

SAVANNAH INTERNAL MEDICINE ASSOCIATES

Internal Medicine

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February 01, 2026

Blue Cross Blue Shield

Federal Employee Program

Prior Authorization Department

Medical Review Unit

RE: Letter of Medical Necessity

Patient Name:	Margaret Thompson
Date of Birth:	1953-09-28
Member ID:	FEP234567891
Group Number:	FEP-RETIREE-2024
Medication Requested:	Palbociclib (Ibrance)
Diagnosis:	Malignant neoplasm of unspecified site of right female breast (C50.911)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of my patient, Margaret Thompson, to document the medical necessity of Palbociclib (Ibrance) for the treatment of Malignant neoplasm of unspecified site of right female breast. 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

72-year-old postmenopausal Caucasian female with HR+/HER2- metastatic breast cancer. Originally diagnosed June 2023 with Stage IIA right breast invasive lobular carcinoma, treated with lumpectomy and adjuvant radiation. Started adjuvant letrozole July 2023. Developed bone metastases (L2, L4, right femoral neck) detected on routine follow-up CT scan January 2025 — disease recurrence on adjuvant endocrine therapy. Continued letrozole with addition of denosumab for bone metastases. Progressed on letrozole by January 2026 with new L4 lesion and rising tumor markers. Oncologist at Memorial Health (via telehealth consultation) recommended switching to fulvestrant + palbociclib. However, patient's primary prescription is being written by her long-time internist Dr. Barnes, as she declined regular travel to the oncology center. Dr. Barnes consulted with the oncologist and is managing the prescription.

CURRENT DISEASE ACTIVITY

Most recent assessment (2026-01-15):

- Stage: IV (metastatic)
- Ecog Performance Status: 1
- Ecog Interpretation: Restricted in physically strenuous activity but ambulatory and able to carry out light work
- Metastatic Sites: ['Bone (lumbar spine L2, L4; right femoral neck)']
- Disease Status: progressive_on_endocrine_therapy

PRIOR TREATMENT HISTORY

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

- **Letrozole** (2023-07-15 to 2026-01-30)

Outcome: Initially used as adjuvant therapy. Continued for metastatic bone disease discovered January 2025. Progressive disease by January 2026 with new bone lesions and rising CA 15-3.

MEDICAL NECESSITY SUMMARY

Based on the clinical evidence presented, Palbociclib (Ibrance) is medically necessary for Margaret Thompson. The patient has a confirmed diagnosis of Malignant neoplasm of unspecified site of right female breast (ICD-10: C50.911). Key criteria met: Advanced/metastatic breast cancer — Stage IV with bone metastases, progressing on endocrine therapy; ER 90%, PR 60% — strongly HR-positive; HER2 IHC 0 — HER2-negative; Patient is 72 years old (≥ 18). I respectfully request approval of this prior authorization.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. William Barnes, MD, FACP

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Date: 02/01/2026