

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

POLICY: Metabolic Disorders – Imcivree Prior Authorization Policy

- Imcivree® (setmelanotide subcutaneous injection – Rhythm)

REVIEW DATE: 01/10/2024

OVERVIEW

Imcivree, a melanocortin 4 receptor agonist, is indicated for chronic weight management in patients ≥ 6 years of age with monogenic or syndromic obesity due to:¹

- **Proopiomelanocortin (POMC), proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 1 (PCSK1), or leptin receptor (LEPR) deficiency**, as determined by an FDA-approved test demonstrating variants in *POMC*, *PCSK1*, or *LEPR* genes that are interpreted as pathogenic, likely pathogenic, or of uncertain significance.
- **Bardet-Biedl Syndrome.**

As a limitation of use, Imcivree is not indicated for obesity due to suspected POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR deficiency with *POMC*, *PCSK1*, or *LEPR* variants classified as benign or likely benign.¹ Imcivree is also not indicated for obesity not related to POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR deficiency or not related to Bardet-Biedl syndrome, including obesity associated with other genetic syndromes and general (polygenic) obesity.

In the pivotal trial for Imcivree regarding obesity due to POMC deficiency (homozygous or compound heterozygous variants in *POMC* or *PCSK1*) or LEPR deficiency (homozygous or compound heterozygous variants in *LEPR*), obesity was defined according to patient age.² For patients 6 to < 18 years of age, obesity was defined as body weight ≥ 95 th percentile for age on growth chart assessment. For patients ≥ 18 years of age, obesity was defined as a body mass index (BMI) ≥ 30 kg/m².

Per the Imcivree prescribing information, select patients for treatment with Imcivree who have a clinical diagnosis of Bardet-Biedl syndrome.¹ It is noted that in the pivotal trial, adults had a BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² and pediatric patients had a weight ≥ 97 th percentile using growth chart assessments. Patients were enrolled who had a clinical diagnosis of Bardet-Biedl syndrome. The clinical diagnosis was based on Beales criteria, which require that four primary features, or three primary and two secondary features, of Bardet-Biedl syndrome be met.³

For obesity due to POMC, PCSK1, or LEPR deficiency, weight loss should be evaluated after 12 to 16 weeks of Imcivree treatment.¹ If a patient has not lost at least 5% of baseline body weight, or 5% of baseline body mass index for a patient with continued growth potential, Imcivree should be discontinued as it is unlikely that the patient will achieve and sustain clinically meaningful weight loss with continued treatment. For obesity and a clinical diagnosis of Bardet-Biedl syndrome, evaluate weight loss after 1 year of treatment. If a patient has not lost at least 5% of baseline body weight, or 5% of baseline BMI for a patient < 18 years of age, discontinue Imcivree.

Disease Overview

Monogenic obesity is a rare and severe early-onset form of obesity.⁴ Unlike general obesity, environmental factors are much less impactful on obesity development in these patients. Fewer than 50 patients worldwide have been identified with POMC deficiency (*POMC* or *PCSK1* mutations); the prevalence of LEPR deficiency is unknown but is expected to account for less than 3% of severe early-onset obesity. The true prevalence of these disorders is unknown and likely underestimated due to lack of provider awareness and genetic testing.² Clinical presentation is mainly characterized by major hyperphagia and ravenous hunger.³

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Patients with these disorders experience very rapid and early increase in weight, occurring within the first few days of life to early childhood. Lifestyle interventions may provide initial weight loss but are very difficult to maintain long-term in this population due to constant, insatiable hunger.⁵ Isolated case reports of bariatric surgery have demonstrated some efficacy but are generally regarded as disappointing relative to the general population, likely related to the underlying energy imbalance. Caution is urged before considering bariatric surgery in patients with monogenic obesity disorders.

Bardet-Biedl syndrome is a rare genetic disease of obesity with an estimated prevalence of 1:100,000 individuals in Northern Europe and America, although the prevalence can be higher in certain consanguineous populations.⁶ It is generally inherited in an autosomal recessive fashion. There are many gene mutations which are known to lead to the development of Bardet-Biedl syndrome. Additionally, an estimated 20% to 30% of patients with Bardet-Biedl syndrome do not have an identified genetic mutation. Diagnosis is based on the presence of characteristic clinical findings.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for prescription benefit coverage of Imcivree. All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. In cases where the approval is authorized in months, 1 month is equal to 30 days. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Imcivree as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, approval requires Imcivree to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

Automation: None.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Imcivree is recommended in those who meet one of the following criteria:

FDA-Approved Indications

- 1. Obesity Due to Proopiomelanocortin (POMC), Proprotein Convertase Subtilisin/Kexin Type 1 (PCSK1), or Leptin Receptor (LEPR) Deficiency.** Approve for the duration noted if the patient meets the following (A or B):
 - A) Initial Therapy.** Approve for 4 months if the patient meets the following (i, ii, iii, and iv):
 - i.** Patient is ≥ 6 years of age; AND
 - ii.** Patient meets both of the following (a and b):
 - a)** Genetic testing demonstrates homozygous or compound heterozygous mutations in one of the following genes: *POMC*, *PCSK1*, or *LEPR*; AND
 - b)** The genetic variant is interpreted as pathogenic, likely pathogenic, or of uncertain significance; AND
 - iii.** Patient meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a)** Patient is ≥ 18 years of age: Patient currently has a body mass index (BMI) ≥ 30 kg/m²; OR
 - b)** Patient is 6 to 17 years of age: Patient currently has a body weight $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ percentile for age on growth chart assessment; AND
 - iv.** The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an endocrinologist, a geneticist, or a physician who specializes in metabolic disorders.
 - B) Patient is currently receiving Imcivree.** Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (i, ii, iii, and iv):

- iii. The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with an endocrinologist, a geneticist, or a physician who specializes in metabolic disorders.

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Imcivree is not recommended in the following situations:

1. **Other Genetic Obesity Syndromes.** Imcivree is not indicated for genetic obesity syndromes other than POMC-, PCSK1-, or LEPR-deficient obesity or Bardet-Biedl syndrome. A Phase III trial included six patients with Alström syndrome, none of the six patients met the primary endpoint ($\geq 10\%$ weight loss after 52 weeks of Imcivree).⁷
Note: Examples of genetic obesity syndromes include Prader-Willi syndrome and Alström syndrome.
2. **General Obesity.** Imcivree is not indicated in this setting and there are no clinical data to support its use.¹
3. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

REFERENCES

1. Imcivree® subcutaneous injection [prescribing information]. Boston, MA: Rhythm; November 2023.
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3. Haws RM, Gordon G, Han JC, et al. The efficacy and safety of setmelanotide in individuals with Bardet-Biedl syndrome or Alström syndrome: Phase 3 trial design. *Contemp Clin Trials Commun.* 2021 May 3;22:100780.
4. Huvenne H, Dubern B, Clément K, Poitou C. Rare genetic forms of obesity: clinical approach and current treatments in 2016. *Obes Facts.* 2016;9(3):158-73.
5. Poitou C, Mosbah H, Clément K. Mechanisms in endocrinology: update on treatments for patients with genetic obesity. *Eur J Endocrinol.* 2020 Nov;183(5):R149-R166.
6. Bardet-Biedl syndrome. National Organization of Rare Disorders. Updated 2017. Available at: <https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/bardet-biedl-syndrome/> Accessed on January 5, 2024.
7. Haqq AM, Chung WK, Dolfus H, et al. Efficacy and safety of setmelanotide, a melanocortin-4 receptor agonist, in patients with Bardet-Biedl syndrome and Alström syndrome: a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial with an open-label period. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.* 2022;10(12):859-868.