypertension defined as an increase in systolic blood pressure to ≥ 160 mmHg with an increase of 20 mmHg or an increase in diastolic blood pressure to ≥ 100 mmHg with an increase of 10 mmHg. All changes in blood pressure occurred within the first 24 hours post infusion. Monitor blood pressure frequently during the first 24 hours after each therapeutic dose of AZEDRA.
- **Renal toxicity:** Of the 88 patients who received a therapeutic dose of AZEDRA, 7% developed renal failure or acute kidney injury and 22% demonstrated a clinically significant decrease in glomerular filtration rate (GFR) measured at 6 or 12 months. Monitor renal function during and after treatment with AZEDRA. Patients with baseline 2 renal impairment may be at greater risk of toxicity; perform more frequent assessments of renal function in patients with mild or moderate impairment. AZEDRA has not been studied in patients with severe renal impairment.
- **Pneumonitis:** Fatal pneumonitis occurred 9 weeks after a single dose in one patient in the expanded access program. Monitor patients for signs and symptoms of pneumonitis and treat appropriately.
- **Embryo-fetal toxicity:** Based on its mechanism of action, AZEDRA can cause fetal harm. Verify pregnancy status in females of reproductive potential prior to initiating AZEDRA. Advise females and males of reproductive potential of the potential risk to a fetus and to use effective contraception during treatment with AZEDRA and for 7 months after the final dose. Advise males with female partners of reproductive potential to use effective contraception during treatment and for 4 months after the final dose.
- **Risk of infertility:** Radiation exposure associated with AZEDRA may cause infertility in males and females. Radiation absorbed by testes and ovaries from the recommended cumulative dose of AZEDRA is within the range where temporary or permanent infertility can be expected following external beam radiotherapy.

Adverse Reactions:

The most common severe (Grade 3–4) adverse reactions observed in AZEDRA clinical trials ($\geq 10\%$) were lymphopenia (78%), neutropenia (59%), thrombocytopenia (50%), fatigue (26%), anemia (24%), increased international normalized ratio (18%), nausea (16%), dizziness (13%), hypertension (11%), and vomiting (10%). Twelve percent of patients discontinued treatment due to adverse reactions (thrombocytopenia, anemia, lymphopenia, nausea and vomiting, multiple hematologic adverse reactions).

Drug Interactions:

Based on the mechanism of action of iobenguane, drugs that reduce catecholamine uptake or that deplete catecholamine stores may interfere with iobenguane uptake into cells and therefore interfere with dosimetry calculations or the efficacy of AZEDRA. These drugs were not permitted in clinical trials that assessed the safety and efficacy of AZEDRA. Discontinue the drugs listed in the prescribing information for at least 5 half-lives before administration of either the dosimetry dose or a therapeutic dose of AZEDRA. Do not administer these drugs until at least 7 days after each AZEDRA dose.

For important risk and use information about AZEDRA, please click here for full [Prescribing Information](#).



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PM-US-AZ-0450 06/2021

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