

Clinical Policy: Sipuleucel-T (Provenge)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.120

Effective Date: 07.01.15

Last Review Date: 05.26

Line of Business: Commercial, Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Sipuleucel-T (Provenge[®]) is an autologous cellular immunotherapy.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Provenge is indicated for the treatment of asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic metastatic castrate-resistant (hormone-refractory) prostate cancer (CRPC).

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation[®] that Provenge is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria**A. Prostate Cancer** (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of metastatic CRPC, as evidenced by disease progression despite bilateral orchiectomy or other androgen deprivation therapy (*see Appendix D*);
2. Member is asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or urologist;
4. Age \geq 18 years;
5. Member does not have visceral disease (e.g., lung, liver, adrenal, peritoneal, or brain metastases);
6. Member has an estimated life expectancy of > 6 months;
7. Member's Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status is 0 or 1;
8. Member will use a gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) analog concurrently or has had a bilateral orchiectomy;
9. Member has not received \geq 3 doses (infusions) of Provenge;
10. Dose does not exceed a total of 3 doses (infusions) of Provenge.

Approval duration: 6 months (up to a total of 3 doses)

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):

- a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Prostate Cancer (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Provenge for prostate cancer and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Member continues to use a GnRH analog concurrently or has had a bilateral orchiectomy;
4. Member has not received ≥ 3 doses (infusions) of Provenge;
5. Dose does not exceed a total of 3 doses (infusions) of Provenge.

Approval duration: 6 months (up to a total of 3 doses)

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

FDA: Food and Drug Administration
CRPC: castration-resistant prostate cancer
GnRH: gonadotropin-releasing hormone

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

None reported

Appendix D: General Information

- CRPC is prostate cancer that progresses clinically, radiographically, or biochemically despite castrate levels of serum testosterone (< 50 ng/dL). Per the NCCN, androgen deprivation therapy should be continued in the setting of CRPC while additional therapies are applied.
- Examples of androgen deprivation therapy include:
 - Bilateral orchiectomy (surgical castration)
 - Luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH) given with or without an anti-androgen:
 - LHRH agonists: Zoladex[®] (goserelin), leuprolide (Lupron Depot[®], Eligard[®]), and Trelstar[®] (triptorelin)
 - Anti-androgens: bicalutamide (Casodex[®]), flutamide (Eulexin[®]), nilutamide (Nilandron[®]), Xtandi[®] (enzalutamide), Erleada[®] (apalutamide), Nubeqa[®] (darolutamide)
 - LHRH antagonists: Firmagon[®] (degarelix), Orgovyx[™] (relugolix)

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Metastatic CRPC	One dose IV over 60 minutes given approximately every 2 weeks for 3 doses Each dose contains a minimum of 50 million autologous CD54+ cells activated with PAP-GM-CSF, in 250 ml of Lactated Ringer's Injection	1 dose approximately every 2 weeks (max 3 doses)

VI. Product Availability

Suspension for injection: minimum of 50 million autologous CD54+ cells activated with PAP-GM-CSF, in 250 ml of Lactated Ringer's Injection

VII. References

1. Provenge Prescribing Information. Seattle, WA: Dendreon Corporation; July 2017. Available at: <http://www.provenge.com/>. Accessed January 14, 2026.

2. Sipuleucel-T. In: National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at: http://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug_compendium. Accessed January 27, 2026.
3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Prostate Cancer Version 5.2026. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/prostate.pdf. Accessed January 27, 2026.

Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
Q2043	Sipuleucel-T, minimum of 50 million autologous CD54+ cells activated with PAP-GM-CSF, including leukapheresis and all other preparatory procedures, per infusion

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
2Q 2022 annual review: added requirement that “member will use a gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) analog concurrently or has had a bilateral orchiectomy” per NCCN and alignment with other prostate cancer clinical policies; added clarification on approval duration for up to a total of 3 doses; references reviewed and updated.	01.25.22	05.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications.	09.30.22	
2Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; updated <i>Appendix D</i> examples of androgen deprivation therapy per NCCN; clarified <i>estimated</i> life expectancy of > 6 months requirement consistent with NCCN; references reviewed and updated.	01.06.23	05.23
2Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; added adrenal and peritoneal metastases to list of visceral metastases examples per NCCN; references reviewed and updated.	01.08.24	05.24
2Q 2025 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	01.16.25	05.25
2Q 2026 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	01.14.26	05.26

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and

accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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Note:

For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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