Medical Policy
Small Bowel/Liver and Multivisceral Transplant

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Policy Number: 632
BCBSA Reference Number: 7.03.05
NCD/LCD: National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Intestinal and Multi-Visceral Transplant (260.5)

Related Policies
Isolated Small Bowel Transplant, #631

Policy
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity

A small bowel/liver transplant or multivisceral transplant may be MEDICALLY NECESSARY for pediatric and adult patients with intestinal failure (characterized by loss of absorption and the inability to maintain protein-energy, fluid, electrolyte, or micronutrient balance) who have been managed with long-term total parenteral nutrition (TPN) and who have developed evidence of impending end-stage liver failure.

A small bowel/liver retransplant or multivisceral retransplant may be MEDICALLY NECESSARY after a failed primary small bowel/liver transplant or multivisceral transplant.

In addition to the above information, we do not cover small bowel/liver transplant or multivisceral transplantation when any of the following conditions are present:
- Known current malignancy, including metastatic cancer
- Recent malignancy with high risk of recurrence
  - Note: the assessment of risk of recurrence for a previously treated malignancy is made by the transplant team; providers must submit a statement with an explanation of why the patient with a recently treated malignancy is an appropriate candidate for a transplant.
- History of cancer with a moderate risk of recurrence
- Systemic disease that could be exacerbated by immunosuppression
- Untreated systemic infection making immunosuppression unsafe, including chronic infection
  - Other irreversible end-stage disease not attributed to intestinal failure
- Psychosocial conditions or chemical dependency affecting ability to adhere to therapy

Candidates should meet the following criteria:
- Adequate cardiopulmonary status
• Documentation of patient compliance with medical management.

HIV [human immunodeficiency virus]-positive patients who meet the following criteria, as stated in the 2001 guidelines of the American Society of Transplantation, could be considered candidates for small bowel/liver or multivisceral transplantation:
• CD4 count greater than 200 cells per cubic millimeter for greater than 6 months
• HIV-1 RNA undetectable
• On stable anti-retroviral therapy >3 months
• No other complications from AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome] (e.g., opportunistic infection, including aspergillus, tuberculosis, coccidiosis mycosis, resistant fungal infections, Kaposi’s sarcoma, or other neoplasm), and meeting all other criteria for transplantation.

A small/bowel/liver transplant or multivisceral transplant is **INVESTIGATIONAL** in all other situations.

**Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members**

Medical necessity criteria and coding guidance can be found through the link(s) below.

[National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)]

National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Intestinal and Multi-Visceral Transplant (260.5)

[Intestinal and multi-visceral transplants must take place in a Medicare-approved facility]

**Note:** To review the specific NCD, please remember to click “accept” on the CMS licensing agreement at the bottom of the CMS webpage.

**Prior Authorization Information**

Pre-service approval is required for all inpatient services for all products.  
See below for situations where prior authorization may be required or may not be required for outpatient services.  
Yes indicates that prior authorization is required.  
No indicates that prior authorization is not required.  
N/A indicates that this service is primarily performed in an inpatient setting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Medicare PPO BlueSM</td>
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**CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD Codes**

*Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member’s contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member.*

Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.

*The following codes are included below for informational purposes only; this is not an all-inclusive list.*

The above medical necessity criteria MUST be met for the following codes to be covered for Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity:
Description
Short Bowel Syndrome
Short bowel syndrome is defined as an inadequate absorbing surface of the small intestine due to extensive disease or surgical removal of a large portion of the small intestine. In some instances, short bowel syndrome is associated with liver failure, often due to the long-term complications of total parenteral nutrition.

Treatment
A small bowel/liver transplant or a multivisceral transplant includes the small bowel and liver with one or more of the following organs: stomach, duodenum, jejunum, ileum, pancreas, and/or colon. The type of transplantation depends on the underlying etiology of intestinal failure, quality of native organs, presence or severity of liver disease, and history of prior abdominal surgeries. A multivisceral transplant is indicated when anatomic or other medical problems preclude a small bowel/liver transplant. Complications following small bowel/liver and multivisceral transplants include acute or chronic rejection, donor-specific antibodies, infection, lymphoproliferative disorder, graft-versus-host disease, and renal dysfunction.

Summary
This evidence review addresses transplantation and retransplantation of an intestinal allograft in combination with a liver allograft, either alone or in combination with one or more of the following organs: stomach, duodenum, jejunum, ileum, pancreas, or colon.
For individuals who have intestinal failure and evidence of impending end-stage liver failure who receive a small bowel and liver transplant alone or multivisceral transplant, the evidence includes a limited number of case series. The relevant outcomes are overall survival, morbid events, and treatment-related mortality and morbidity. These transplant procedures are infrequently performed and few reported case series exist. However, results from the available case series have revealed fairly high postprocedural survival rates. Given these results and the exceedingly poor survival rates of patients who exhaust all other treatments, transplantation may prove not only to be the last option but also a beneficial one.

Transplantation is contraindicated for patients in whom the procedure is expected to be futile due to comorbid disease, or in whom posttransplantation care is expected to significantly worsen comorbid conditions. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have a failed small bowel and liver or multivisceral transplant without contraindications for retransplant who receive a small bowel and liver retransplant alone or multivisceral retransplant, the evidence includes case series. The relevant outcomes are overall survival, morbid events, and treatment-related mortality and morbidity. Although limited in quantity, the available postretransplantation data have suggested reasonably high survival rates. Given exceedingly poor survival rates without retransplantation of patients who have exhausted other treatments, evidence of postoperative survival from uncontrolled studies is sufficient to demonstrate that retransplantation provides a survival benefit in appropriately selected patients. Retransplantation is contraindicated for patients in whom the procedure is expected to be futile due to comorbid disease or in whom posttransplantation care is expected to significantly worsen comorbid conditions. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

### Policy History

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<td>5/2012</td>
<td>BCBSA National medical policy review. Changes to policy statements.</td>
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Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies

Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:
- Medical Policy Terms of Use
- Managed Care Guidelines
- Indemnity/PPO Guidelines
- Clinical Exception Process
- Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines

References


