Adakveo® (crizanlizumab-tmca)
(Intravenous)

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I. Length of Authorization

- Initial: Prior authorization validity will be provided initially for 6 months (180 days).
- Renewal: Prior authorization validity may be renewed every 12 months (365 days) thereafter.

II. Dosing Limits

Max Units (per dose and over time) [HCPS Unit]:

- 120 billable units at weeks 0 and 2 and every 4 weeks thereafter

III. Initial Approval Criteria [1]

Prior authorization validity is provided in the following conditions:

- Patient is at least 16 years of age; **AND**

Universal Criteria

- Therapy will not be used in conjunction with L-glutamine (Endari); **AND**
  - Patient has not received prior treatment with gene therapy; **OR**
  - Patient failed to respond or lost response to treatment with prior gene therapy; **AND**

Sickle Cell Disease [1-3] † Φ

- Patient has a confirmed diagnosis of sickle-cell disease, of any genotype (e.g., HbSS, HbSC, HbS/beta^0-thalassemia, HbS/beta$^+$-thalassemia, and others) as determined by one of the following:
  - Identification of significant quantities of hemoglobin S (HbS) with or without an additional abnormal β-globin chain variant by hemoglobin assay; **OR**
  - Identification of biallelic *HBB* pathogenic variants where at least one allele is the p.Glu6Val pathogenic variant on molecular genetic testing; **AND**
- Patient had an insufficient response to a minimum 3-month trial of hydroxyurea (unless contraindicated or intolerant); **AND**
- Patient experienced one or more vaso-occlusive crises (VOC)* in the previous year despite adherence to hydroxyurea therapy

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**VOC is defined as an event prompting either a visit or outreach to the provider which results in a diagnosis of VOC being made necessitating subsequent interventions such as narcotic pain management, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory therapy, hydration, etc.*

† FDA Approved Indication(s); ‡ Compendia Recommended Indication(s); Φ Orphan Drug

IV. Renewal Criteria [1,3]

Prior authorization validity can be renewed based upon the following criteria:

- Patient continues to meet the universal and other indication-specific relevant criteria identified in section III; **AND**
- Absence of unacceptable toxicity from the drug. Examples of unacceptable toxicity include: severe infusion related reactions (e.g., pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, dizziness, pruritus, pyrexia), etc.; **AND**
- Disease response compared to pretreatment baseline as evidenced by a decrease in the frequency of vaso-occlusive crises (VOC) necessitating treatment, reduction in number or duration of hospitalizations, and/or reduction in severity of VOC

V. Dosage/Administration [1]

Indication	Dose
Sickle-Cell Disease	Administer 5 mg/kg by intravenous infusion over a period of 30 minutes at Week 0, Week 2, and every 4 weeks thereafter.

VI. Billing Code/Availability Information

HCPCS:

- J0791 – Injection, crizanlizumab-tmca, 5 mg; 1 billable unit = 5 mg

NDC:

- Adakveo 100 mg/10 mL (10 mg/mL) single-dose vial: 00078-0883-xx

VII. References

1. Adakveo [package insert]. East Hanover, NJ; Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., June 2024. Accessed December 2025.
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3. Ataga KI, Kutlar A, Kanter J, et al. Crizanlizumab for the Prevention of Pain Crises in Sickle Cell Disease. N Engl J Med. 2017 Feb 2;376(5):429-439. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1611770. Epub 2016 Dec 3.

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4. Yawn BP, Buchanan GR, Afenyi-Annan AN, et al. Management of sickle cell disease: summary of the 2014 evidence-based report by expert panel members. JAMA. 2014 Sep 10;312(10):1033-48.
5. Jacob SA, Frei-Jones M, Saif-Ur-Rehman S, et al. National Alliance of Sickle Cell Centers Consensus Recommendations on Sickle Cell Disease Health Maintenance: A Consensus Statement. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2025;8(11):e2543421. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.43421

Appendix A – Non-Quantitative Treatment Limitations (NQTL) Factor Checklist

Non-quantitative treatment limitations (NQTLs) refer to the methods, guidelines, standards of evidence, or other conditions that can restrict how long or to what extent benefits are provided under a health plan. These may include things like utilization review or prior authorization. The utilization management NQTL applies comparably, and not more stringently, to mental health/substance use disorder (MH/SUD) Medical Benefit Prescription Drugs and medical/surgical (M/S) Medical Benefit Prescription Drugs. The table below lists the factors that were considered in designing and applying prior authorization to this drug/drug group, and a summary of the conclusions that Prime's assessment led to for each.

Factor	Conclusion
Indication	Yes: Consider for PA
Safety and efficacy	No: PA not a priority
Potential for misuse/abuse	No: PA not a priority
Cost of drug	Yes: Consider for PA

Appendix 1 – Covered Diagnosis Codes

ICD-10	ICD-10 Description
D57.00	Hb-SS disease with crisis unspecified
D57.01	Hb-SS disease with acute chest syndrome
D57.02	Hb-SS disease with splenic sequestration
D57.03	Hb-SS disease with cerebral vascular involvement
D57.04	Hb-SS disease with crisis with other specified complication
D57.09	Hb-SS disease with crisis with other specified complication
D57.1	Sickle-cell disease without crisis
D57.20	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease without crisis
D57.211	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with acute chest syndrome
D57.212	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with splenic sequestration
D57.213	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with cerebral vascular involvement
D57.214	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with crisis with other specified complication
D57.218	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with crisis with other specified complication

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D57.219	Sickle-cell/Hb-C disease with crisis unspecified
D57.3	Sickle-cell trait
D57.40	Sickle-cell thalassemia without crisis
D57.411	Sickle-cell thalassemia with acute chest syndrome
D57.412	Sickle-cell thalassemia with splenic sequestration
D57.413	Sickle-cell thalassemia, unspecified, with cerebral vascular involvement
D57.414	Sickle-cell thalassemia, unspecified, with crisis with other specified complication
D57.418	Sickle-cell thalassemia, unspecified, with crisis with other specified complication
D57.419	Sickle-cell thalassemia with crisis unspecified
D47.42	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta zero without crisis
D57.431	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta zero with acute chest syndrome
D57.432	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta zero with splenic sequestration
D57.433	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta zero with cerebral vascular involvement
D57.434	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta zero with crisis with other specified complication
D57.438	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta zero with crisis with other specified complication
D57.439	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta zero with crisis unspecified
D57.44	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta plus without crisis
D57.451	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta plus with acute chest syndrome
D57.452	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta plus with splenic sequestration
D57.453	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta plus with cerebral vascular involvement
D57.454	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta plus with crisis with other specified complication
D57.458	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta plus with crisis with other specified complication
D57.459	Sickle-cell thalassemia beta plus with crisis unspecified
D57.80	Other sickle-cell disorders without crisis
D57.811	Other sickle-cell disorders with acute chest syndrome
D57.812	Other sickle-cell disorders with splenic sequestration
D57.813	Other sickle-cell disorders with cerebral vascular involvement
D57.814	Other sickle-cell disorders with crisis with other specified complication
D57.819	Other sickle-cell disorders with crisis, unspecified

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Appendix 2 – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

The preceding information is intended for non-Medicare coverage determinations. Medicare coverage for outpatient (Part B) drugs is outlined in the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (Pub. 100-2), Chapter 15, §50 Drugs and Biologicals. In addition, National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and/or Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) may exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) may also exist for claims payment purposes or to clarify benefit eligibility under Part B for drugs which may be self-administered. The following link may be used to search for NCD, LCD, or LCA documents: https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search.aspx. Additional indications, including any preceding information, may be applied at the discretion of the health plan.

Medicare Part B Covered Diagnosis Codes (applicable to existing NCD/LCA/LCD): N/A

Medicare Part B Administrative Contractor (MAC) Jurisdictions		
Jurisdiction	**Applicable State/US Territory**	**Contractor**
E (1)	CA, HI, NV, AS, GU, CNMI	Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC
F (2 & 3)	AK, WA, OR, ID, ND, SD, MT, WY, UT, AZ	Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC
5	KS, NE, IA, MO	Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corp (WPS)
6	MN, WI, IL	National Government Services, Inc. (NGS)
H (4 & 7)	LA, AR, MS, TX, OK, CO, NM	Novitas Solutions, Inc.
8	MI, IN	Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corp (WPS)
N (9)	FL, PR, VI	First Coast Service Options, Inc.
J (10)	TN, GA, AL	Palmetto GBA
M (11)	NC, SC, WV, VA (excluding below)	Palmetto GBA
L (12)	DE, MD, PA, NJ, DC (includes Arlington & Fairfax counties and the city of Alexandria in VA)	Novitas Solutions, Inc.
K (13 & 14)	NY, CT, MA, RI, VT, ME, NH	National Government Services, Inc. (NGS)
15	KY, OH	CGS Administrators, LLC

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