

Generic Name: Netupitant/palonosetron

Preferred: N/A

Therapeutic Class or Brand Name: Akynzeo capsules

Non-preferred: N/A

Applicable Drugs: N/A

Date of Origin: 11/2/2014

Date Last Reviewed / Revised: 6/18/2025

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

(May be considered medically necessary when criteria I through VII are met)

- I. Documented diagnosis of prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting associated with initial and repeat courses of cancer chemotherapy.
- II. Documented use of moderately- or highly-emetogenic antineoplastic agents (refer to Appendix, Table 1).
- III. Documentation that Akynzeo is being used in combination with dexamethasone.
- IV. Documented treatment failure or contraindication to two trials of preferred 5-HT3 receptor antagonists (e.g., granisetron and ondansetron) when taken in combination with aprepitant.
- V. Minimum age requirement: 18 years old.
- VI. Request is for a medication with the appropriate FDA labeling, or its use is supported by current clinical practice guidelines.
- VII. Refer to the plan document for the list of preferred products. If the requested agent is not listed as a preferred product, must have documented treatment failure or contraindication to the preferred product(s).

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Concomitant use of strong CYP3A4 inducers (e.g., rifampin).
- Severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh score greater than 9).
- Severe renal impairment ($\text{CrCl} < 30 \text{ mL/min}$) or end-stage renal disease.

OTHER CRITERIA

- N/A

QUANTITY / DAYS SUPPLY RESTRICTIONS

- One capsule per chemotherapy course.

APPROVAL LENGTH

- **Authorization:** 6 months.
- **Re-Authorization:** An updated letter of medical necessity or progress notes showing improvement or maintenance with the medication.

APPENDIX

Table 1. Emetic Risk Classification for Parenteral Antineoplastic Agents^a

High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC combination defined as any chemotherapy regimen that contains an anthracycline and cyclophosphamide • Carboplatin AUC ≥ 4 • Carmustine (BiCNU) $>250 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Cisplatin • Cyclophosphamide $>1,500 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Dacarbazine • Datopotamab deruxtecan-dlnk • Doxorubicin $\geq 60 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Epirubicin $>90 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki • Ifosfamide $\geq 2 \text{ g/m}^2/\text{dose}$ • Mechlorethamine (Mustargen) • Melphalan $\geq 140 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Sacituzumab govitecan-hziy • Streptozocin (Zanosar) • Zolbetuximab-clzb^b 		
Moderate	<table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldesleukin $>12\text{--}15 \text{ million IU/m}^2$ or $600,000 \text{ IU/kg}$ • Amifostine $>300 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Bendamustine • Busulfan • Carboplatin^b AUC <4 • Carmustine^b $\leq 250 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Clofarabine • Cyclophosphamide^b $\leq 1500 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Cytarabine $>200 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Dactinomycin^b • Daunorubicin^b • Dinutuximab • Doxorubicin^b $<60 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Dual-drug liposomal encapsulation of cytarabine and daunorubicin </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epirubicin^b $\leq 90 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Idarubicin^b • Ifosfamide^b $<2 \text{ g/m}^2$ per dose • Irinotecan^b • Irinotecan (liposomal) • Lurbinectedin • Melphalan $<140 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Methotrexate^b $\geq 250 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Naxitamab-gqqk • Oxaliplatin^b • Romidepsin • Temozolomide • Trabectedin^b </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldesleukin $>12\text{--}15 \text{ million IU/m}^2$ or $600,000 \text{ IU/kg}$ • Amifostine $>300 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Bendamustine • Busulfan • Carboplatin^b AUC <4 • Carmustine^b $\leq 250 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Clofarabine • Cyclophosphamide^b $\leq 1500 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Cytarabine $>200 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Dactinomycin^b • Daunorubicin^b • Dinutuximab • Doxorubicin^b $<60 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Dual-drug liposomal encapsulation of cytarabine and daunorubicin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epirubicin^b $\leq 90 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Idarubicin^b • Ifosfamide^b $<2 \text{ g/m}^2$ per dose • Irinotecan^b • Irinotecan (liposomal) • Lurbinectedin • Melphalan $<140 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Methotrexate^b $\geq 250 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Naxitamab-gqqk • Oxaliplatin^b • Romidepsin • Temozolomide • Trabectedin^b
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Low	<table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ado-trastuzumab emtansine • Aldesleukin $\leq 12 \text{ million IU/m}^2$ • Amifostine $\leq 300 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Amivantamab-vmjw • Arsenic trioxide • Axicabtagene ciloleucel </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lileucel • Lisocabtagene maraleucel • Loncastuximab tesirine-lpyl • Methotrexate $>50 \text{ mg/m}^2$ – $<250 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Mitomycin </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ado-trastuzumab emtansine • Aldesleukin $\leq 12 \text{ million IU/m}^2$ • Amifostine $\leq 300 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Amivantamab-vmjw • Arsenic trioxide • Axicabtagene ciloleucel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lileucel • Lisocabtagene maraleucel • Loncastuximab tesirine-lpyl • Methotrexate $>50 \text{ mg/m}^2$ – $<250 \text{ mg/m}^2$ • Mitomycin
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azacitidine • Belinostat • Brexucabtagene autoleucel • Brentuximab vedotin • Cabazitaxel • Carfilzomib • Ciltacabtagene autoleucel • Copanlisib • Cytarabine (low dose) 100 mg/m²-200 mg/m² • Docetaxel • Doxorubicin (liposomal) • Eranatamab-bcmm • Enfortumab vedotin-ejfv • Epcoritamab-bysp • Eribulin • Etoposide • 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) • Floxuridine • Gemcitabine • Gemtuzumab ozogamicin • Idecabtagene vicleucel • Inotuzumab ozogamicin • Isatuximab-irfc • Ixabepilone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitomycin pyelocalyceal solution • Mitoxantrone • Mogamulizumab-kpkc • Mosunetuzumab-axgb • Necitumumab • Omacetaxine • Paclitaxel • Paclitaxel-albumin • Pemetrexed • Pentostatin • Polatuzumab vedotin-piig • Pralatrexate • Tafasitamab-cxix • Tagraxofusp-erzs • Talimogene laherparepvec • Tebentafusp-tebn • Thiotepa • Tisagenlecleucel • Tisotumab vedotin-tftv • Topotecan • Ziv-aflibercept
Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alemtuzumab • Asparaginase • Atezolizumab • Atezolizumab and hyaluronidase-tqjs • Avelumab • Betibeglogene autotemcel • Bevacizumab • Bleomycin • Blinatumomab • Bortezomib • Cemiplimab-rwlc • Cetuximab • Cladribine • Cytarabine <100 mg/m² • Daratumumab • Daratumumab and hyaluronidase-fihj • Decitabine • Degarelix • Dexrazoxane • Dostarlimab-gxly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nivolumab • Nivolumab and hyaluronidase-nvhv • Nivolumab/relatlimab-rmbw • Obinutuzumab • Octreotide • Ofatumumab • Panitumumab • Pembrolizumab • Pertuzumab • Pertuzumab/trastuzumab and hyaluronidase-zxf • Ramucirumab • Retifanlimab-dlwr • Rituximab • Rituximab and hyaluronidase • Siltuximab • Sirolimus-albumin • Talquetamab-tgvs • Tarlatamab-dlle • Teclistamab-cqyv • Temsirolimus

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Durvalumab• Elotuzumab• Fludarabine• Fulvestrant• Glofitamab-gxbm• Goserelin• Histrelin• Imetelstat• Ipilimumab• Lanreotide• Leuprolide• Lovotibeglogene autotemcel• Luspatercept-aamt• Margetuximab-cmkb• Methotrexate $\leq 50 \text{ mg/m}^2$• Nelarabine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tislelizumab-jsgr• Toripalimab-tpzi• Trastuzumab• Trastuzumab and hyaluronidase-oysk• Tremelimumab-actl• Triptorelin• Valrubicin• Vinblastine• Vincristine• Vincristine (liposomal)• Vinorelbine
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^a List is not exhaustive. Medications not listed here will be evaluated with the most recent versions of ASCO and NCCN, as well as their prescribing information.

^b May be highly emetogenic in certain patients.

REFERENCES

1. Akynzeo. Prescribing information]. Helsinn Therapeutics Inc; 2023. Accessed June 18, 2025.
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https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/antiemesis.pdf

DISCLAIMER: Medication Policies are developed to help ensure safe, effective and appropriate use of selected medications. They offer a guide to coverage and are not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Refer to Plan for individual adoption of specific Medication Policies. Providers are expected to exercise their medical judgement in providing the most appropriate care for their patients.