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Reviewed: 01/22/26

Revised: 02/15/26

## Subject: ProThelial™ for the Treatment of Oral Mucositis

THIS MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION, CERTIFICATION, EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS, OR A GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT, NOR DOES IT SUBSTITUTE FOR OR CONSTITUTE MEDICAL ADVICE. ALL MEDICAL DECISIONS ARE SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN. BENEFITS ARE DETERMINED BY THE GROUP CONTRACT, MEMBER BENEFIT BOOKLET, AND/OR INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIBER CERTIFICATE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME SERVICES WERE RENDERED. THIS MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINE APPLIES TO ALL LINES OF BUSINESS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IN THE PROGRAM EXCEPTIONS SECTION.

<a href="#">Position Statement</a>	<a href="#">Billing/Coding</a>	<a href="#">Reimbursement</a>	<a href="#">Program Exceptions</a>	<a href="#">Definitions</a>	<a href="#">Related Guidelines</a>
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### DESCRIPTION:

Oral mucositis is a common and often debilitating complication of cancer treatment. Oral mucositis describes inflammation of the oral mucosa and typically manifests as erythema or ulcerations that appear 7 to 10 days after initiation of high-dose cancer therapy. Oral mucositis can cause significant pain and increased risk of systemic infection, dependency on total parenteral nutrition, and use of narcotic analgesics. There are a number of interventions for oral mucositis that may partially control symptoms, but none is considered a criterion standard treatment. When uncomplicated by infection, oral mucositis is self-limited and usually heals within 2 to 4 weeks after cessation of cytotoxic chemotherapy.

One intervention proposed is the use of ProThelial™. ProThelial is polymerized sucralfate malate paste that forms a protective layer over the oral mucosa by adhering to the mucosal surface to protect against further irritation and relieve pain. The paste may be used in the management of mouth lesions of all types, including stomatitis and mucositis. Though ProThelial contains sucralfate, it has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and is classified as a medical device. The device uses sucralfate as the active component to achieve the clinical effect and requires the facilitated polymerization of sucralfate in order for the devices to function. It requires direct application, transient contact with the patient and multiple administrations for use.

### POSITION STATEMENT:

ProThelial™ is considered **experimental or investigational** for all indications, including as an adjunct to standard oral care for the treatment of oral mucositis. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

## BILLING/CODING INFORMATION:

There is no specific HCPCS code to report ProThelial. It may be billed using code J3490.

## REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION:

Refer to section entitled [POSITION STATEMENT](#).

## PROGRAM EXCEPTIONS:

**Federal Employee Program (FEP):** Follow FEP guidelines.

**State Account Organization (SAO):** Follow SAO guidelines.

**Medicare Advantage products:** No National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) was found at the time of the last guideline reviewed date.

If this Medical Coverage Guideline contains a step therapy requirement, in compliance with Florida law 627.42393, members or providers may request a step therapy protocol exemption to this requirement if based on medical necessity. The process for requesting a protocol exemption can be found at [Coverage Protocol Exemption Request](#).

## DEFINITIONS:

No guideline specific definitions apply.

## RELATED GUIDELINES:

None applicable.

## OTHER:

None applicable

## REFERENCES:

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2. Bensinger W, Schuber M, et al, NCCN Task Force Report: Prevention and Management of Mucositis in Cancer Care; *J Natl Compr Canc Netw*. 2008 Jan;6 Suppl 1:S1-21; quiz S22-4; accessed at [nccn.org](#).
3. Elad S, Cheng KKF, et al. MASCC/ISOO clinical practice guidelines for the management of mucositis secondary to cancer therapy. *Cancer*.2020 Oct 1;126(19):4423-4431.
4. Foote M, The Importance of Planned Dose of Chemotherapy on Time: Do We Need to Change Our Clinical Practice? *Oncologist*. 1998;3(5):365-368.
5. Glasziou P, Chalmers I, et al, When are randomised trials unnecessary? Picking signal from noise. *BMJ*. 2007 Feb 17;334(7589):349-51.

6. McCullough RW. A 66 Patient Multi-Institution Phase IV Post-Authorization Surveillance of ProThelial™ (High Potency Polymerized Cross-linked Sucralfate) -Single Agent Efficacy for the Prevention and Rapid Reversal of Chemo-radiation Induced Oral, Esophageal and Intestinal Mucositis; British Journal of Medicine and Medical Research, vol. 10, issue 2, pp. 1-17, 2015.
7. McCullough RW. Evidence-based statistics on complete prevention and rapid sustained elimination of chemoradiation mucositis by high-potency polymerized cross-linked sucralfate. J Oncol Nurs Nav Surv 2018;9:54-72.
8. McCullough RW. New category of evidence should permit the multinational association of support in cancer care (MASCC) to review polymerized cross-linked sucralfate paste (ProThelial™) for mucositis guidelines; Oncology Discovery 2014, accessed at hoajonline.com/journals.
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10. McCullough RW. Practice insights on patient care-management overview for chemoradiation toxic mucositis-guidelines, guideline-supported therapies and high potency polymerized cross-linked sucralfate (ProThelial). J Oncol Pharm Pract. 2019 Mar;25(2):409-422. Epub 2018 Feb 20. PMID: 29460703.
11. ProThelial™ Polymerized Sucralfate Malate Paste, accessed at prothelial.com.
12. Russo G, Haddad R, et al, Radiation Treatment Breaks and Ulcerative Mucositis in Head and Neck Cancer, Oncologist. 2008 Aug;13(8):886-98.
13. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 501(k) Summary. ProThelial & Orafate Sucralfate Malate Paste, K123904, 08/07/13; accessed at fda.gov.

**COMMITTEE APPROVAL:**

This Medical Coverage Guideline (MCG) was approved by the Florida Blue Medical Policy and Coverage Committee on 01/22/26.

**GUIDELINE UPDATE INFORMATION:**

05/15/17	New Medical Coverage Guideline.
03/15/18	Annual review; investigational position maintained and references updated.
03/15/19	Annual review; position statement maintained and references updated.
03/15/20	Annual review; investigational position statement maintained and references updated.
03/15/21	Annual review; position statement maintained and references updated.
02/15/22	Annual review: position statement maintained; references updated.
01/01/24	Position statements maintained.
04/15/24	Review: position statement maintained; references updated.
02/15/26	Position statements maintained.