

Article for Xeloda (capecitabine) in lieu of 5-FU for cancer therapy (A24592/A24593)

Contractor Information

Contractor Name National Heritage Insurance Company
Contractor Number 31140 – Northern California
31146 – Southern California
Contractor Type Carrier

Article Information

Article Database ID Number A24592 – Northern California
A24593 – Southern California
Article Type Article
Key Article Yes
Article Title Xeloda (capecitabine) in lieu of 5-FU for cancer therapy
Primary Geographic Jurisdiction NF
SF
Original Article Effective Date 12/10/2004
Article Revision Effective Date
Article Text

5-fluorouracil (5-FU, Adrucil) is a longstanding component of many multi-drug chemotherapy regimens which are covered by Medicare. Xeloda (capecitabine) is an orally administered analog of 5-FU, reimbursed by DMERCs (durable medical equipment regional contractors). Over a half-dozen studies have found similar effects of capecitabine and 5-FU in chemotherapy regimens. NHIC will cover the Part B-reimbursed components of any chemotherapy regimens which typically include 5-FU, whether the clinician's judgment leads to inclusion of 5-FU or capecitabine in the regimen.

NHIC continues to follow the policy for off-label drug uses published in the Medicare Part B Resource (June 2002, page 18).

Coverage Topic Prescription Drugs
Chemotherapy (Inpatient)
Chemotherapy (Outpatient)

Coding Information

Bill Type Codes 999x Not Applicable
Revenue Codes 99999 Not Applicable