

*** Transmitted by Email to: S034590@Aetna.com***

April 18, 2018

Harold L. Paz, M.D., M.S.
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer
Aetna
151 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06156

Re: Aetna's Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Coverage Policy Number 0071 – Reviewed March 30, 2018 on Fluciclovine (reference case number 2018041102742)

Dear Dr. Paz,

The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging's (SNMMIs) more than 15,000 members set the standard for molecular imaging and nuclear medicine practice by creating guidelines, sharing information through journals and meetings, and leading advocacy on key issues that affect molecular imaging and therapy research and practice.

We recommend that Aetna reconsider and change its PET Coverage Policy in relationship to Fluciclovine F-18 PET. The policy may be found at: http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/1_99/0071.html and it states:

“37. Fluciclovine F-18 PET:

Aetna considers fluciclovine F-18 PET experimental and investigational for prostate cancer and for all other indications because of insufficient evidence. “

We suggest that Aetna reconsider this coverage policy as it is inconsistent with recent advances. In May 2016 the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of this PET imaging in men (with suspected prostate cancer recurrence based on elevated blood prostate specific antigen (PSA) levels following prior treatment. Recently the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) updated their guidelines to include fluciclovine imaging to state that fluciclovine F-18 PET/CT or PET/MRI should be considered in the clinical workup of patients with recurrence or progression of their prostate cancer. NCCN Guidelines are the recognized standard for clinical policy in cancer care. The intent of the NCCN Guidelines is to assist in the decision-making process of individuals involved in cancer care—including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, payers, patients and their families—with the ultimate goal of improving patient care

Harold L. Paz, M.D., M.S.

March 18, 2018

Page 2 of 2

and outcomes. The NCCN document is available at:

https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/prostate.pdf after a free registration on that website.

Another source that Aetna may wish to consult is the appropriate use criteria of the American College of Radiology which includes recommendations related to the appropriateness of fluciclovine F-18 PET (see: <https://acsearch.acr.org/docs/69369/Narrative/>).

We know that Aetna wants to be known for allowing its beneficiaries access to state of the art care and we hope you will consider revising this policy. If you or your staff would like to discuss this coverage policy further, please contact Wayne Powell, Director of Health Policy and Regulatory Affairs at 703.326.1182 or wpowell@snmmi.org.

Thank you for the consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Munir Ghesani". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Munir Ghesani, MD, FACNM
Chair Advocacy Domain
SNMMI