

Utilization Management and Clinical Medical Policy

Policy Name: Margetuximab-cmkb (Margenza®)	Policy Number: MP-RX-FP-56-23	Scope: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MMM MA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MMM MultiHealth	Origination Date: 11/30/2023 Last Review Date: 5/6/2026	Effective Date: 5/6/2026 Frequently Revision: Annual
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Service Category:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anesthesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine Services and Procedures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surgery | <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation and Management Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radiology Procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> DME/Prosthetics or Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pathology and Laboratory Procedures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Part B Drugs |

Service Description:

This document addresses the use of *Margetuximab-cmkb (Margenza®)*, a HER2/neu receptor antagonist approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in combination with chemotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic HER2- positive breast cancer who have received two or more prior anti-HER2 regimens, at least one of which was for metastatic disease.

Background Information:

Breast cancer is a type of tumor comprised of malignant (cancerous) cells that start to grow in the breast and may spread (metastasize) to surrounding tissues and other areas of the body (American Cancer Society, 2016). Breast cancer is commonly treated by various modalities which include combinations of surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and hormone therapy (National Cancer Institute, 2019). The prognosis and selection of therapies can be affected by clinical and pathologic features of the tumor. One of these includes the human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 gene ERBB2 which is commonly referred to as HER2. Other names for this gene include NEU, Her-2, HER-2/neu and c-erb B2. Initially the HER2 gene was detected in frozen breast tumor samples. Amplification of the HER2 gene was later correlated to overexpression of protein levels in samples of breast cancer.

In the United States, breast cancer remains the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women (excluding skin cancers), with an estimated 321,910 new invasive cases in 2026. Approximately 15%–20% of breast cancers are HER2-positive (commonly cited as “about 1 in 5”).

Margenza has a Black Boxed Warning for left ventricular dysfunction and embryo fetal toxicity. Margenza may lead to reductions in left ventricular ejection fraction. Exposure to Margenza during pregnancy can cause embryo-fetal harm. Advise patients of the risk and need for effective contraception.

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) provides additional recommendations with a category 2A level of evidence for the use of Margenza in patients with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer as fourth-line therapy and beyond in combination with chemotherapy.

There is an update to the SOPHIA trial (Rugo et. al. 2021) for final overall survival (OS) results looking at margetuximab versus trastuzumab in those with previously treated with HER2 positive advance breast cancer. Final OS analysis did not demonstrate an overall survival advantage for margetuximab over trastuzumab (Rugo et al., 2023).

Definitions and Measures

- HER2 testing (adapted from American Society of Clinical Oncology/College of American Pathologists):
 - Positive HER2:

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---	---	---	--	---

- IHC 3+ based on circumferential membrane staining that is complete, intense. (Observed in a homogeneous and contiguous population and within > 10% of the invasive tumor cells).
 - ISH positive based on:
 - Single-probe average HER2 copy number ≥ 6.0 signals/cell (Observed in a homogeneous and contiguous population and within >10% of the invasive tumor cells. By counting at least 20 cells within the area)
 - Dual-probe HER2/CEP 17 ratio $\geq 2.0^*$ with an average HER2 copy number ≥ 4.0 signals/cell
 - Dual-probe HER2/CEP17 ratio $\geq 2.0^*$ with an average HER2 copy number < 4.0 signals/cell
 - Dual-probe HER2/CEP17 ratio < 2.0* with an average HER2 copy number ≥ 6.0 signals/cell
 - Equivocal HER2:
 - IHC 2+ based on circumferential membrane staining that is incomplete and/or weak/moderate and within >10% of the invasive tumor cells or complete and circumferential membrane staining that is intense and within $\leq 10\%$ of the invasive tumor cells.
 - ISH equivocal based on:
 - Single-probe average HER2 copy number ≥ 4.0 and < 6.0 signals/cell
 - Dual-probe HER2/CEP17 ratio < 2.0 with an average HER2 copy number ≥ 4.0 signals/cell
 - Negative HER2 if a single test (or both tests) performed show:
 - IHC 1+ as defined by incomplete membrane staining that is faint/barely perceptible and within > 10% of the invasive tumor cells
 - IHC 0 as defined by no staining observed or membrane staining that is incomplete and is faint/barely perceptible and within $\leq 10\%$ of the invasive tumor cells
 - ISH negative based on:
 - Single-probe average HER2 copy number < 4.0 signals/cell
 - Dual-probe HER2/CEP17 ratio < 2.0 with an average HER2 copy number < 4.0 signals/cell
 - Metastasis: The spread of cancer from one part of the body to another; a metastatic tumor contains cells that are like those in the original (primary) tumor and have spread.
 - Monoclonal antibody: A protein developed in the laboratory that can locate and bind to specific substances in the body and on the surface of cancer cells.
 - Progressive Disease (PD): Cancer that is growing, spreading, or getting worse.
 - Refractory Disease: Illness or disease that does not respond to treatment.
- Approved Indications**
- Margenza, in combination with chemotherapy, is approved by the FDA for the treatment of:
- A. Adult patients with metastatic HER2- positive breast cancer who have received two or more prior anti-HER2 regimens, at least one of which was for metastatic disease.

Utilization Management and Clinical Medical Policy

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---	---	---	--	---

Other Uses

- A. See background section above.

Utilization Management and Clinical Medical Policy

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Medical Necessity Guidelines:

When a drug is being reviewed for coverage under a member’s medical benefit plan or is otherwise subject to clinical review (including prior authorization), the following criteria will be used to determine whether the drug meets any applicable medical necessity requirements for the intended/prescribed purpose.

Margetuximab-cmkb (Margenza®)

A. Criteria For Initial Approval (*Provider must submit documentation [such as office chart notes, lab results, pathology reports, imaging studies, and any other pertinent clinical information] supporting the patient’s diagnosis for the drug and confirming that the patient has met **all** approval criteria.*)

i. Individual has a diagnosis of recurrent unresectable (local or regional) or metastatic (Stage IV [M1]) HER2-positive breast cancer confirmed by *one* of the following (Label, NCCN 2A):

A. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) is 3+;

OR

B. In situ hybridization (ISH) positive;

AND

ii. Individual has had two or more prior anti-HER2 therapies, and at least one in the metastatic setting (Label, NCCN 2A); **AND**

A. Individual is using Margenza as fourth-line therapy and beyond for recurrent unresectable (local or regional) or metastatic disease; (NCCN 2A)

AND

iii. Individual is using in combination with chemotherapy with either capecitabine, eribulin, gemcitabine, or vinorelbine (NCCN 2A, Rugo et al., 2021).

B. Criteria For Continuation of Therapy

i. MMM considers continuation of Margetuximab-cmkb (Margenza®) therapy medically necessary in members requesting reauthorization for an indication listed in Section A Above (Criteria for Initial Approval) when there is no evidence of unacceptable toxicity or disease progression while on the current regimen, and the recommended duration of therapy has not been exceeded. The following information should be submitted for reauthorization:

A. A current oncology note documenting the patient’s response to treatment showing no progression of disease.

B. Current imaging studies and other objective measures, as appropriate, showing no progression of disease when compared with previous results.

C. Authorization Duration

i. Initial Approval Duration: Up to 6 months

ii. Reauthorization Approval Duration: Up to 6 months

D. Conditions Not Covered

Any other use is considered experimental, investigational, or unproven, including the following (this list may not be all inclusive):

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---	---	---	--	---

- i. Requests for Margetuximab-cmkb (Margenza®) may not be approved when the above criteria (Section A: Criteria for Initial Approval) are not met and for all other indications.

Utilization Management and Clinical Medical Policy

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Limits or Restrictions:

A. Therapeutic Alternatives

The list below includes preferred alternative therapies recommended in the approval criteria and may be subject to prior authorization.

- i. N/A

B. Quantity Limitations

Approvals may be subject to dosing limits in accordance with FDA-approved labeling, accepted compendia, and/or evidence-based practice guidelines. The chart below includes dosing recommendations as per the FDA-approved prescribing information.

Drug	Recommended Dosing Schedule	Recommended Treatment Duration
Margetuximab-cmkb (Margenza®) injection 250 mg/10 mL (25 mg/mL) SDV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 mg/kg IV every 3 weeks (21-day cycle) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.
Exceptions		
None		

Utilization Management and Clinical Medical Policy

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Codes Information:

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure, diagnosis or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement policy. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

ICD-10 Diagnostic Codes:

Codes	Description
C50.011-C50.929	Malignant neoplasm of breast
C79.81	Secondary malignant neoplasm of breast
Z85.3	Personal history of malignant neoplasm of breast
Z17.0	Estrogen receptor positive status (ER+)
Z17.1	Estrogen receptor negative status (ER-)
Z17.31	HER2 positive status

HCPCS Codes:

Codes	Description
J9353	Injection, margetuximab-cmkb, 5 mg [Margenza]

Utilization Management and Clinical Medical Policy

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Reference Information:

- American Cancer Society. (2026). *Cancer Facts & Figures 2026*. Retrieved February 15, 2026, from <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2026/2026-cancer-facts-and-figures.pdf>
- American Cancer Society. (2026, January 13). *Breast cancer statistics: How common is breast cancer?* Retrieved February 15, 2026, from <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/about/how-common-is-breast-cancer.html>
- Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.: 2023. URL: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology.com>. Updated periodically.
- DailyMed. Package inserts. U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health website. <http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/about.cfm>.
- DrugPoints® System [electronic version]. Truven Health Analytics, Greenwood Village, CO. Updated periodically.
- Lexi-Comp ONLINE™ with AHFS™, Hudson, Ohio: Lexi-Comp, Inc.; 2025; Updated periodically.
- Margenza (margetuximab-cmkb) intravenous infusion [product information]. Rockville, MD: MacroGenics; December 2020.
- NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™. © 2021 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. For additional information visit the NCCN website: <http://www.nccn.org/index.asp>. Accessed on February 15, 2026
 - Breast Cancer. V1.2026. Revised January 16, 2026.
- Rugo HS, Im SA, Cardoso F, et al. Efficacy of Margetuximab vs Trastuzumab in Patients With Pretreated ERBB2-Positive Advanced Breast Cancer: A Phase 3 Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA Oncol* 2021 Apr 1;7(4):573-584. Available at: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaoncology/fullarticle/2775599>
- Rugo HS, Im SA, Cardoso F, Cortes J, e.al; SOPHIA Study Group. Margetuximab Versus Trastuzumab in Patients With Previously Treated HER2-Positive Advanced Breast Cancer (SOPHIA): Final Overall Survival Results From a Randomized Phase 3 Trial. [Treated HER2-Positive Advanced Breast Cancer \(SOPHIA\): Final Overall Survival Results From a Randomized Phase 3 Trial. J](#)
- TerSera Therapeutics LLC. (2025). *MARGENZA (margetuximab-cmkb) injection, for intravenous use: Prescribing information* (Revised 02/2025). Retrieved February 15, 2026, from <https://documents.tersera.com/margenza-us/prescribing-information.pdf>

Federal and state laws or requirements, contract language, and Plan utilization management programs or polices may take precedence over the application of this clinical criteria.

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Policy History:

Type of Review	Summary of Changes	P&T Approval Date	UM/CMPC Approval Date
Annual Review	Updated the Background Information to align with current epidemiology (2026 incidence) and clarified HER2 prevalence; added the boxed warning for left ventricular dysfunction and embryo-fetal toxicity. Validated and refined Initial Approval criteria to reflect NCCN Category 2A positioning (recurrent unresectable or Stage IV disease; fourth-line and beyond; use with specified chemotherapy options). Confirmed available dosage forms/strengths per the current prescribing information (single-dose vial formulation for IV infusion). Coding reviewed: removed D05.00-D05.92; added Z17.1 and Z17.31. Updated the reference list. Completed an administrative adaptation to the new policy format/template for consistency across sections.	5/1/2026	5/6/2026
Annual Review	Minimal change: word formatting. No coding changes.	7/17/2025	8/8/2025
Annual Review	Add therapeutic alternatives section. Wording and formatting changes. Coding reviewed: No changes.	2/24/2025	3/6/2025
Focus Review	Update statement for criteria for initial approval: Provider must submit documentation [such as office chart notes, lab results, pathology reports, imaging studies, and any other pertinent clinical information] supporting the patient's diagnosis for the drug and confirming that the patient has met all approval criteria.	3/25/2024	5/9/2024
Policy Inception	7/9/2023: Elevance Health's Medical Policy adoption.	N/A	11/30/2023