



Subject: *Kidney Transplant*

Number: *200306-0003*

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Important note

Even though this policy may indicate that a particular service or supply is considered covered, this conclusion is not based upon the terms of your particular benefit plan. Each benefit plan contains its own specific provisions for coverage and exclusions. Not all benefits that are determined to be medically necessary will be covered benefits under the terms of your benefit plan. You need to consult the Evidence of Coverage to determine if there are any exclusions or other benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. If there is a discrepancy between this policy and your plan of benefits, the provisions of your benefits plan will govern. However, applicable state mandates will take precedence with respect to fully insured plans and self-funded non-ERISA (e.g., government, school boards, church) plans. Unless otherwise specifically excluded, Federal mandates will apply to all plans. With respect to Medicare and Medicaid members, this policy will apply unless Medicare and Medicaid policies extend coverage beyond this Medical Policy & Criteria Statement. Medicare and Medicaid policies will only apply to benefits paid for under Medicare or Medicaid rules, and not to any other health benefit plan benefits. CMS's Coverage Issues Manual can be found on the following website:

<http://cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pub06pdf/pub06pdf.asp>

Overview

A kidney transplant consists of replacing an end-stage diseased kidney with a healthy donor kidney. The three sources of donor kidneys are living related donors, living unrelated donors and cadaver donors.

Policy and criteria

NOTE: These services require prior authorization by the Plan Medical Director.

When services are covered:

We cover kidney transplant for end-stage renal disease, for patients with no contraindications, who have any of the following (this list is not all-inclusive):

- Anti-glomerular base-membrane disease* (Goodpasture's syndrome)
- Acute tubular necrosis
- Alport's Syndrome
- Amyloid disease
- Analgesic nephropathy with medullary necrosis
- Glomerulosclerosis, Chronic or Unspecified Focal
- Chronic nephrosclerosis
- Chronic pyelonephritis
- Cortical necrosis
- Cystinosis or Oxalosis
- Diabetes mellitus
- Fabry's disease
- Focal glomerulosclerosis*
- Glomerulonephritis
- Gout nephritis
- Heavy metal poisoning
- Hemolytic uremic syndrome
- Henoch-Schönlein purpura

- Horseshoe kidney or Renal aplasia or hypoplasia
- Hypertensive nephrosclerosis
- Hypoplasia/Dysplasia
- IGA nephropathy
- Lupus (SLE)
- Medullary cystic disease
- Membranous nephropathy
- Myeloma no remission; in remission
- Nephritis, including
 - antibiotic or
 - chemotherapy (related to cancer treatment) or
 - radiation induced
- Nephrocalcinosis
- Nephrolithiasis
- Obstructive nephropathy, acquired
- Obstructive uropathy
- Oxalate nephropathy*
- Polyarteritis
- Polycystic kidney disease
- Progressive Systemic Sclerosis
- Renal artery or vein occlusion
- Retransplant or graft failure
- Scleroderma
- Sickle cell anemia
- Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)
- Tuberous sclerosis
- Wegener's granulomatosis
- Wilms' tumor or Renal-cell carcinoma
- Trauma requiring nephrectomy (injury to kidney)

*See list of relative contraindications.

In addition, the member must have completed an evaluation and been accepted by the decision making entity at the kidney transplant center.

Covered services:

The following services related to medically necessary kidney transplants for end-stage renal disease are covered:

- Dental examination prior to the kidney transplant
- Harvesting the organ from the donor
- Transplantation of the kidney
- Medically necessary care by a nephrologist

Please refer to the **Transplant Policy** for additional information regarding covered and non-covered services.

When services are not covered:

Kidney transplant is **not covered** when the patient has any one of the **absolute contraindications** listed below:

- Active infection, including positive viral DNA for Hepatitis B
- Unsuccessfully treated malignancy
- HIV seropositivity

- Inability to comply with post-transplant regimen
- Ongoing alcohol or drug abuse
- Patients with active vasculitis
- Prohibitive risk due to
 - cardiac disease
 - pulmonary disease
 - hepatic disease, or
 - persistent coagulation disorder

Relative contraindications: patients undergoing transplants for the following should have a clear understanding of the risks of graft failure:

- focal glomerulosclerosis
- Type I membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis
- anti-glomerular basement membrane (anti-GBM) disease
- antinuclear cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA) disease
- Type I hyperoxaluria and oxalosis

Products to which this policy applies:

- ⊕ Commercial Plan (Direct, Select & PPO Plans)
- ⊕ The Independent Plan
- ⊕ Fallon Flex
- ⊕ Major Medical
- ⊘ Medicare Plan – refer to CMS for policy and criteria.

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