

# Opdualag (nivolumab + relatlimab-rmbw) — HCPCS J9298

CARECOST ESTIMATE · BILLING CHEAT SHEET

Bristol Myers Squibb 240 mg nivo + 80 mg rela / 20 mL single-dose vial IV 30 min · no premed · q4w fixed flat **Reviewed:** May 22, 2026

ASP: Q2 2026

**NOT J9299 (Opdivo) · NOT J9289 (Opdivo Qvantig).** Same nivolumab base, three distinct J-codes. Opdualag bills as J9298 only — 1 unit = 3 mg nivo + 1 mg rela combo. Billing as J9299 is the #1 denial driver on this drug.

<b>HCPCS</b> <b>J9298</b> 1 unit = 3 mg nivo + 1 mg rela	<b>STANDARD DOSE</b> <b>160 units</b> 480/160 mg q4w flat	<b>MODIFIER</b> <b>JZ</b> Required (2 vials, zero waste)	<b>ADMIN CPT</b> <b>96413</b> Chemo IV (30-min infusion)	<b>MEDICARE ASP+6%</b> <b>\$201.755</b> /unit Q2 2026 · \$32,280.80/dose
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## CODES & NDC

HCPCS	J9298 — "Inj nivolumab 3 mg and relatlimab 1 mg" (permanent 4/1/23)
GENERIC	nivolumab + relatlimab-rmbw (fixed-dose combination)
NDC	00003-3901-11 — 240 mg nivo + 80 mg rela / 20 mL SDV, 1 vial/carton; N4 qualifier, ML 40 (2 vials)
VIAL	20 mL SDV @ 12 mg/mL nivo + 4 mg/mL rela; dilute in NaCl 0.9% or D5W to 1.5–3 mg/mL nivo
MECHANISM	<b>PD-1 + LAG-3 dual blockade</b> (first-in-class LAG-3 inhibitor)
INDICATION	Unresectable / metastatic melanoma, adult + pediatric ≥12, <b>1L</b>
FDA APPROVAL	March 18, 2022 (BLA 761234)

## ICD-10 — MELANOMA (MUST DOCUMENT UNRESECTABLE/METASTATIC)

CODE	FOR
C43.0	Melanoma of lip
C43.10–C43.12	Eyelid (unsp / R / L)
C43.20–C43.22	Ear (unsp / R / L)
C43.30–C43.39	Face (nose .31; other .39)
C43.4	Scalp and neck
C43.51–C43.59	Trunk (anal skin .51; breast .52; other .59)
C43.61–C43.62	Upper limb + shoulder (R/L)
C43.71–C43.72	Lower limb + hip (R/L)
C43.8 / C43.9	Overlap / unspecified site
C77.x	Secondary — lymph nodes (paired)
C78.x	Mets — lung, liver, GI (paired)
C79.x	Mets — bone, brain, adrenal (paired)

**"Unresectable" must appear** in op note / oncology consult. Resected stage III adjuvant melanoma is NOT an Opdualag indication.

## DISAMBIGUATION — PICK THE RIGHT NIVOLUMAB J-CODE

	OPDUALAG	OPDIVO IV	OPDIVO QVANTIG
HCPCS	<b>J9298</b>	J9299	J9289
Unit	3 mg nivo + 1 mg rela	1 mg nivo	2 mg nivo
Drug	nivo + relatlimab	nivo mono	nivo + hyaluronidase
Route	IV 30 min	IV 30 min	SC 1–2 min
Approved scope	1L melanoma only	15+ indications	Most Opdivo solid-tumor

## UNIT MATH — STANDARD 480/160 MG Q4W DOSE

- Dose: 480 mg nivolumab + 160 mg relatlimab fixed flat (adult & ped  $\geq 12$ )
- Combo units:  $480 \div 3 = 160$  units (verify:  $160 \times 3 = 480$  mg rela ✓)
- Vials drawn:  $2 \times (240/80 \text{ mg} / 20 \text{ mL}) \rightarrow$  **zero waste**
- Bill one drug line: J9298 · **160 units** · JZ
- NDC 24A shaded: N4 00003390111 ML 40 (40 mL total = 2 vials)
- Annualized: 13 doses  $\times$  \$32,280.80  $\approx$  **\$419,650/yr** (ASP+6%, pre-sequestration)

**Schedule:** q4w only. q2w / q3w not FDA-approved — off-schedule claims deny.

## ADMINISTRATION & MODIFIERS

CODE	WHEN
96413	Chemo IV, up to 1 hr (primary) — 30-min infusion fits
96415	Each addl hour — only if documented >60 min
96417	<b>N/A</b> — Opdualag is one preformulated combo, no sequential drug
96365	<b>NOT appropriate</b> — chemo admin codes apply

**JZ = default.** Two-vial fixed dose = zero waste on every standard dose. JW only for the rare documented dose reduction. One of JZ/JW required since 7/1/2023.

## OPDUALAG VS Y-NIVO (OPDIVO + YERVOY)

	OPDUALAG	OPDIVO + YERVOY
HCPCS	J9298 (one combo)	J9299 + J9228 (two lines)
Grade 3–4 trAE	~21%	~55%
Schedule	q4w fixed flat	q3w $\times$ 4 $\rightarrow$ q2w/q4w nivo maint.
Patient fit	Older, comorbid, lower irAE tolerance	Younger, fit, durable OS goal
NCCN 1L melanoma	Category 1	Category 1

## TOP DENIALS & FIXES

DENIAL	FIX
<b>Billed as J9299 (Opdivo)</b>	Rebill as J9298 / 160 units / JZ / NDC 00003-3901-11
Prior PD-1 exposure (1L only)	Verify treatment history; peer-to-peer with progression docs if switching
Stage not unresectable / metastatic	Submit oncology note explicitly stating "unresectable"; add C77–C79 codes
JZ missing	Add JZ; required on SDV claims since 7/1/2023
Off-schedule (q2w / q3w)	Correct to q4w — only approved interval
Dual-billed nivo + rela separately	Rebill as single J9298 line; combo is the product
LAG-3 testing requested by UM	Cite FDA label — no biomarker required
Wrong NDC format / segmentation	Use 11-digit 00003-3901-11 ; N4 qualifier; ML 40 for 2 vials
Pediatric <12 yr	Not approved below age 12; refer for alternate regimen

## PAYER SNAPSHOT (MAY 2026)

PAYER	PA	KEY CRITERIA
UnitedHealthcare	Yes	Unresectable/met; treatment-naive; ECOG 0–2; no prior PD-1/L1/CTLA-4 for advanced
Aetna (CPB 0892)	Yes	FDA label-aligned; no biomarker; 1L only; ped $\geq 12$
BCBS plans	Yes	NCCN Melanoma 1L aligned
Medicare MAC	Generally no PA	On-label use + ICD-10 + LCD medical necessity

**No biomarker gate.** Unlike most Opdivo monotherapy indications, Opdualag has no companion diagnostic and no PD-L1/MSI-H/TMB requirement.

## MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT (Q2 2026)

FIELD	VALUE
ASP + 6%	<b>\$201.755 / combo unit</b> (eff. 4/1 – 6/30/2026)
Standard 480/160 mg dose	<b>\$32,280.80</b> (160 units $\times$ ASP+6%)
Annualized (13 doses q4w)	<b>\$419,650.40</b> pre-sequestration
After ~2% sequestration	~\$411,300/yr actual paid
Combo premium vs Opdivo 480 mg q4w	~\$16k/dose, ~\$210k/yr

## SITE OF CARE

SETTING	POS	NOTES
Physician oncology office	11	<b>Preferred</b>
Ambulatory infusion suite	49	<b>Preferred</b>
Oncology ASC	24	Acceptable
Hospital outpatient	19 / 22	Disfavored after first 3 months (Aetna CPB 0892)

**Chair-time advantage:** 30-min infusion + q4w + no premed ≈ 60 min total chair time vs ~180 min for Opdivo+Yervoy.

## PATIENT ASSISTANCE — BMS ACCESS SUPPORT

- **Phone:** 1-800-861-0048 (BMS Access Support — same program serves Opdivo + Yervoy)
- **Opdualag Co-Pay:** commercial pts may pay as little as \$0/dose (excludes Medicare / Medicaid / federal)
- **BMS Patient Assistance Foundation:** free product for uninsured / underinsured
- **Foundations (Medicare):** PAN, HealthWell, CancerCare — verify open melanoma funds quarterly
- **Web:** [bmsaccesssupport.com/opdualag](https://bmsaccesssupport.com/opdualag)

Sources: FDA label BLA 761234 (Mar 2022), DailyMed, RELATIVITY-047 (NEJM 2022), BMS Access Support 2026, CMS ASP Q2 2026, CMS HCPCS J9298 (eff 4/1/23), NCCN Melanoma, UHC oncology medication policy, Aetna CPB 0892, SEER CanMED J9298. [carecostestimate.com/drugs/opdualag](https://carecostestimate.com/drugs/opdualag)