

## PHARMACY COVERAGE GUIDELINE

### MEKINIST™ (trametinib) oral Generic Equivalent (if available)

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#### **This Pharmacy Coverage Guideline (PCG):**

- Provides information about the reasons, basis, and information sources we use for coverage decisions
- Is not an opinion that a drug (collectively “Service”) is clinically appropriate or inappropriate for a patient
- Is not a substitute for a provider’s judgment (Provider and patient are responsible for all decisions about appropriateness of care)
- Is subject to all provisions e.g. (benefit coverage, limits, and exclusions) in the member’s benefit plan; and
- Is subject to change as new information becomes available.

#### **Scope**

- This PCG applies to Commercial and/or Marketplace plans
- This PCG does not apply to the Federal Employee Program, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid or members of out-of-state Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plans

#### **Instructions & Guidance**

- To determine whether a member is eligible for the Service, read the entire PCG.
  - This PCG is used for FDA approved indications including, but not limited to, a diagnosis and/or treatment with dosing, frequency, and duration.
  - Use of a drug outside the FDA approved guidelines, refer to the appropriate Off-Label Use policy.
  - The “Criteria” section outlines the factors and information we use to decide if the Service is medically necessary as defined in the Member’s benefit plan.
  - The “Description” section describes the Service.
  - The “Definition” section defines certain words, terms or items within the policy and may include tables and charts.
  - The “Resources” section lists the information and materials we considered in developing this PCG
  - **We do not accept patient use of samples as evidence of an initial course of treatment, justification for continuation of therapy, or evidence of adequate trial and failure.**
  - Information about medications that require prior authorization is available at [www.azblue.com/pharmacy](http://www.azblue.com/pharmacy). You must fully complete the [request form](#) and provide chart notes, lab workup and any other supporting documentation. The prescribing provider must sign the form. Fax the form to BCBSAZ Pharmacy Management at (602) 864-3126 or email it to [Pharmacyprecert@azblue.com](mailto:Pharmacyprecert@azblue.com).
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## Medical Necessity Requirements for MEKINIST (trametinib)

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### **Criteria for Initial Therapy:**

#### **Prescriber Qualifications**

- Prescribed by an oncologist or in consultation with an oncologist

#### **Indication**

- Unresectable or metastatic melanoma with BRAF V600E or V600K mutations
  - Used as a single agent therapy in treatment naive in an adult (18 years of age or older)
  - Used in combination with Tafenlar (dabrafenib) in an adult (18 years of age or older)

## PHARMACY COVERAGE GUIDELINE

### MEKINIST™ (trametinib) oral Generic Equivalent (if available)

- Melanoma with BRAF V600E or V600K mutations and lymph node involvement following complete resection used as adjuvant treatment in (18 years of age or older) combination with Tafinlar (dabrafenib) in an adult (18 years of age or older)
- Metastatic non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with BRAF V600E mutation used in combination with Tafinlar (dabrafenib) in an adult (18 years of age or older)
- Locally advanced or metastatic anaplastic thyroid cancer (ATC) with BRAF V600E mutation and with no satisfactory locoregional treatment options used in combination with Tafinlar (dabrafenib) in an adult (18 years of age or older)
- Unresectable or metastatic solid tumors with BRAF V600E mutation used in combination with Tafinlar (dabrafenib) in adult and pediatric individuals 1 year of age or older who have progressed following prior treatment and have no satisfactory alternative treatment options
- Low grade glioma (LGG) with BRAF V600E mutation used in combination with Tafinlar (dabrafenib) in pediatric individuals 1 year of age or older who require systemic therapy
- Other oncologic direct treatment uses listed in National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Guidelines with Categories of Evidence and Consensus of 1 and 2A

#### Age Requirement

- 1 year of age or older (based on indication)

#### Baseline Clinical Evaluation

- FDA approved test confirming BRAF V600E or V600K mutation
- Assessment of left ventricular ejection fraction by echocardiogram or multi gated acquisition scan
- Negative pregnancy test in a woman of childbearing age
- Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) Performance Status of 0 to 2

#### Alternative Therapies

- Have failure, contraindication, or intolerance with **THREE** generic equivalents (if available) for at least three months each. **Note:** Any failure, contraindication, or intolerance to the generic drugs should be reported to the FDA (see Definitions section)

#### Safety

- No concomitant use in individuals with colorectal cancer

#### Documentation Requirements

- Chart notes
- Lab results (BRAF mutation test, ejection fraction assessment, pregnancy test, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group score)
- Supporting clinical documentation

#### Initial Therapy Criteria Approval Duration

- 6 months OR end of plan year

## PHARMACY COVERAGE GUIDELINE

### MEKINIST™ (trametinib) oral Generic Equivalent (if available)

#### Criteria for Continuation of Therapy (renewal therapy):

**Note: Manufacturer assistance (e.g., coupons, samples, etc.) are not considered for continuation of therapy.**

#### Prescriber Qualifications

- Continues to be seen by a physician specializing in or in consultation with an oncologist

#### Clinical Response

- Positive clinical response defined as no evidence of disease progression or unacceptable toxicity

#### Adherence

- Adherence to the prescribed therapy regimen has been documented

#### Brand Specific Criteria

- Have failure, contraindication, or intolerance with **THREE** generic equivalents (if available) for at least three months each. **Note:** Any failure, contraindication, or intolerance to the generic drugs should be reported to the FDA (see Definitions section)

#### Safety

- No significant drug to drug interactions or contraindications
- No development of adverse reactions that exclude continued use including:
  - Hemorrhage (life threatening or severe not improved with dose modification)
  - Venous thromboembolism (life threatening or persistent)
  - Cardiomyopathy (asymptomatic or symptomatic with significant decrease in left ventricular ejection fraction not improved with dose modification)
  - Ocular toxicity (retinal vein occlusion or retinal pigment epithelial detachment not improved with dose modification)
  - Pulmonary toxicity (interstitial lung disease or pneumonitis)
  - Skin reactions (moderate or severe or life threatening reactions not improved with dose modification, Stevens Johnson syndrome, drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms)
  - Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis
  - Any moderate or severe reaction not improved with dose modification
  - Any first occurrence or recurrence of life threatening reaction

#### Documentation Requirements

- Chart notes
- Supporting clinical documentation with evidence of improvement in given indication
- Lab values confirming safe use (e.g., ejection fraction, mutation status)

#### Continuation Therapy Criteria Approval Duration

- 12 months OR end of plan year

## PHARMACY COVERAGE GUIDELINE

### MEKINIST™ (trametinib) oral Generic Equivalent (if available)

#### Criteria for Off-Label Use Requests:

Criteria for a request for non-FDA use or indication, treatment with dosing, frequency, or duration outside the FDA-approved dosing, frequency, and duration, refer to one of the following Pharmacy Coverage Guideline:

1. Off-Label Use of Non-Cancer Medications
2. Off-Label Use of Cancer Medications

#### Description:

Mekinist (trametinib) is indicated as a single agent or in combination with dabrafenib for the treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma with BRAF V600E or V600K mutations; it is indicated in combination with dabrafenib for the adjuvant treatment of patients with melanoma with BRAF V600E or V600K mutations and involvement of lymph node(s), following complete resection; it is indicated in combination with dabrafenib for the treatment of metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) in patients with BRAF V600E mutation, and it is indicated in combination with dabrafenib for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic anaplastic thyroid cancer (ATC) with BRAF V600E mutation and with no satisfactory loco-regional treatment options. Mekinist (trametinib) is also indicated in combination with dabrafenib, for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients 6 years of age and older with unresectable or metastatic solid tumors with BRAF V600E mutation who have progressed following prior treatment and have no satisfactory alternative treatment options. This indication is approved under accelerated approval based on overall response rate and duration of response. Continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in a confirmatory trial(s). Mekinist (trametinib) is indicated, in combination with dabrafenib, for the treatment of pediatric patients 1 year of age and older with low-grade glioma (LGG) with a BRAF V600E mutation who require systemic therapy. Mekinist (trametinib) is not indicated for treatment of patients with colorectal cancer because of known intrinsic resistance to BRAF inhibition.

Protein kinases (PKs) are a group of enzymes that modify other proteins by chemically adding a phosphate group from ATP to a target molecule, usually on the serine, threonine, or tyrosine amino acid residues. PKs can be subdivided or characterized by the amino acid that is phosphorylated: most PKs act on both serine and threonine, tyrosine kinases act on tyrosine, and a number (dual-specificity kinases) act on all three. There are PKs that phosphorylate other amino acids, such as histidine kinases that phosphorylate histidine residues. The human genome contains more than 500 PKs (the human kinome) that have a role in inflammation, autoimmunity, and metabolism.

Phosphorylation results in a functional change of the target protein which in turn changes enzyme activity, cellular location, or association with other proteins. Processes regulated by phosphorylation include ion transport, cellular proliferation, differentiation, metabolism, migration, cellular survival, and hormone responses. Phosphorylation is a necessary step in some cancers and inflammatory diseases. Inhibition of protein kinase phosphorylation is a pharmacologic target that can be used to treat these diseases.

A protein kinase inhibitor is a type of enzyme inhibitor that specifically blocks the action of one or more PKs. There are over 20 small molecule protein kinase inhibitors approved for the treatment of various conditions. Several inhibitors have been successfully used to treat human cancers; these agents have been shown to inhibit

## PHARMACY COVERAGE GUIDELINE

### MEKINIST™ (trametinib) oral Generic Equivalent (if available)

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multiple cellular functions of cancer cells, including proliferation, differentiation, survival, invasion, and angiogenesis.

The BRAF human gene makes a protein called BRAF. The protein catalyzes the phosphorylation of serine and threonine residues on a target protein by use of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) conversion to adenosine diphosphate (ADP). This protein plays a role in regulating the mitogen-activated protein kinase/extracellular signal-regulated protein kinase (MAP kinase/ERKs signaling pathway), which affects cell division, differentiation, and secretion.

Acquired mutations in the BRAF gene have been found in malignant melanoma. Melanoma is the less common, but more serious type of skin cancer that originates in the skin's pigment-producing cells known as melanocytes. When melanoma is diagnosed early, it is generally treatable. However, when it becomes metastatic, it is the deadliest and most aggressive form of skin cancer; it is the leading cause of death from skin disease. The BRAF protein is normally involved in regulating cell growth but is mutated in about half of the patients with late-stage melanomas. The protein plays a key role in normal cell growth and survival, mutations such as BRAF V600E result in constant growth signals which cause cell proliferation in the absence of growth factors that would normally be required for proliferation.

Mekinist (Trametinib) is a reversible inhibitor of mitogen-activated extracellular signal regulated kinase 1 and 2 (MEK1 and MEK2) activation and an inhibitor of their activity. MEK proteins are upstream regulators of the ERK pathway, which promotes cellular proliferation. BRAF V600E mutations result in constitutive activation of the BRAF pathway which includes MEK1 and MEK2. Trametinib inhibits BRAF V600 mutation-positive melanoma cell growth in vitro and in vivo.

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#### **Definitions:**

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) MedWatch Forms for FDA Safety Reporting  
[MedWatch Forms for FDA Safety Reporting | FDA](#)

#### **National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (NCI CTC-AE):**

Grade 1: Mild; asymptomatic or mild symptoms; clinical or diagnostic observations only; intervention not indicated.

Grade 2: Moderate; minimal, local or noninvasive intervention indicated; limiting age appropriate instrumental activities of daily living (ADL).

Grade 3: Severe or medically significant but not immediately life-threatening; hospitalization or prolongation of hospitalization indicated; disabling; limiting self-care ADL.

Grade 4: Life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention indicated.

Grade 5: Death related to adverse event.

#### **Activities of daily living (ADL):**

Instrumental ADL: preparing meals, shopping for groceries or clothes, using the telephone, managing money, etc.

## PHARMACY COVERAGE GUIDELINE

### MEKINIST™ (trametinib) oral Generic Equivalent (if available)

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Self-care ADL: bathing, dressing and undressing, feeding self, using the toilet, taking medications, and not bedridden.

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#### **Resources:**

Mekinist (trametinib) tab & oral solution product information, revised by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation 04-2025. Available at DailyMed <http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov>. Accessed October 24, 2025.

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®): Melanoma: Cutaneous Version 2.2025 – Updated January 28, 2025. Available at <https://www.nccn.org>. Accessed October 29, 2025.

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®): Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Version 8.2025 – Updated August 15, 2025. Available at <https://www.nccn.org>. Accessed October 29, 2025.

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®): Thyroid Carcinoma Version 1.2025 – Updated March 27, 2025. Available at <https://www.nccn.org>. Accessed October 29, 2025.

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®): Pediatric Central Nervous System Cancers Version 3.2025 – Updated September 02, 2025. Available at <https://www.nccn.org>. Accessed October 29, 2025.

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®): Central Nervous System Cancers Version 2.2025 – Updated August 28, 2025. Available at <https://www.nccn.org>. Accessed October 29, 2025.

Off Label Use of Cancer Medications: A.R.S. §§ 20-826(R) & (S). Subscription contracts; definitions.

Off Label Use of Cancer Medications: A.R.S. §§ 20-1057(V) & (W). Evidence of coverage by health care service organizations; renewability; definitions.