



Gastroenterology, Nutrition and Organ Transplantation

Medical Policy Group

Co-chairs

Katherine Dallow, MD, MPH • Vice President • Clinical Programs and Strategy
Desiree Otenti, ANP, MPH, Senior Director • Medical Policy Administration



Meeting #263	October 29th, 2019	12–2 PM	101 Huntington Avenue Boston, MA 02115 For questions: EBR@bcbsma.com	Conference Center : 12-I
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Invited: Katherine Dallow, MD, MPH, co-chair (Medical Policy Administration), Desiree Otenti, ANP, co-chair, (Medical Policy Administration); Grace Baker, MSW, LCSW, (Medical Policy Administration); Laura Barry, RN, BSN, (Medical Policy Administration); Craig Haug, MD, (Surgery); Thomas Hawkins, MD, (Internal Medicine); Kenneth Duckworth, MD, (Psychiatry); Mary Beth Erwin, R.Ph, (Pharmacy Operations); Thomas Kowalski, R.Ph, (Clinical Pharmacy);

Invited Physician Guest(s): Representatives from the Massachusetts Society of Allergy/Asthma/Immunology; Massachusetts Society of Otolaryngology

RSVP to EBR@BCBSMA.com

Network physicians who plan to attend the meeting must confirm and provide their contact information by email to EBR@bcbsma.com **at least 48 hours before the meeting.** It is important that Blue Cross Blue Shield have the contact information for any physician who will be attending this meeting, since we need to mail confidentiality and conflict-of-interest forms. Attending physicians may either take part in the meeting in person or via conference call. If a physician would like to call in to the meeting, a conference number will be provided by BCBSMA prior to the meeting date. **Note:** Please be aware that this meeting may end early if there are no attending providers.

To view each medical policy on the agenda

The policies are hyperlinked to each entry on the list and can be opened by clicking on the policy number following the policy title.

To access the medical policies

We are currently experiencing intermittent website access issues with our medical policies. [Click here](#) for an alternate way to access the policies, and then enter the policy number or policy title in the search box.

Gastroenterology Medical Policies with Coverage Updates

1. Fecal Calprotectin Testing ([329](#))
 - BCBSA National medical policy review. New medically necessary indications described. Fecal calprotectin testing is medically necessary when the differential diagnosis is inflammatory bowel disease or irritable bowel syndrome for whom endoscopy with biopsy is being considered. Clarified coding information. Effective 5/1/2019.
2. AIM Oncologic Imaging CPT, HCPCS and Diagnoses Codes ([929](#))
3. AIM Abdomen and Pelvis Imaging CPT and Diagnoses Codes ([930](#))

Gastroenterology Medical Policies with no Coverage Updates

1. Analysis of Human DNA in Stool Samples as a Technique for Colorectal Cancer Screening ([557](#))
2. Biofeedback as a Treatment of Fecal Incontinence or Constipation ([308](#))
3. Chromoendoscopy as an Adjunct to Colonoscopy ([904](#))
4. Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy ([618](#))
5. Cryosurgical Ablation of Primary or Metastatic Liver Tumors ([633](#))

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6. Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography - ECRP - with Laser or Electrohydraulic Lithotripsy ([209](#))
7. Esophageal pH Monitoring ([069](#))
8. Extracorporeal Photopheresis ([248](#))
9. Fecal Analysis in the Diagnosis of Intestinal Dysbiosis ([556](#))
10. Fecal Microbiota Transplantation ([682](#))
11. Gastric Electrical Stimulation ([636](#))
12. Immune cell Function Assay in Solid Organ transplantation ([182](#))
13. In Vivo Analysis of Colorectal Polyps ([521](#))
14. Ingestible pH and Pressure Capsule ([045](#))
15. Medical and Surgical Management of Obesity including Anorexiant ([379](#))
16. Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC) ([154](#))
17. Noninvasive Techniques for the Evaluation and Monitoring of Patients with Chronic Liver Disease ([921](#))
18. Noninvasive Vascular Studies –Duplex Scans ([691](#))
19. Oncologic Applications of Photodynamic Therapy, Including Barrett’s Esophagus ([454](#))
20. Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy for Treatment of Esophageal Achalasia ([451](#))
21. Plasma Exchange ([466](#))
22. Plugs for Fistula Repair ([528](#))
23. Serological Diagnosis of Celiac Disease ([138](#))
24. Serum Antibodies for the Diagnosis of Inflammatory Bowel Disease ([551](#))
25. Surgical and Transesophageal Endoscopic Procedures to Treat Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease ([920](#))
26. Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery (TEMS) ([200](#))
27. Transanal Radiofrequency Treatment of Fecal Incontinence ([309](#))
28. Transcatheter Arterial Chemoembolization (TACE) to Treat Primary or Metastatic Liver Malignancies ([634](#))
29. Vagus Nerve Blocking Therapy for Treatment of Obesity ([644](#))
30. Wireless Capsule Endoscopy as a Diagnostic Technique in Disorders of the Small Bowel, Esophagus, and Colon ([185](#))
31. Whole Body Computed Tomography Scan as a Screening Test ([447](#))
32. Medical Technology Assessment Investigational (Non-Covered) Services List ([400](#))

Gastroenterology Pharmacy Policies with Coverage Updates

33. Erythropoietin, Recombinant Human, Epoetin Alpha (Epoetin® and Procrit®), Darbepoetin Alpha (Aranesp®) ([262](#))
 - Updated to add Procrit to non-covered and to update criteria for Retacrit preferred. 7/2019.
34. Immune Modulating Drugs ([004](#))
 - Updated to Add Skyrizi & Tremfya to Preferred & Humira 1st step for Cimzia in Crohn's. 7/2019.
 - Updated to Add an Infliximab table & make Inflectra a Preferred drug for its indications. 11/2019.
35. Proton Pump Inhibitors ([030](#))
 - Updated to add Exclusion note & remove Omeprazole/Syrspend Suspension. 1/2019.
36. Updated to add Ilumya and Olumiant to a non-preferred position in the policy.
 - Updated to add Cutaquig to the policy. 7/2019.

Gastroenterology Pharmacy Policies with no Coverage Updates

37. Dificid ([700](#))
38. Drugs for Weight Loss ([572](#))
39. Interferons Alpha and Gamma ([052](#))

Nutrition Medical Policies with Coverage Updates

N/A

Nutrition Medical Policies with no Coverage Updates

40. Nutrient/Nutritional Panel Testing ([745](#))
41. Medical Technology Assessment Investigational (Non-Covered) Services List ([400](#))

Nutrition Pharmacy Policies with Coverage Updates

N/A

Nutrition Pharmacy Policies with no Coverage Updates

- 42. Home Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) ([296](#))
- 43. Special Foods: Special Infant Formula, Enteral Formula, Ketogenic Diet for Seizures and Formula Infusion Pumps ([304](#))

Organ Transplantation Medical Policies with Coverage Updates

- 44. AIM Advanced Imaging of the Heart and CPT and HCPCS Codes ([971](#))
- 45. AIM Advanced Imaging of the Heart ([972](#))

Organ Transplantation Medical Policies with no Coverage Updates

- 46. Allogeneic Pancreas Transplant ([328](#))
- 47. Heart-Lung Transplantation ([269](#))
- 48. Heart Transplant ([197](#))
- 49. Hyperbaric Oxygen Pressurization (HBO) ([653](#))
- 50. Islet Transplantation ([324](#))
- 51. Isolated Small Bowel Transplant ([631](#))
- 52. Liver Transplant and Combined Liver-Kidney Transplant ([198](#))
- 53. Lung and Lobar Lung Transplantation ([015](#))
- 54. Renal (Kidney) Transplantation ([196](#))
- 55. Small Bowel-Liver and Multivisceral Transplant ([632](#))
- 56. Medical Technology Assessment Investigational (Non-Covered) Services List ([400](#))

Organ Transplantation Pharmacy Policies with Coverage Updates

N/A

Organ Transplantation Pharmacy Policies with no Coverage Updates

N/A

Topics for discussion

E-Blue Review (EBR) Comments
Emerging Medical Technologies

2019 Medical Policy Group meeting Schedule

Specialty	Date	Time	Room
Neurology and Neurosurgery	January 29 th , 2019	12 –2 PM	12-J
Hematology and Oncology	February 26 th , 2019	9–11 AM	12-H
Allergy and ENT/Otolaryngology	March 26 th , 2019	12 –2 PM	12-H
Cardiology and Pulmonology	April 30 th , 2019	12 –2 PM	12-H
Pediatrics and Endocrinology	May 28 th , 2019	12 –2 PM	12-I
Orthopedics, Rehabilitation Medicine and Rheumatology	June 25 th , 2019	12 –2 PM	12-I
Psychiatry and Ophthalmology	July 30 th , 2019	12 –2 PM	12-I
Urology and Obstetrics/Gynecology	September 24 th , 2019	12 –2 PM	12-I
Gastroenterology, Nutrition and Organ Transplantation	October 29 th , 2019	12 –2 PM	12-I
Plastic Surgery, Dermatology and Podiatry	November 19 th , 2019	12 –2 PM	12-I

For questions: ebr@bcbsma.com