



Commercial PPO/HMO Medical Policy Updates

Customer Edition

December 31, 2023

Listed below are recent medical policy updates approved by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Medical Policy Updates

- **Artificial intervertebral disc for the lumbar spine may be covered if criteria are met.**
 - Effective September 1, 2023, the insertion of artificial intervertebral discs in the lumbar spine is established. It may be considered a useful therapeutic option when indicated.
- **Bioimpedance spectroscopy may be covered if criteria are met.**
 - Effective September 1, 2023, devices using bioimpedance (bioelectrical impedance spectroscopy) in the diagnosis, surveillance of cancer related extremity asymptomatic sub-clinical lymphedema is considered established when criteria are met.
- **Infuse™ recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein-2 covered for select indication.**
 - Effective September 1, 2023, the safety and effectiveness of the use of recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein-2 (Infuse™) have been established in skeletally mature patients.
- **New biomarkers for the early detection of prostate cancer are now covered, effective September 1, 2023.**
- **Radiofrequency ablation of the basivertebral nerve (Intrasept™) may be covered if criteria are met.**
 - Effective October 1, 2023, radiofrequency ablation of the basivertebral nerve is considered established. There is sufficient evidence to determine that radiofrequency ablation of the basivertebral nerve improves health outcomes.
- **COVID-19 vaccine codes are payable without cost share for groups subject to National Health Care Reform (NHCR).**
 - Effective September 11, 2023, COVID-19 virus vaccines are payable without cost share for groups subject to National Health Care Reform (NHCR).

- **Oncology management authorization requirement has been removed from Lumoxiti (moxetumomab pasudotox-tdfk).**
 - Effective September 30, 2023, the oncology management authorization requirement has been removed for the medical drug Lumoxiti (moxetumomab pasudotox-tdfk).
- **Add transitional care management services as payable for outpatient psychiatric care facilities.**
 - Effective January 1, 2024, outpatient psychiatric care (OPC) facilities are payable for transitional care management services. This will allow members to receive follow-up care after being released from the hospital for behavioral health.
- **Oncology management authorization requirement added for Zynyz (retifanlimab-dlwr).**
 - Effective December 10, 2023, the medical drug Zynyz (retifanlimab-dlwr) has been added to the Oncology Management program.
- **Inclusionary criteria for lung and lobar lung transplants updated.**
 - Effective November 1, 2023, the safety and effectiveness of lung and lobar lung re-transplantation have been established.
 - It may be considered a useful therapeutic option for carefully selected adults, children and adolescents following an initial failed lung or lobar lung transplantation, and who meet criteria for lung transplantation. It is a useful therapeutic option for individuals meeting selection guidelines.
- **Coverage for Percutaneous Implant Neuroelectrodes, peripheral nerve changing.**
 - Effective February 1, 2024, Blue Cross and Blue Care Network is changing Percutaneous Implant Neuroelectrodes (peripheral nerve) from a covered service to an experimental/non-covered service.
 - After undergoing several changes to nomenclature since its creation in 1993, the service now represents an experimental service.
- **Diagnosis of sleep disorders when unattended testing changed from experimental to payable.**
 - Effective January 1, 2024, unattended sleep studies at home will be changed from an experimental to a payable procedure.

Additional Updates

- **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccines made payable without cost share for some groups.**
 - Effective January 1, 2024, medical policy was expanded to allow RSV vaccine(s) to be payable without cost share for groups subject to National Health Care Reform (NHCR).
- **Kidney transplant program expanded to include prior authorization review.**
 - Effective January 1, 2024, the Specified Human Organ Transplant (SOTP) program will be expanded to include prior authorization review for kidney organ transplants.
 - This will apply for all BCBSM's fully insured PPO commercial members.

- **Surgical gender affirming services updated.**
 - Medical Affairs reviewed the multiple surgical procedures for gender affirming services. An updated list of payable surgical procedures can be found below.
 - Mastectomy for gynecomastia
 - Mastectomy, simple, complete
 - Reduction Mammoplasty
 - Nipple/areola reconstruction
 - Insertion of testicular prosthesis (separate procedure)
 - Intersex surgery; male to female
 - Intersex surgery; female to male

Additional information regarding each of the above-mentioned medical policy updates can be found by reviewing the full medical policy. All current Blue Cross and BCN medical policies are accessible via our **Medical Policy Router Search:** [Medical Policy and Pre-Cert/Pre-Auth Router \(bcbsm.com\)](https://bcbsm.com)

Questions? Reach out to your Blue Cross sales representative or general agent.

Please note that required updates to the claims processing system may not be completed until after the effective date of the Medical Policy change. In addition, please note that the updates included within this document are specific to *Medical* Policy changes and do not include changes made to Pharmacy policies.