

Policy Name:	OncoSorb® Therapy (UltraPheresis) for Non-Hematologic Cancer
Effective Date:	10/15/2018

Important Information – Please Read Before Using This Policy

These services may or may not be covered by all Medica plans. Please refer to the member's plan document for specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member's plan document, the member's plan document will be used to determine coverage. With respect to Medicare and Minnesota Health Care Programs, this policy will apply unless those programs require different coverage. Members may contact Medica Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member identification card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions about this Medica coverage policy may call the Medica Provider Service Center toll-free at 1-800-458-5512.

Medica coverage policies are not medical advice. Members should consult with appropriate health care providers to obtain needed medical advice, care and treatment.

Coverage Policy

OncoSorb® UltraPheresis™ for non-hematologic cancer is investigative and therefore **NOT COVERED**.

Note: See also related Medica coverage policy, *Therapeutic Apheresis (TA) – Plasmapheresis, Plasma Exchange*.

Note: This policy is no longer scheduled for routine review of the scientific literature.

Description

OncoSorb (previously known as UltraPheresis) has been proposed for the treatment of non-hematologic, solid tumors. This technology was invented by Dr. Rigdon M. Lentz under the name Ultrapheresis. Dr. Lentz holds the patent for the device and markets the system through Biopheresis Technologies, Inc.

The OncoSorb Therapy system is similar to apheresis systems used to perform standard plasma exchange. However, unlike apheresis systems that separate cellular elements of the blood from the plasma, the OncoSorb system removes plasma components smaller than 120,000 daltons by using an ultrafiltration system employing a proprietary immuno-absorption column. It is suggested that this methodology removes proteins capable of inhibiting tumor necrosis factor (TNF) and interleukin-2 (IL-2). It is purported that after inhibitors are removed, the immune system is stimulated (primarily through the activity of TNF-alpha, TNF-beta, and IL-2) to attack tumor cells and improve disease course. The procedure can be performed by physician or non-physician personnel in either an inpatient or outpatient facility. UltraPheresis has a temporary effect, and a course of therapy involves multiple treatments over the span of several days/weeks.

FDA Approval

The OncoSorb system **has not** received FDA approval and is not commercially available in the United States.

Prior Authorization

Prior authorization is not applicable. Claims for this service are subject to retrospective review and denial of coverage, as investigative services are not eligible for reimbursement.

Medica Coverage Policy



Coding Considerations

Use the current applicable CPT/HCPCS code(s).

Original Effective Date: 1/1/2004

Re-Review Date(s): 5/23/2006
3/24/2009
7/18/2012
7/15/2015
7/18/2018

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