

# WINSHIP CANCER INSTITUTE OF EMORY UNIVERSITY

Hematology-Oncology — Lymphoma  
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February 05, 2026

Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Federal Employee Program  
Prior Authorization Department  
Medical Review Unit

## RE: Letter of Medical Necessity

Patient Name:	Marcus Bell
Date of Birth:	1978-08-23
Member ID:	FEP678123945
Group Number:	FEP-STANDARD-2025
Medication Requested:	Lisocabtagene maraleucel (Breyanzi)
Diagnosis:	Mantle cell lymphoma, unspecified site (C83.10)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of my patient, Marcus Bell, to document the medical necessity of Lisocabtagene maraleucel (Breyanzi) for the treatment of Mantle cell lymphoma, unspecified site. This letter provides clinical documentation supporting the need for this medication and demonstrates that my patient meets the coverage criteria for this therapy.

## CLINICAL HISTORY AND DIAGNOSIS

47-year-old African American male with relapsed/refractory mantle cell lymphoma diagnosed January 2023. Initially presented with generalized lymphadenopathy, splenomegaly, and GI involvement. First-line R-CHOP/R-DHAP followed by autologous stem cell transplant (ASCT) — achieved complete response lasting 13 months. Relapsed November 2024 with nodal and extranodal disease. Second-line ibrutinib (BTK inhibitor) for 8 months — initial partial response but then progressed with rising LDH and new splenic lesions. Third-line lenalidomide/rituximab x4 cycles with progressive disease. Now referred for CAR-T cell therapy. CD19 positivity confirmed on most recent biopsy.

## CURRENT DISEASE ACTIVITY

Most recent assessment (2026-01-28):

- Ann Arbor Stage: IVA
- Ecog Performance Status: 1
- Mipi Score: 6.2
- Mipi Risk Category: High
- Disease Status: relapsed\_refractory
- Lines Of Therapy Completed: 3
- Blastoid Variant: False

## PRIOR TREATMENT HISTORY

The patient has tried and/or completed the following therapies:

- R-CHOP / R-DHAP + ASCT** (2023-02-15 to 2023-09-30)

Outcome: Complete response after ASCT. Relapsed at 13 months (November 2024).

- Ibrutinib** (2024-12-01 to 2025-07-31)

Outcome: Initial partial response (40% nodal reduction). Progressed at 8 months with rising LDH and new splenic lesions. Meets definition of BTK inhibitor failure.

• **Lenalidomide + Rituximab (R2)** (2025-09-01 to 2026-01-15)

Outcome: Progressive disease on restaging PET/CT. New hepatic and peritoneal nodal disease.

**MEDICAL NECESSITY SUMMARY**

Based on the clinical evidence presented, Lisocabtagene maraleucel (Breyanzi) is medically necessary for Marcus Bell. The patient has a confirmed diagnosis of Mantle cell lymphoma, unspecified site (ICD-10: C83.10). Key criteria met: Mantle cell lymphoma confirmed (ICD-10 C83.10). CD19-positive on immunohistochemistry.; Patient is 47 years old ( $\geq 18$ ); Received ibrutinib (BTK inhibitor) for 8 months with initial response then progression. Meets MCL\_BTK\_REQ under 2025 policy.; 3 prior lines of systemic therapy (exceeds MCL\_2\_LINES requirement of 2+). I respectfully request approval of this prior authorization.

Please contact my office if you require any additional clinical information.

Sincerely,

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**Dr. Nadine Okafor, MD, PhD**

Hematology-Oncology — Lymphoma

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Date: 02/05/2026