

# Doxorubicin (Adriamycin generic) — HCPCS J9000

CARECOST ESTIMATE · BILLING CHEAT SHEET

Multiple generic mfrs (Pharmacia/Pfizer originator Adriamycin) 10/20/50/150/200 mg SDV (2 mg/mL) IV push 3–5 min OR short inf 10–30 min

Reviewed: May 21, 2026 ASP: Q2 2026

<b>HCPCS</b> <b>J9000</b> 10 mg = 1 unit	<b>AC DOSE (BREAST)</b> <b>60 mg/m<sup>2</sup></b> q21d · 102 mg @ 1.7 m <sup>2</sup> = 11 u	<b>MODIFIERS</b> <b>JZ / JW</b> BSA ⇒ frequent waste	<b>ADMIN CPT</b> <b>96409</b> IV push (or 96413 short inf)	<b>MEDICARE ASP+6%</b> <b>\$2.729</b> /10 mg · ~\$30/AC dose
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**J9000 ≠ Q2050:** Conventional doxorubicin (J9000, \$2.729/10 mg) is NOT the same drug as Doxil/Lipodox pegylated liposomal doxorubicin (Q2050, \$71.861/10 mg — ~26× more expensive). Different formulation, different toxicity, different label. Substitution = denial. Match J-code to NDC actually administered.

**BOXED WARNINGS (4):** (1) **Cumulative cardiomyopathy** — lifetime cap 450–550 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (peds ~300 mg/m<sup>2</sup>), baseline LVEF + serial monitoring required; (2) **Severe local tissue necrosis from extravasation** — true vesicant, trained admin + extravasation kit; (3) Severe myelosuppression; (4) Secondary AML / MDS.

## CODES & DISAMBIGUATION

HCPCS	J9000 — "Inj doxorubicin HCl 10 mg" (conventional NOS); 1 unit = <b>10 mg</b>
NOT	Q2050 = Doxil / Lipodox pegylated liposomal doxorubicin (different drug, ~26× ASP, different label, different toxicity)
REPRESENTATIVE NDCS	Hikma 0143-9278-01 (50 mg) · Teva 0703-5046-11 (50 mg) · Hospira/Pfizer 0409-9341-22 (50 mg) · Accord 16729-0238-05 (50 mg) · Fresenius Kabi 63323-0881-50 (50 mg)
VIALS	2 mg/mL: 10/20/50/150/200 mg single-dose vials
BENEFIT	Medical (provider buy-and-bill); J9000 NOC accepts any FDA-approved conventional doxorubicin NDC; 340B commonly eligible

**VESICANT EXTRAVASATION protocol:** STOP infusion immediately, aspirate residual via catheter, apply **cold** compresses (NOT heat for anthracyclines), elevate, page pharmacy for stat **dextrazoxane (Totect, J1190)** within 6 hr: 1,000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV × 2 then 500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (cap 2,000 mg/dose). ICD-10: T80.81XA + T45.1X5A. No home infusion — trained admin + on-site kit required.

**CUMULATIVE DOSE TRACKING:** Lifetime cap **450–550 mg/m<sup>2</sup>** across ALL anthracyclines (count prior Doxil, daunorubicin, idarubicin, mitoxantrone → doxorubicin equivalents). CHF risk: 5% at 450, 26% at 550, 48% at 700. **Peds cap ~300 mg/m<sup>2</sup>**. Document running total in chart from Cycle 1; baseline LVEF (echo/MUGA) + serial monitoring required.

## DOSING MATRIX BY REGIMEN

REGIMEN	DOSE	SCHEDULE
AC (breast)	60 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	q21d × 4
R-CHOP (DLBCL)	50 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	q21d × 6–8
ABVD (Hodgkin)	25 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	Days 1+15 q28d
BEACOPP esc	35 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	q21d
7+3 (AML)	30–45 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	Days 1–3 induction
DD-4A (Wilms peds)	45 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	per cycle
Single-agent palliative	60–75 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	q21d

**Hepatic dose-adjust:** bili 1.2–3.0 → 50%; 3.1–5.0 → 25%; >5.0 → hold.

## ICD-10 BY REGIMEN

CODE	FOR
C50.x	Breast (AC, AC-T) — laterality + quadrant
C83.3x	DLBCL (R-CHOP, R-EPOCH)
C81.x	Hodgkin (ABVD, BEACOPP)
C92.0x	AML (7+3 induction)
C49.x	Soft-tissue sarcoma
C40.x / C41.x	Bone sarcoma (osteosarcoma, Ewing)
C64.x	Wilms tumor (peds)
C91.0x	ALL (peds)
C16.x	Gastric
C34.x	Small-cell lung
C67.x	Bladder (TCC)
C56.x	Ovarian
T80.81XA + T45.1X5A	Extravasation event (Totect billing)

## J9000 VS Q2050 QUICK COMPARISON

	J9000 (CONVENTIONAL)	Q2050 (LIPOSOMAL)
ASP+6% / 10 mg	<b>\$2.729</b>	\$71.861
Cost ratio	<b>Q2050 ~26× more expensive</b>	
Admin	IV push or short inf	IV ~60 min
HFS	<5%	~50%
Alopecia	Universal	Less common
Vesicant	Yes (classic)	Irritant (less severe)
Cumulative cap	450–550 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	550 mg/m <sup>2</sup>

## ADMIN CODES & MODIFIERS

CODE	WHEN
96409	<b>Chemo IV push</b> (3–5 min) — primary if pushed
96411	+each addl push same day (combo)
96413	Chemo IV infusion ≤1 hr — if given as short infusion (10–30 min)
96417	+each addl sequential infusion (R-CHOP, ABVD combos)
96365	<b>NOT appropriate</b> — cytotoxic chemo, not therapeutic IV

**JZ + JW:** BSA-based dosing ⇒ partial-vial waste is the norm. Bill JZ on units administered + JW on units wasted on a separate line. One must appear on every J9000 claim (CMS 7/1/23).

## TOP DENIALS

- **J9000 vs Q2050 mismatch** — verify NDC matches formulation
- **JW missing** on BSA waste line
- **Cumulative dose docs absent** at late-line use
- **Baseline LVEF missing** — required by UHC/Aetna/BCBS
- **Wrong CPT (96365)** instead of 96409 (push) or 96413 (infusion)
- **Regimen/ICD-10 mismatch** — R-CHOP coded against non-DLBCL ICD
- **Home infusion attempt** — vesicant, no payer reimburses

## MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT (Q2 2026)

FIELD	VALUE
ASP + 6%	<b>\$2.729 / 10 mg unit</b> (effective 4/1 – 6/30/2026)
AC 102 mg (1.7 m <sup>2</sup> @ 60 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , 11 units)	<b>~\$30.02</b>
R-CHOP 85 mg (1.7 m <sup>2</sup> @ 50 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , 9 units)	~\$24.56
ABVD 43 mg (1.7 m <sup>2</sup> @ 25 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , 5 units)	~\$13.65 per dose
Annualized AC (4 cycles)	~\$120 drug
vs Q2050 Doxil	\$71.861/10 mg (~26× higher)

## PATIENT ASSISTANCE — FOUNDATIONS

- **CancerCare Co-Pay:** 1-866-552-6729 / [cancercares.org/copayfoundation](http://cancercares.org/copayfoundation)
- **PAN Foundation:** 1-866-316-7263 / [panfoundation.org](http://panfoundation.org) — DLBCL, breast, MM, ovarian, sarcoma funds
- **HealthWell:** 1-800-675-8416 / [healthwellfoundation.org](http://healthwellfoundation.org)
- **LLS (blood cancers):** 1-877-557-2672 / [lls.org/finances](http://lls.org/finances)
- **PAF Co-Pay Relief:** 1-866-512-3861 / [copays.org](http://copays.org)
- **Manufacturer PAPs:** Pfizer / Hikma / Sun Pharma PAPs for uninsured / underinsured
- **340B:** commonly eligible (apply JG/TB per MAC)

Sources: FDA DailyMed labels (multi-labeled doxorubicin HCl), CMS ASP Q2 2026 (J9000 + Q2050), NCCN Breast / B-Cell Lymphoma / Hodgkin / AML / Sarcoma / Pediatric guidelines, Totect (J1190) FDA label, SEER CanMED J9000, UHC + Aetna oncology policies, CancerCare/PAN/HealthWell/LLS/PAF foundations.

[carecostestimate.com/drugs/doxorubicin](https://carecostestimate.com/drugs/doxorubicin)