



# SAMPLE Letter of Appeal

This is intended as a TEMPLATE Letter of Appeal

<Date>

<Contact name of Appeals Department Pharmacy Director or other payer representative>

<Contact title>

<Name of health insurance company>

<Address>

Dear <Contact name>,

I am writing on behalf of my patient, <Patient name>, to request an appeal of the claim denial for the administration of EMRELIS™ (telisotuzumab vedotin-tllv) for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic, non-squamous non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with high c-Met protein overexpression [≥50% of tumor cells with strong (3+) staining], as determined by an FDA-approved test, who have received a prior systemic therapy. This indication is approved under accelerated approval based on overall response rate (ORR) and duration of response (DOR). Continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in a confirmatory trial(s). <Payer name> has indicated the reason for denial, as outlined in the Explanation of Benefits, was <Reasons for denial from Explanation of Benefits>.

As you may be aware, EMRELIS was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration on <Date> and is intended to be used as a treatment for <describe intended use>.<sup>1</sup> My patient, <Patient name>, has received a diagnosis of <patient diagnosis> by an FDA-approved diagnostic (see medical history below and attached).

Please see Indication and Important Safety Information on the following pages.

Please see full [Prescribing Information](https://www.rxabbvie.com/pdf/emrelis_pi.pdf) at [https://www.rxabbvie.com/pdf/emrelis\\_pi.pdf](https://www.rxabbvie.com/pdf/emrelis_pi.pdf)

<Patient name> is <a/an age>-year-old diagnosed with <patient diagnosis> (on <Month Day, Year>). <Patient name> has been in my care since <Month Day, Year>, and in my clinical judgment, requires treatment with EMRELIS™. <Discuss clinical history and treatment plan, including information such as patient's condition, treatment history, recommended treatment course, rationale for using product, and potential impact if they don't receive this therapy>.

Based on the information provided within this letter, EMRELIS is indicated and medically necessary for the treatment of this patient. Therefore, I respectfully request that <Payer name> cover EMRELIS when prescribed for <Patient name>.

Please refer to the enclosed supporting documents for further details, and please don't hesitate to contact me at <Telephone number> if you have any further questions regarding this request.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

<Doctor's name>, <MD>

cc: <Patient name>

<Optional enclosures: FDA Approval Letter, EMRELIS Prescribing Information, and medical records.>

## INDICATION

EMRELIS is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic, non-squamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with high c-Met protein overexpression [≥50% of tumor cells with strong (3+) staining], as determined by an FDA-approved test, who have received a prior systemic therapy.

This indication is approved under accelerated approval based on overall response rate (ORR) and duration of response (DOR). Continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in a confirmatory trial(s).

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### Peripheral Neuropathy

EMRELIS can cause peripheral neuropathy, including peripheral sensory neuropathy and peripheral motor neuropathy. In the safety population, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 51% of patients treated with EMRELIS, including Grade 3 in 11%. These adverse reactions included peripheral sensory neuropathy in 45% of patients and peripheral motor neuropathy in 9%. The median time to onset of peripheral neuropathy was 105 days (range: 1 to 472 days). Peripheral neuropathy led to permanent discontinuation of EMRELIS in 13% of patients. The median time to onset of peripheral neuropathy leading to treatment discontinuation was 249 days (range: 57 to 519 days). Of the 7 patients with motor neuropathy ongoing as of their last dose of EMRELIS, 6 had persistent Grade 1 or 2 symptoms 30 days after their last dose.

Monitor patients for signs and symptoms of new or worsening peripheral neuropathy such as hypoesthesia, hyperesthesia, paresthesia, a burning sensation, neuropathic pain, or muscle weakness. Withhold, reduce the dose, or permanently discontinue EMRELIS based on severity.

### Interstitial Lung Disease/Pneumonitis

EMRELIS can cause severe, life-threatening, or fatal interstitial lung disease (ILD)/pneumonitis. In the safety population, ILD/pneumonitis occurred in 10% of patients treated with EMRELIS, including Grade 3 in 3% and Grade 4 in 0.6%. There were 3 fatal cases of ILD/pneumonitis in patients who received EMRELIS. The median time to onset of ILD/pneumonitis was 48 days (range: 23 to 85 days). ILD/pneumonitis led to permanent discontinuation of EMRELIS in 7% of patients. The median time to onset of ILD/pneumonitis leading to treatment discontinuation was 46 days (range: 23 to 85 days).

**Please see additional Important Safety Information on the following page.**

**Please see full [Prescribing Information](https://www.rxabbvie.com/pdf/emrelis_pi.pdf) at [https://www.rxabbvie.com/pdf/emrelis\\_pi.pdf](https://www.rxabbvie.com/pdf/emrelis_pi.pdf)**

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (cont'd)

### Interstitial Lung Disease/Pneumonitis (cont'd)

Advise patients to immediately report cough, dyspnea, fever, and/or any new or worsening respiratory symptoms. Monitor patients for signs and symptoms of ILD/pneumonitis. Withhold or permanently discontinue EMRELIS based on severity.

### Ocular Surface Disorders

EMRELIS can cause ocular surface disorders, including blurred vision, visual impairment, keratitis, and dry eye. In the safety population, ocular surface disorders occurred in 25% of patients treated with EMRELIS. The most common ocular surface disorders were blurred vision (15%), keratitis (11%), and dry eye (5%). Grade 3 ocular surface disorders occurred in 1.2% of patients [blurred vision (1.2%), and keratitis (0.6%)]. The median time to onset of ocular surface disorders was 47 days (range: 1 to 319 days).

Monitor patients for ocular surface disorders during treatment with EMRELIS. Withhold EMRELIS and refer patients to an eye care professional for an ophthalmic examination and treatment for patients who develop Grade  $\geq 2$  ocular toxicity. Withhold or permanently discontinue EMRELIS based on severity.

### Infusion-Related Reactions

EMRELIS can cause infusion-related reactions (IRR); signs and symptoms of IRR include dyspnea, flushing, chills, nausea, chest discomfort, and hypotension. The median time to onset of IRR was 28 days (range: 1 to 43 days). In the safety population, IRR occurred in 3% of patients treated with EMRELIS, including Grade 3 in 1.2% and Grade 4 in 0.6%. IRR led to permanent discontinuation of EMRELIS in 0.6% of patients.

Monitor patients for signs and symptoms of infusion reactions during EMRELIS infusion. Withhold, reduce the rate of infusion, or permanently discontinue EMRELIS based on severity. For patients who experience IRR, administer premedications prior to subsequent infusions.

### Embryo-Fetal Toxicity

Based on the mechanism of action and findings in animals, EMRELIS can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. The small molecule component of EMRELIS, monomethyl auristatin E (MMAE), administered to rats caused adverse developmental outcomes, including embryo-fetal mortality and structural abnormalities, at exposures similar to those occurring clinically at the recommended dose.

Advise patients of the potential risk to a fetus. Advise females of reproductive potential to use effective contraception during treatment with EMRELIS and for 2 months after the last dose. Advise male patients with female partners of reproductive potential to use effective contraception during treatment with EMRELIS and for 4 months after the last dose.

### Adverse Reactions

Serious adverse reactions occurred in 35% of patients. The most common adverse reactions ( $\geq 20\%$ ) were peripheral neuropathy, fatigue, decreased appetite, and peripheral edema.

The most common Grade 3 or 4 laboratory abnormalities ( $\geq 2\%$ ) were decreased lymphocytes, increased glucose, increased alanine aminotransferase, increased gamma glutamyl transferase, decreased phosphorus, decreased sodium, decreased hemoglobin, and decreased calcium.

### Drug Interactions

**Strong CYP3A Inhibitors:** Concomitant use with EMRELIS may increase the area under the curve of MMAE. Monitor for increased risk of adverse reactions to EMRELIS.

### Use in Specific Populations

**Severe or Moderate Hepatic Impairment:** Avoid the use of EMRELIS.

**Lactation:** Advise lactating women not to breastfeed during treatment with EMRELIS and for 1 month after the last dose.

**Infertility:** Based on findings from animal studies, EMRELIS may impair fertility in females and males.

Please see full **Prescribing Information** at [https://www.rxabbvie.com/pdf/emrelis\\_pi.pdf](https://www.rxabbvie.com/pdf/emrelis_pi.pdf)

Reference: 1. EMRELIS [package insert]. AbbVie, Inc., 2025.