LifeTrac®

Cellular Therapies Trac

Overview

For over 30 years, LifeTrac® has been a trusted resource to the healthcare benefits industry. By leveraging our clinical expertise and provider relationships, LifeTrac offers benefits payers solutions for managing the risk of high-dollar, low-frequency, complex medical conditions and treatments. Our Cellular Therapy Trac provides access to top facilities for cutting-edge treatment, such as chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) cellular and gene therapy.

Cellular Therapies Trac

The significant changes in medical care over the years, including advances in medicines and technology, are contributing to longer lifespans and higher costs of healthcare. CAR-T therapies are just the beginning of the advancements in cellular therapy for patients who have failed other cancer treatments. We believe the changes in technology and the high-touch care that is required with these treatments introduce a new level of unpredictability in costs and outcomes.

Cellular Therapy and Gene Therapy – What's the Difference?

Cellular Therapy. While new cellular treatment drugs are making headlines, cellular therapy actually has been around for awhile. We've just known it as hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) or bone marrow or stem cell transplant. Cellular therapy is defined as a type of treatment in which living cells are infused or implanted into the patient to cause a specific reaction (usually an immune reaction against a cancer or infection).

For example, CAR-T cellular therapy is being used to treat adults with relapsed or refractory (R/R) diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) and patients less than 25 years old with R/R acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

Gene Therapy. Slightly different is gene therapy which uses genetic material to alter the DNA of a body's cells to treat a disease. The gene must be inserted into a patient's cells for it to be effective. Usually a virus is used to carry a gene or DNA strand into the target cells. These genes can then replace a defective gene or treat a genetic disorder caused by a mutation.

For example, gene therapy is used to introduce the gene for hemoglobin A to treat sickle cell disease in which the defective gene for hemoglobin deforms ("sickle") and does not carry oxygen.

More Complex Cases Increase the Need for Proper Program Selection

While the clinical environment is ever-changing, one thing that hasn't changed is our passion for serving the needs of clients and your members with integrity and excellence. LifeTrac is committed to getting you the information you need, when you need it, so you can select the most appropriate programs for your members.

LifeTrac can help you navigate the uncharted waters as new therapies and treatments become available.

CAR-T Therapy

At this time there are two approved drugs on the market: Kymriah (tisagenlecleucel: Novartis; invoice price of $475,000 for R/R ALL and $373,000 for R/R DLBCL Adult) and Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel or axi-cel: Gilead/Kite; invoice price of $373,000). In addition to the invoice price, the nondrug costs can exceed $80,000.

The number of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved treatment facilities for Kymriah and Yescarta is expanding rapidly. LifeTrac has contract rates already in place with many treatment centers and can negotiate rates at the other treatment centers on a case-by-case basis to help you manage these high-cost drugs.

Advancements in Cellular Therapy

CAR-T therapy is just the beginning of innovation in cellular therapy that LifeTrac is tracking to help you assess and manage treatment options. Research into additional tumor antigen receptors and cell types has made significant progress. (See bar at right.)

These lines of research are providing the clinician with multiple and more specific targets against cancer cells, and providing hope for the patients and families affected with cancer. Trials underway will explore the use of: cellular therapy earlier in the course of disease, multiple targets, combining cellular therapy with current treatment options, and enhanced genetic modifications for cells to attack cancer.

The LifeTrac Difference

Cellular therapy requires a highly individualized regimen. LifeTrac is able to help you assess your members' specific needs and work with the treatment center for your members' care.

Expert Support

The LifeTrac staff has the expertise to provide clinical and referral support to guide you through the process. From choosing a treatment facility to assisting with member services, LifeTrac can make difficult easier. We've done the research and developed resource tools including webinars and our CAR-T Therapy Treatment Centers and LifeTrac Program Guide, which are available on our website, www.LifeTracNetwork.com.

Let LifeTrac make difficult easier.

Contact LifeTrac today to learn how to access this Trac.
(800) 968-8722

Examples of Cellular Therapies

CAR-T. The key cell type for the chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) approach with the two FDA-approved therapies has been the T cell, which targets the CD-19 receptor.

Multiple Receptors. Currently, multiple trials are underway to evaluate dual receptor therapies. This CAR approach may result in shorter turn-around time, faster treatment initiation, less cost, and multiple targets against cancer cells.

Natural Killer Cells. This CAR therapy uses another cell type: natural killer (NK) cells of the immune system. These cells differ from the T cells in that they do not need to be activated against a specific antigen.

B-Cell Maturation Antigen (BCMA) Receptor. Multiple clinical trials are targeting the BCMA receptor on the plasma cell as a way to treat multiple myeloma.

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