

# Quick Reference Guide to High-Cost Medications and Therapies

July 2024

## Working to Help Contain Costs Through Awareness

Awareness is essential to smart claims management. With new high-cost drugs and therapies entering the market regularly, it's important to know which are influencing claim costs most significantly when talking with self-funded clients, their plan administrators, and the stop loss carrier protecting their plans. Being on the same page helps to optimize results.

In this document, we share what HM Insurance Group (HM) views as having a noteworthy influence on catastrophic claim costs, as well as what we anticipate will make an impact in the future.

When costs are presented, keep in mind that medications and therapies are always patient-specific, particularly in terms of dosing levels that relate to size and weight. This means actual costs can vary. In addition, many drugs are FDA-approved for more than one disease state, requiring different regimens, strengths, and lengths of therapy based on diagnosis — all of which affect costs.

What follows is a cross-sectional view of some of the more frequently seen, highest cost medications identified, including gene therapies, in 2023 and 2024 as well as those in the pipeline.

**Cost assumptions:** Costs listed within this document are for the medications or therapies only. They are general and point-in-time. They reflect a dose for an "average" patient and do not take into consideration dosing variances based on a patient's size or weight. They also do not reflect any treatment expansions that may have been approved following this publication or the costs related to that expanded use. Costs shown are to be viewed as a basic guide.

## Approved Gene Therapies >\$2 Million Per Treatment\*

(All listed gene therapies are once-in-a-lifetime treatments.)

Drug/Therapy	Disease	Cost
Beqvez™	Hemophilia B	\$3,500,000
Casgevy™	Sickle Cell Disease, Beta Thalassemia	\$2,200,000
Elevidys®	Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	\$3,200,000
Hemgenix®	Hemophilia B	\$3,500,000
Lenmeldy™	Metachromatic Leukodystrophy	\$4,250,000
Lyfgenia™	Sickle Cell Disease	\$3,100,000
Rethymic™	Congenital Athymia	\$2,800,000
Roctavian®	Hemophilia A	\$2,900,000
Skysona®	Cerebral Adrenoleukodystrophy	\$3,000,000
Zolgensma®	Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)	\$2,125,000
Zynteglo®	Beta Thalassemia	\$2,800,000

Continued ...

**Medications Exceeding \$1 Million Per Plan Year in Adults\***

(Based on average adult. Not every medication may be used on an ongoing basis every time.)

Drug/Therapy	Disease	Cost
Aldurazyme®	Hurler Disease (MPS Type I)	\$1,000,000
Amondys 45®	Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	\$2,000,000+
Carbaglu®	N-acetylglutamate Synthase Enzyme Deficiency	\$3,500,000+
Danyelza®	Neuroblastoma	\$2,000,000 – \$3,000,000
Elaprase®	Hunter Syndrome (MPS Type II)	\$1,375,000
Elzonris®	Blastic Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Neoplasm	\$2,800,000+
Exondys 51®	Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	\$2,500,000
Foloty®	Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma	\$1,350,000
Gamifant®	Primary Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis	\$650,000+/week
Hemlibra®	Hemophilia A	\$1,000,000+
Kanuma®	Lysosomal Acid Lipase Deficiency	\$1,275,000+
Kimmtrak®	Uveal Melanoma	\$1,200,000
Korlym®	Cushing Syndrome	\$1,100,000
Lamzede®	Alpha-Mannosidosis	\$2,000,000+
Luxturna®	Inherited Retinal Dystrophy	\$1,020,000
Myalept®	Leptin Deficiency	\$2,050,000
Procysbi®	Nephropathic Cystinosis	\$1,675,000
Ravicti®	Urea Cycle Disorders	\$1,650,000
Ryplazim®	Plasminogen Deficiency Type 1	\$2,400,000
Scemblix®	Chronic Myelogenous/Myeloid Leukemia	\$1,500,000+
Strensiq®	Hypophosphatasia	\$2,000,000
Veopoz™	CHAPLE Disease	\$1,800,000
Vyondys 53®	Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	\$2,300,000
Xenpozyme®	Niemann-Pick Disease	\$2,750,000+

**\$500,000 to \$1 Million Medications Per Plan Year in Adults\***

(Based on average adult. Not every medication may be used on an ongoing basis every time.)

Drug/Therapy	Disease	Cost
Abecma®	Multiple Myeloma (cancer)	\$500,000+ (once)
Adcetris®	Lymphomas (multiple)	\$38,000 – \$50,000/dose
Advate®	Hemophilia A	\$75,000+/month
Amtagvi®	Melanoma	\$620,000 (once)
Amvuttra®	Polyneuropathy of Amyloidosis	\$143,000/dose
BeneFix®	Hemophilia B	\$70,000/month
Breyanzi®	Large B-Cell Lymphoma (cancer)	\$500,000+ (once)
Brineura®	Batten Disease	\$75,000/month
Carvykti®	Multiple Myeloma (cancer)	\$500,000+ (once)
Cerezyme®	Gaucher Disease Type I	\$50,000/month
Crysvita®	X-Linked Hypophosphatemia	\$45,000/month
Evrysdi®	Spinal Muscular Atrophy	\$36,000/month
Fabrazyme®	Fabry Disease	\$55,000/month
Givlaari®	Porphyria	\$50,000/month
Kymriah®	Leukemia/Lymphoma (multiple)	\$500,000+ (once)
Nexviazyme®	Pompe Disease	\$800,000 – \$1,000,000
Padcev®	Urothelial Cancer	\$72,000/ treatment cycle
Ruconest®	Hereditary Angioedema	\$70,000 – \$140,000/month
Rylaze®	Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia/ Lymphoma	\$30,000 – \$50,000/dose
Soliris®	Multiple	\$70,000/month
Spinraza®	Spinal Muscular Atrophy	\$135,000 – \$150,000/dose
Takhzyro®	Hereditary Angioedema	\$60,000/month
Talvey®	Multiple Myeloma	\$55,000+/month
Targetin®	Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma	\$72,000/month
Tecartus®	Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia/ Mantle Cell Lymphoma	\$500,000+ (once)
Tecvayli®	Multiple Myeloma	\$50,000+/month
Tegsedi®	Polyneuropathy	\$50,000/month
Ultomiris®	Multiple	\$85,000/dose
Vyjuvek™	Epidermolysis Bullosa	\$631,000/year
Yervoy®	Multiple	\$40,000/dose

## Assessing Outcomes of Recent Developments

A number of groundbreaking therapies have recently hit the market, offering high hopes and high costs. While these do deliver new options for the management of life-threatening illnesses, they also come with extremely high price tags and additional potential risks for patients — both of which can significantly impact outcomes for self-funded employers. HM Insurance Group works to be a resource to our clients who want to gain more control of the costs associated with high-cost pharmaceutical therapies. See what we've learned.

### Gene Therapies: What to Consider

Gene therapies come with very high costs. Things that can be done to assist in managing them include:

- Anticipating and identifying the potential risk prior to drug/therapy availability.
- Working with HM to determine if possible risk may be reduced.
- Notifying HM upon receipt of precertification/prior authorization requests.
- Implementing cost containment strategies specific to what that manufacturer offers.
- Knowing the availability of value-based contracts or outcomes-based contracts.
- Understanding that not all gene therapies are “curative” or “one and done” and working to ensure the client’s plan document is reflective of such concepts.

## Pipeline Therapies to Watch in 2024/Early 2025

Drug/Therapy	Disease	Estimated Cost	When to Watch
PTC-AADC (eladocagene exuparvovec)	AADC Deficiency	\$3,000,000+ (once)	11/13/2024
RGX-121	Mucopolysaccharidosis II	\$3,000,000 (once)	First Half 2025
RP-L102	Fanconi Anemia	\$2,000,000 – \$3,000,000 (once)	First Half 2025
EB-101 (PZ-cel)	Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa	\$1,000,000 – \$2,000,000 (once)	First Half 2025
DTX-401	Von Gierke Disease	\$1,500,000 – \$2,500,000 (once)	First Half 2025

### About HM Insurance Group

HM Insurance Group (HM) works to protect businesses from the financial risk associated with health care costs. A recognized leader in Employer Stop Loss, the company delivers protection for a range of group sizes. HM also offers assumed Accident and Health reinsurance solutions and Provider Excess insurance through HM Specialty.

HM Life Insurance Company, HM Life Insurance Company of New York and Highmark Casualty Insurance Company are all rated “A” (Excellent) by AM Best Company.\*\* Through its insurance companies, HM Insurance Group holds insurance licenses in 50 states and the District of Columbia and maintains sales offices across the country.

For more information, please contact [HMParmacyServices@hmig.com](mailto:HMParmacyServices@hmig.com).

\*Drug costs are derived from HM Insurance Group client paid data and/or from information obtained through the Advanced Medical Strategies (AMS) PredictRx tool and IPD Analytics Therapy Cost tool, May–July 2024.

\*\*AM Best Company, September 2023

Stop Loss coverage is underwritten by HM Life Insurance Company, Pittsburgh, PA, in all states except New York, under policy form series HMP-SL (08/19) or HMP-SL (06/20) or similar. In New York, Stop Loss coverage is underwritten by HM Life Insurance Company of New York, New York, NY, under policy form series HMP-SL (06/20) or similar. In all states except New York, Provider Excess Insurance is underwritten by HM Life Insurance Company, Pittsburgh, PA, or Highmark Casualty Insurance Company, Pittsburgh, PA, under policy form series HM PEL 1105, HC PEL 1105, HMP PEL (09/20) or similar. In New York, Provider Excess Insurance is underwritten under policy form series HMNY PEL 1105 or similar. In all states except New York, Assumed Accident and Health Reinsurance is underwritten or reinsured by HM Life Insurance Company, Pittsburgh, PA, or Highmark Casualty Insurance Company, Pittsburgh, PA, under form HM1005-ELR or similar. In New York, Assumed Accident and Health Reinsurance is reinsured by HM Life Insurance Company of New York, New York, NY. The coverage or service requested may not be available in all states and is subject to individual state approval. Reinsurance agreements only reflect a form number when required by applicable state law.

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