

IN OTHER NEWS...

XELODA NOW COVERED BY MEDICARE PART B

According to CMS guidance, drugs that are currently covered under Part B are excluded from coverage by Part D plans. Some Part D plans have included Xeloda on their formularies; however, it is expected that Xeloda will continue to be covered only under Part B.

The only subset of Part D plans that can include Xeloda as a Part D drug are the Medicare Advantage (MA-PD) plans. These plans include both medical and pharmacy benefits and since they assume risk for covering all of the Medicare-covered services & supplies, they can manage their costs as they see fit. A MA-PD plan may decide it is more efficient for them to manage Xeloda under the prescription plan – HOWEVER, the co-pay for the patient cannot exceed the 20% that they would be required to pay under traditional Part B coverage.

It appears that some Part D plans have included all or many Part B drugs on their formularies. There are at least two reasons for this: the plans may be preparing for Xeloda requests under Part D and are planning to require Prior Authorization to identify these prescriptions in order to redirect them to the correct Part B provider (Medicare supplier able to bill DMERC). The plans may also be including all or most of the Part B drugs until the Part B vs Part D rules are clearer. Perhaps some plans included all Part B drugs “just in case” a Part D indication is presented at the pharmacy. This should be made clearer after the Plans gain more experience with Part D.



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VIAL SIZES AND TARGET FILL VOLUMES

	Vial Size	Target Fill Volume	NDC Number
	120 µg (600 IU)	0.5mL	0944-2967-01
	300 µg (1,500 IU)	1.3mL	0944-2967-03
<i>NEW</i>	500 µg (2,500 IU)	2.2mL	0944-2967-07
	1,000 µg (5,000 IU)	4.4mL	0944-2967-05
<i>NEW</i>	3,000 µg (15,000 IU)	13.0mL	0944-2967-09