



# Louisiana

## Xatmep™ (methotrexate oral solution)

Policy # 00602

Original Effective Date: 01/17/2018

Current Effective Date: 01/17/2018

*Applies to all products administered or underwritten by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana and its subsidiary, HMO Louisiana, Inc. (collectively referred to as the "Company"), unless otherwise provided in the applicable contract. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.*

### When Services May Be Eligible for Coverage

*Coverage for eligible medical treatments or procedures, drugs, devices or biological products may be provided only if:*

- *Benefits are available in the member's contract/certificate, and*
- *Medical necessity criteria and guidelines are met.*

Based on review of available data, the Company may consider Xatmep™<sup>†</sup> (methotrexate oral solution) to be **eligible for coverage** when the patient selection criteria are met.

### Patient Selection Criteria

Coverage eligibility for Xatmep (methotrexate oral solution) will be considered when the following criteria are met:

- Patient is LESS than 18 years of age; AND
- Patient is UNable to receive other forms of oral methotrexate; AND
- Patient is NOT currently taking other medications in a tablet and/or capsule form; AND
- Patient has a diagnosis of:
  - Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (with Xatmep being used as a component of a combination chemotherapy maintenance regimen); OR
  - Active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis AND the patient had an intolerance or inadequate response to first-line therapy (for example non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAIDs] and/or prednisone).

• *(Note: the criterion requiring the patient to be unable to receive other forms of oral methotrexate as well as the criterion requiring that patients are not currently taking other medications in a tablet and/or capsule form are additional Company requirements for coverage eligibility and will be denied as not medically necessary\*\* if not met).*

### When Services Are Considered Not Medically Necessary

Based on review of available data, the Company considers the use of Xatmep (methotrexate oral solution) when the patient is able to receive other forms of oral methotrexate OR when the patient is currently taking other medications in tablet and/or capsule form to be **not medically necessary.\*\***

### When Services Are Considered Investigational

*Coverage is not available for investigational medical treatments or procedures, drugs, devices or biological products.*

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Based on review of available data, the Company considers the use of Xatmep (methotrexate oral solution) for any indication other than those that are FDA approved OR for members 18 years of age or older to be **investigational**.\*

## **Background/Overview**

Xatmep is methotrexate oral solution supplied as 2.5 mg/mL. Xatmep is indicated for the treatment of pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia as a component of a combination chemotherapy maintenance regimen as well as for the management of pediatric patients with active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis who are intolerant of or had an inadequate response to first-line therapy. The recommended dosage for use in acute lymphoblastic leukemia is 20 mg/m<sup>2</sup> one time weekly and the recommended starting dosage for polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis is 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup> one time weekly.

Juvenile idiopathic arthritis includes the inflammation of joints and presence of arthritis in children. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis typically occurs in a symmetrical manner with knees, wrists, and ankles most frequently affected. However certain subgroups of children do have predominantly asymmetrical involvement. Typically first line treatments such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and/or prednisone are used. If those are failed, then DMARDs (disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs) can be used to treat this condition. An example of a DMARD would include methotrexate.

Acute leukemia is the most common form of cancer in children, with acute lymphoblastic leukemia being five times more common than acute myeloid leukemia. Treatment regimens vary for this condition based on prognostic indicators at presentation. If methotrexate is used, it is used in a combination therapy regimen.

## **FDA or Other Governmental Regulatory Approval**

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Xatmep is indicated for the treatment of pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia as a component of a combination chemotherapy maintenance regimen as well as for the management of pediatric patients with active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis who are intolerant of or had an inadequate response to first-line therapy.

## **Rationale/Source**

Xatmep was approved by the FDA based on studies of other dosage forms of methotrexate in the approved conditions. The intent of this policy is to ensure FDA approved label usage as well as dosage form use requirements. The patient selection criteria presented in this policy takes into consideration whether or not the patient can tolerate other forms of oral methotrexate. Based on a review of the data, if the above mentioned criteria are not met, there is no advantage to the use of Xatmep over other forms of oral methotrexate.

## **References**

1. Xatmep [package insert]. Silvergate Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Greenwood Village, Colorado.

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2. Overview of the treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukemia in children and adolescents. UpToDate. Updated through November 2017.

## **Policy History**

Original Effective Date: 01/17/2018  
 Current Effective Date: 01/17/2018  
 01/04/2018 Medical Policy Committee review  
 01/17/2018 Medical Policy Implementation Committee approval. New policy.  
 Next Scheduled Review Date: 01/2019

\*Investigational – A medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product is Investigational if the effectiveness has not been clearly tested and it has not been incorporated into standard medical practice. Any determination we make that a medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product is Investigational will be based on a consideration of the following:

- A. Whether the medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product can be lawfully marketed without approval of the U.S. FDA and whether such approval has been granted at the time the medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product is sought to be furnished; or
- B. Whether the medical treatment, procedure, drug, device, or biological product requires further studies or clinical trials to determine its maximum tolerated dose, toxicity, safety, effectiveness, or effectiveness as compared with the standard means of treatment or diagnosis, must improve health outcomes, according to the consensus of opinion among experts as shown by reliable evidence, including:
  - 1. Consultation with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association technology assessment program (TEC) or other nonaffiliated technology evaluation center(s);
  - 2. Credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community; or
  - 3. Reference to federal regulations.

\*\*Medically Necessary (or “Medical Necessity”) - Health care services, treatment, procedures, equipment, drugs, devices, items or supplies that a Provider, exercising prudent clinical judgment, would provide to a patient for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that are:

- A. In accordance with nationally accepted standards of medical practice;
- B. Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, level of care, site and duration, and considered effective for the patient’s illness, injury or disease; and
- C. Not primarily for the personal comfort or convenience of the patient, physician or other health care provider, and not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of that patient’s illness, injury or disease.

For these purposes, “nationally accepted standards of medical practice” means standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community, Physician Specialty Society recommendations and the views of Physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas and any other relevant factors.

† Indicated trademarks are the registered trademarks of their respective owners.

**NOTICE:** Medical Policies are scientific based opinions, provided solely for coverage and informational purposes. Medical Policies should not be construed to suggest that the Company recommends, advocates, requires, encourages, or discourages any particular treatment, procedure, or service, or any particular course of treatment, procedure, or service.

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