

MEDICAL POLICY UPDATE



December 2022



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Policy

Policy Title	Anticipated Issue Date	30 Day Notification Information
E-19 - Oxygen	11/21/2022	Criteria has been updated. Policy published on November 21, 2022, following short circulation.
E-34 - Respiratory Assist Devices	2/13/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. Administrative changes have been made. This policy will publish on February 13, 2023.
E-40 - Functional Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation	2/6/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. A quality level limit has been added for procedure code A4595. Administrative changes made. The policy is scheduled to publish on February 6, 2023.
E-7 - Pneumatic Compression Devices	2/13/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. Administrative changes have been made. This policy will publish on February 13, 2023.
G-24 - Obesity	3/27/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. Language regarding laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding has been changed. Comorbidity criteria has been updated. Conservative treatment section has been expanded. A statement regarding separate payment for liver biopsy, upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, and esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) has been added. This policy requires a 90-day notification and will publish on March 27, 2023.
I-120 - Programmed Death Receptor (PD-1)/ Programmed Death-Ligand (PD-L1) Blocking Antibodies	1/30/2023	This policy is being updated for new FDA labeled indications for Imfinzi. The policy will publish on January 30, 2023.

Policy Title	Anticipated Issue Date	30 Day Notification Information
I-124 - Azacitidine (Vidaza)	2/13/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. Policy is being updated with recently approved indication for Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukemia (JMML) and updated criteria for RA with ringed sideroblasts. NCCN criteria was updated with recommendation statement. Policy will publish February 13, 2023.
I-186 - Ibalizumab-uiyk (Trogarzo)	2/6/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. There is no change in coverage. Policy will publish February 6, 2023.
I-25 - Desensitization Treatment for Heart and Renal Tr	2/6/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. Policy is being updated with addition of rituximab biosimilar Riabni. Policy will publish February 6, 2023.
I-259 - Entranacogene dezaparvovec (EntranaDez)	1/2/2023	Coverage criteria was established for the newly FDA approved injection entranacogene dezaparvovec (Hemgenix), a gene therapy approved for the treatment of hemophilia B. Policy will publish on January 2, 2023.
I-260 - Imjudo (tremelimumab)	1/9/2023	This policy is being established for new to market drug. The policy will publish on January 9, 2023.
I-261 - Teplizumab-mzww (TZield)	1/2/2023	This policy is being established for new to market drug. The policy will publish on January 2, 2023.
I-262 - Teclistamab (TECVAYLI)	1/9/2023	This is a new policy established for new to market drug. This policy will publish on January 9, 2023.
I-263 - Mirvetuximab soravtansine-gynx (Elahere)	1/9/2023	Coverage criteria was established for Elahere, a new FDA approved chemotherapy. Policy will publish on January 9, 2023.
I-30 - Denosumab (Prolia®, Xgeva®)	2/6/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. Policy updates include replacing NCCN criteria with blanket statement. Policy will publish February 6, 2023.
I-98 - Bendamustine (Treanda®)	2/13/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. Policy language has been updated to include NCCN statement. Coding updates have also been made. Policy will publish February 13, 2023.
O-6 - Enteral Nutrition	1/30/2023	This is policy is an annual review. No changes will be made to coverage criteria. This policy will publish on January 30, 2023.
Q-4 - Private Duty Nursing	1/30/2023	This policy is an annual review. Recommended to maintain current coverage criteria. Policy will publish on January 30, 2023.
S-122 - Heart Transplantation	2/20/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. The policy will publish on February 20, 2023.
S-231 - Biometric Bone Void Filler	1/30/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. The denial statements have been updated. This policy is scheduled to publish on January 30, 2023.
S-241 - Fecal Microbiota Transplantation	2/6/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. Diagnosis code A04.72 was removed. Administrative changes were also made. The policy is scheduled to publish on February 6, 2023.
S-279 - Vertebral Body Tethering	1/30/2023	This is a new policy on vertebral tethering. It will publish on January 30, 2023.

Policy Title	Anticipated Issue Date	30 Day Notification Information
S-60 - Artificial Hearts and Ventricular Assist Devices	2/20/2023	This policy is scheduled to be archived. The policy will publish on February 20, 2023.
S-67 - Cochlear Implantation	1/30/2023	This policy is an annual review. It is recommended to maintain current coverage criteria. This policy will publish on January 30, 2023.
S-9 - External Hearing Aids, Auditory Brainstem Implant, Bone-Anchored Hearing Devices and Audiological Testing	1/30/2023	This policy is an annual review. It is recommended to maintain current coverage criteria. This policy will publish on January 30, 2023.
Y-20 - Biofeedback	2/6/2023	This policy is scheduled for annual review. Administrative changes made. No coding updates indicated at this time. The policy is scheduled to publish on February 6, 2023.



Policy

Criteria Revision for Obesity



Highmark Blue Shield of Northeastern New York has revised criteria for G-24, Obesity.

Language regarding laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding was changed to require a documented contraindication to preferred procedures (Rou-en-Y gastric bypass and sleeve gastrectomy).

Comorbidity criteria has been updated to expand on Hyperlipidemia, Diabetes, and Sleep Apnea. Pseudotumor Cerebri has also been added as an accepted comorbidity.

Conservative treatment section has been updated to add a 6-month requirement. Conservative treatments have been enhanced.

A section explaining that a liver biopsy is not eligible for separate payment was added to the policy.

This revised Medical Policy will apply to professional providers and/or facility claims. The effective date is March 27th, 2023.

Place of Service: Inpatient/Outpatient

Please refer to Medical Policy G-24, Obesity, for additional information.

Policy Established for Teclistamab-cqyv (Tecvayli)



Highmark Blue Shield of Northeastern New York has established new guidelines for Teclistamab-cqyv (Tecvayli).

This new Medical Policy will apply to professional providers and facility claims. The effective date is January 9, 2023.

Place of Service: Outpatient

Please refer to Medical Policy I-262, Teclistamab-cqyv (Tecvayli) for additional information.

Policy Established for Tremelimumab (Imjudo)



Highmark Blue Shield of Northeastern New York has established new guidelines for Tremelimumab (Imjudo).

This new Medical Policy will apply to professional providers and facility claims. The effective date is January 9, 2023.

Place of Service: Outpatient

Please refer to Medical Policy I-260, Tremelimumab (Imjudo) for additional information.

Reminder: Radiology/Cardiology Coverage Guideline Update



Highmark Blue Shield of Northeastern New York is providing a reminder to all providers.

The Radiology/Cardiology coverage guideline will be updated and take effect February 15, 2023. This applies to both professional provider and facility claims.

The significant changes to the Radiology/Cardiology guidelines are indicated below:

Adult Guideline Changes

Section Name	Section Number	Procedure Code	Summary of change
Inguinal Lymphadenopathy	AB-8.2	NA	Clarified that advanced imaging is directed by results of biopsy
Gaucher Disease	AB-11.1	NA	Removed content, now linking over to peripheral nerve disorder guidelines for review (PN-6.3)
Kidney Transplant, Pre-Transplant Imaging Studies	AB-42.5	74175, 74185, 74183, 74172, 72191	Extensively updated formatting throughout section; added cardiac, chest, and head imaging studies instead of only linking out to other sections; additional studies allowed for abdomen/pelvis imaging.

Transgender Breast Cancer Screening	BR - 12.1	N/A	New subsection
Transplant Patients (CD-1.6)	CD-1.6	N/A	Added "or stress MRI or stress Cardiac PET perfusion per the transplant center's protocol" to pre-transplant imaging Added link to Kidney Transplant, Pre-Transplant Imaging Studies (AB-42.5)
Frequency of Echocardiography Testing (CD-2.3)	CD-2.3	N/A	Added indication for Post- Septal Reduction Therapy (SRT). Added repeat imaging from CD 12.3 for treatment with mavacamten.
Stress Echocardiography– Indications, other than ruling out CAD (CD-2.7)	CD-2.7	N/A	Updated formatting. Changed title to Stress echo Indications Other than Ruling out CAD (CD-2.7) to reduce redundancy. Added indication for repeat stress echo.
Stress echo–indications other than ruling out CAD (CD-2.7)	CD-2.7	N/A	Reworded for clarification, updated repeat echo to within 1-2 years to align with current literature.
Cardiac Amyloidosis (CD-3.8)	CD-3.8	N/A	Added indication Tc-99m pyrophosphate imaging can be pursued for diagnosis of ATTR amyloidosis in the presence of known systemic amyloidosis when MRI is contraindicated in individuals undergoing evaluation for kidney transplant. Added link for Kidney Transplant, Pre-Transplant Imaging Studies (AB-42.5)
Evaluation of structural heart disease (CD-7.3.5)	CD-7.3.5	N/A	Updated language for pre-transplant cath to Pre-organ transplant (non-cardiac) in place of stress imaging for initial pre-transplant evaluation (per the transplant center's protocol) or if stress imaging is positive for ischemia. Repeat periodic screening while on a transplant waiting list (in the absence of other clinical indications) is not supported. Added link to kidney transplant guidelines.
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) (CD-14)	CD-14	N/A	Added condition specific section for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy to align with other conditions addressed in multiple sections of the guideline. Added indication for Post- Septal Reduction Therapy (SRT)
Indications for asymptomatic individuals	CRID-7.3	33206, 33207, 33208, 33212, 33214	Editing/reformatting to clarify indications. Added indication for pacemaker post TAVR with established RBBB pre-TAVR and new conduction abnormality developed during or post TAVR. Added examples of neuromuscular diseases known to involve the heart.

Pneumothorax/Hemothorax	CH-19.1	N/A	Added indication for CT Chest for suspected catamenial pneumothorax/thoracic endometriosis
Pre-Transplant Imaging Studies	CH-32.1	N/A	Added CT abdomen and pelvis and vascular imaging indications for individuals on the waiting list or being considered for lung transplant
Post-Transplant Imaging Studies	CH-32.2	N/A	New subsection - content moved from CH-32.1
Dementia	HD-8.1	N/A	Removed bullet on laboratory tests
Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	HD-16.1	N/A	Surveillance spinal imaging updated to annually
Dysphagia and Esophageal Disorders	Neck-3.1	70491	Added indications for CT Neck
Neck Mass/Swelling/Adenopathy	Neck-5.1	70543	Added indications for MRI Neck
Parathyroid Incidentaloma	NECK-8.4	N/A	New Subsection
Trachea and Bronchus – Imaging	Neck-9.1	70491, 70490	Added indications for CT Neck for suspected subglottic stenosis
Salivary Gland Disorders	Neck-11.1	N/A	Changed CT Neck and/or CT Maxillofacial to CT Neck or Maxillofacial
Sore Throat/Throat Pain/Odynophagia	Neck-12.1	N/A	Clarification that barium esophagram is not required prior to advanced imaging for the indications listed
Pelvimetry	OB-14.2	N/A	New subsection
Low Grade Gliomas	ONC-2.2	70553, 72156, 72157, 72158	Updated surveillance timeframe from every 6 months for 3 years, then annually to every 6 months thereafter
Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST)	ONC-12.5	74183	Updated treatment response to add timeframe and option of imaging with MRI Abdomen
Renal Cell Cancer (RCC) - Initial Work-up/Staging	ONC-17.2	70553	Added newly diagnosed stage IV RCC to indications for MRI Brain
Renal Cell Cancer (RCC) - Restaging/Recurrence	ONC-17.3	70553	Added MRI brain for biopsy proven recurrent disease or signs/symptoms concerning for brain metastases
Renal Cell Cancer (RCC) - Surveillance	ONC-17.4	71260, 71250	Updated to allow for CT Chest imaging for follow up after post ablation therapy of RCC
Renal Cell Cancer (RCC) - Surveillance	ONC-17.4	71260, 71250, 74160, 74150, 74183	Updated surveillance of stage 1 RCC with Increased surveillance time frame, removal of abdominal ultrasound from list of imaging studies
Renal Cell Cancer (RCC) - Surveillance	ONC-17.4	N/A	Updated surveillance of stage 2 RCC with decreased surveillance timeframe, removal of abdominal ultrasound from list of imaging studies

Uterine Anomalies	PV-14.1	N/A	MRI Abdomen or CT urography if ultrasound indeterminate for renal anomaly added
C-section or Cornual (interstitial) Ectopic Pregnancy	PV-15.3	N/A	New subsection
Pelvimetry	PV-15.4	N/A	New subsection
Renovascular Hypertension/Renal Artery Stenosis (PVD-6.6)	PVD-6.6		Removed indication "Unexplained atrophic kidney or discrepancy in size between kidneys of greater than 1.5 cm" to align with current guidelines.
Arteriovenous Malformations (AVMs)	PVD-9.1		Added information on when post procedure imaging was indicated. Editorial changes to improve readability.

Pediatric Guideline Changes

Section Name	Section Number	Procedure Codes	Summary of Changes
Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Crohn Disease, or Ulcerative Colitis	PEDAB-9	74177, 74183, 72197	Updated to allow CT enterography as well as MRI Abdomen and Pelvis. Removed statement that CT enterography only indicated if MR is inconclusive or unavailable.
Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Crohn Disease, or Ulcerative Colitis	PEDAB-9	72196, 72197	Added MRI Pelvis for concern for fistula or abscess
Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Crohn Disease, or Ulcerative Colitis	PEDAB-9	74177	Added CT Abdomen and Pelvis for new or worsening symptoms or suspected complications
Constipation, Diarrhea, and Irritable Bowel Syndrome	PEDAB-12	NA	Added abnormal neurological exam, symptoms refractory to provider-directed treatment to findings that may require advanced imaging
Intra-abdominal Mass	PEDAB-13.2	93975	Added indication for US with doppler
Acute Pancreatitis	PEDAB-34.1	74177, 74160, 74183, 74181	Added CT Abdomen and Pelvis, CT Abdomen, or MRI/MRCP if red flags are present
General Guidelines	PEDCD-1.0		New section title: General Guidelines (PEDCD-1.0) Added to indications under nuclear medicine SPECT, PET stress "MIS-C" to align with the rest of the guideline where MIS-C closely mirrors Kawasaki guidelines Updated coding tables for cath and echo to match tables in general cardiac
Repeat Transthoracic	PEDCD-8.3		New section title: Repeat Transthoracic Echocardiography Indications (PEDCD-8.3)

Echocardiography Indications			Added indication for phenotype positive cardiomyopathy (with or without a positive gene)
MIS-C Repeat Cardiac Imaging	PEDCD12.2.2		New section title: MIS-C Repeat Cardiac Imaging (PEDCD-12.2.2) Added indications for when there are new or progressing symptoms of ischemia or ventricular dysfunction to align with current kawasaki guidelines
Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	PEDHD-14.2		Spinal imaging updated to every 12 months or with new signs or symptoms
Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	PEDHD-14.2		Brain imaging updated to every 6 months whether or not receiving treatment
Mass Involving Bone (Including Suspected Lytic and Blastic Metastatic Disease)	PEDMS-3.4		Added surveillance of benign bony lesions is with plain x-ray, and MRI may be approved for symptoms not explained by x-ray. Clarified that osteochondroma, osteoid osteoma, and concern for metastatic disease should be reviewed by pediatric oncology imaging guidelines.
Avascular Necrosis and Legg-Calve-Perthes Disease	PEDMS-6.1	CT lower extremity	Updated contrast levels of CT to only allow for CT without contrast
Osteonecrosis	PEDMS-6.2	CT upper extremity, CT lower extremity	Added CT without contrast for surgical planning
Infection/Osteomyelitis	PEDMS-8	76881, 76882	Added ultrasound for effusion or soft tissue fluid collection
Von Hippel-Lindau Syndrome (VHL)	PEDONC-2.10	70553, 72156, 72157, 72158	Changed beginning age for screening with studies at left from 8 to 11 years of age
Von Hippel-Lindau Syndrome (VHL)	PEDONC-2.10	74183	Changed beginning age for screening with study at left from 12 to 15 years of age
Rhabdoid Tumor Predisposition Syndrome	PEDONC-2.11	76498	Added whole body MRI for all individuals, at diagnosis. Removed statement that WBMRI may not be sufficient to detect small rhabdoid tumors.
Rhabdoid Tumor Predisposition Syndrome	PEDONC-2.11	76506, 76700, 76856, 76536, MRI wwo of areas of concern	Changed beginning age for screen with studies at left from 12 to 6 months of age. Added US Neck to screening studies, and MRI without and with contrast of areas of concern found on baseline whole body MRI.
Rhabdoid Tumor Predisposition Syndrome	PEDONC-2.11	76700, 76856, 76536, 70553, 72156, 72157,	Updated screening studies for individuals from age 7 months to 5 years

		72158, MRI wwo of areas of concern	
Rhabdoid Tumor Predisposition Syndrome	PEDONC-2.11	76498	Added annual screening for individuals over the age of 5 years using whole body MRI
Rhabdoid Tumor Predisposition Syndrome	PEDONC-2.11	CT w, CT wo, MRI w, MRI wwo suspected disease site	Added that whole body MRI findings suggesting malignancy warrant targeted advanced imaging of the suspected disease site
Pediatric CNS Tumors General Considerations	PEDONC-4.1	70555, 70554	Added function MRI for preoperative planning
CNS High Grade Gliomas (HGG)	PEDONC-4.3	70460, 70470	Added CT Head for rapid assessment of acute intracranial hemorrhage, ventriculomegaly, and shunt related issues
Pediatric Germ Cell Tumors	PEDONC-10	78306	Added whole body bone scan for individuals with a history of bone involvement or with bone pain
Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH)	PEDONC-18.2	78815, 78816	Updated surveillance imaging to delineate imaging and timeframes between single site and multifocal site bone disease. Added PET/CT for inconclusive conventional imaging, and removed statement "PET is generally not indicated"
Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH); Non-Langerhans Histiocytoses	PEDONC-18.3, PEDONC-18.4	70486, 70487	Added CT Sinus for clinical suspicion of sinus disease

If you wish to see the updates prior to the implementation date, please go to eviCore website under the Future tab for Radiology/Cardiology utilizing the following pathway:

- Provider Resource Center→Medical Policy Search→Medical Policies→EVICORE CLINICAL GUIDELINES (top blue bar)→EVICORE CLINICAL GUIDELINES (body of page)→Access Guidelines→ Select appropriate Radiology/Cardiology guideline→*Search Health Plan* by typing in Highmark→Click on Highmark and then click on magnifying glass→Click on FUTURE→ Click on the chosen Radiology/Cardiology Guideline



Comments on These Medical Policies?

We want to know what you think about our new medical policy changes. Send us an email with any questions or comments that you may have on the new medical policies in this edition of Medical Policy Update.

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