

Clinical Policy: Thyrotropin Alfa (Thyrogen)

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.95

Effective Date: 03.12

Last Review Date: 08.25

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Thyrotropin alfa (Thyrogen[®]) is a recombinant human thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH).

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Thyrogen is indicated for:

- Diagnostic: Use as an adjunctive diagnostic tool for serum thyroglobulin (Tg) testing with or without radioiodine imaging in the follow-up of patients with well-differentiated thyroid cancer who have previously undergone thyroidectomy.
- Ablation: Use as an adjunctive treatment for radioiodine ablation of thyroid tissue remnants in patients who have undergone a near-total or total thyroidectomy for well-differentiated thyroid cancer and who do not have evidence of distant metastatic thyroid cancer.

Limitation(s) of use:

- Diagnostic:
 - Thyrogen-stimulated Tg levels are generally lower than, and do not correlate with, Tg levels after thyroid hormone withdrawal.
 - Even when Thyrogen-stimulated Tg testing is performed in combination with radioiodine imaging, there remains a risk of missing a diagnosis of thyroid cancer or of underestimating the extent of disease.
 - Anti-Tg antibodies may confound the Tg assay and render Tg levels uninterpretable.
- Ablation: The effect of Thyrogen on thyroid cancer recurrence greater than 5 years post-remnant ablation has not been evaluated.

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation[®] that Thyrogen is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Thyroid Cancer (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of well-differentiated thyroid cancer;
2. Age \geq 18 years;
3. Thyrogen will be used for one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Adjunctive treatment for radioiodine ablation of thyroid tissue remnants and both of the following are met (i and ii):

- i. Member has undergone a near-total or total thyroidectomy;
 - ii. There is no evidence of distant metastatic thyroid cancer;
 - b. Adjunctive diagnostic tool for serum Tg testing in members who have previously undergone thyroidectomy;
4. Dose does not exceed an initial 0.9 mg IM injection followed by a second 0.9 mg IM injection 24 hours later.

Approval duration: 6 months (2 injections)

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
 - b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Thyroid Cancer (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B*);
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Thyrogen will be used as an adjunctive diagnostic tool for serum Tg testing;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed an initial 0.9 mg IM injection followed by a second 0.9 mg IM injection 24 hours later.

Approval duration: 6 months (2 injections)

B. Other diagnoses/indications (1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
 - a. For drugs on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business:

- CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.255 for Medicaid; or
- b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (commercial, health insurance marketplace) or PDL (Medicaid), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.190 for commercial, HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.16 for Medicaid; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid, or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

FDA: Food and Drug Administration
IM: intramuscular

Tg: thyroglobulin

TSH: thyroid stimulating hormone

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): If Thyrogen is administered with radioiodine, the contraindications to radioiodine also apply to this combination regimen.
- Boxed warning(s): none reported.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Adjunctive diagnostic tool for serum thyroglobulin testing in well-differentiated thyroid cancer	0.9 mg IM injection to the buttock followed by a second 0.9 mg IM injection to the buttock 24 hours later	See regimen
Adjunct to treatment for ablation in well-differentiated thyroid cancer		

VI. Product Availability

Single-dose vial lyophilized powder: 0.9 mg

VII. References

1. Thyrogen Prescribing Information. Cambridge, MA: Genzyme Corporation; February 2023. Available at: <https://www.thyrogen.com/>. Accessed April 15, 2025.

- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Thyroid Carcinoma Version 1.2025. Available at https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/thyroid.pdf. Accessed May 23, 2025.

Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J3240	Injection, thyrotropin alpha, 0.9 mg, provided in 1.1 mg vial

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
3Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; added Commercial line of business; updated reference for HIM off-label use to HIM.PA.154 (replaces HIM.PHAR.21); references reviewed and updated.	05.04.21	08.21
3Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	04.18.22	08.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	10.12.22	
3Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	04.25.23	08.23
3Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	05.13.24	08.24
3Q 2025 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	04.15.25	08.25

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and

limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members, and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note: For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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