NCCN Maintains Qualification as CMS-Approved Provider-Led Entity for the Development of Imaging Appropriate Use Criteria

NCCN has again qualified as a provider-led entity (PLE) for the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) Program by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the nation’s largest health payer. NCCN earned its initial qualification in 2016 when CMS launched the new program to increase the rate of appropriate advanced diagnostic imaging services provided to Medicare beneficiaries. NCCN was recognized as one of the first groups qualified to develop AUC that can facilitate decision-making for diagnostic imaging in patients with cancer. PLEs are qualified for a period of 5 years, and, after close review of the 2021 renewal application, CMS determined that NCCN continues to meet the requirements to be a PLE. NCCN Imaging Appropriate Use Criteria (NCCN Imaging AUC) are accessible for free to registered users of NCCN.org through an easy-to-use database at NCCN.org/ImagingAUC.

“This recognition advances NCCN’s commitment to high-quality care while assuring the appropriate use of advanced diagnostic imaging for people with cancer,” said Robert W. Carlson, MD, Chief Executive Officer, NCCN. “This recognition advances NCCN’s commitment to high-quality care while assuring the appropriate use of advanced diagnostic imaging for people with cancer. During the last 5 years, we have greatly expanded the library of evidence-based recommendations in the NCCN Imaging AUC and we will continue to update and enhance this resource based on scientific and medical advances.”

NCCN Imaging AUC are based directly on the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines) and include recommendations pertaining to cancer screening, diagnosis, staging, treatment response assessment, follow-up, and surveillance. Additional information includes the indication, imaging modality, and frequency of use, as well as clinical notes related to each specific recommendation. NCCN Imaging AUC also include information on disease stage and histology. All imaging procedures recommended in the NCCN Guidelines, including radiographs, CT scans, MRI, functional nuclear medicine imaging (PET, SPECT), and ultrasound, are included within NCCN Imaging AUC.

NCCN Imaging AUC are available for more than 67 cancer types in addition to screening and supportive care. Additional NCCN Imaging AUC will be published in the coming months. To access the NCCN Imaging AUC and view a user guide, visit NCCN.org/ImagingAUC.

NCCN Announces Selected Projects to Study Neratinib in Collaboration With Puma Biotechnology, Inc.

The NCCN Oncology Research Program (ORP) recently announced 3 research projects that have been selected for funding to evaluate neratinib in various tumor types. Neratinib is a type of tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) that works as a dual inhibitor of the epidermal growth factor receptor 1 (EGFR) and human...
The selected projects are:

- Rutika Mehta, MD, MPH, Moffitt Cancer Center:
  - Phase 2 study of neratinib in combination with chemotherapy and trastuzumab in HER2 overexpressing gastroesophageal cancers

- Scott Plotkin, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women’s Cancer Center | Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center:
  - Phase 2 study of neratinib for adolescents and adults with neurofibromatosis 2 and progressive NF2-related neoplasms: a sub-study of the INTUITT-NF2 platform-basket trial (NCT04374305)

- Namrata Vijayvergia, MD, Fox Chase Cancer Center:
  - Multi-center Phase 1 trial of neratinib and fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan in advanced refractory gastric cancer patients

“These projects will add to our understanding of the optimal ways to target this pathway and further the management of these diseases, which include rare conditions,” said Crystal S. Denlinger, MD, Senior Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer, NCCN. “We congratulate these impressive investigators and look forward to their findings.”

Alan H. Auerbach, Chief Executive Officer and President of Puma Biotechnology, said, “We are pleased to support our partnership with NCCN in advancing cancer research and we congratulate the selected investigators. We are committed to exploring the efficacy of neratinib in a diverse range of tumor types for the benefit of affected patient populations and we look forward to the insights provided by these studies.”

Proposals were peer reviewed by a Scientific Review Committee, which consisted of leading expert medical oncologists from NCCN Member Institutions. The funded concepts were selected based on several criteria, including scientific merit, existing data, feasibility and the types of studies needed to further evaluate neratinib. The research projects will commence late 2021 and take place over 2 years. The NCCN ORP will provide oversight. Puma is providing $1.4 million in funding and will also supply the neratinib tablets for use in the studies.

The NCCN ORP fosters innovation and knowledge discovery that improves the lives of people with cancer and supports preclinical, translational, and clinical research and quality improvement projects in oncology at NCCN Member Institutions. In an effort to improve collaboration in cancer research, the NCCN ORP also maintains a shared resources website and an informed consent database. For more information, visit NCCN.org/orp.