

February 2021 Medical Policy Announcements

Posted: February 2021

New and revised policies: Effective May 2021 (for variable effective dates see table below)

Clarified policies: Posted February 2021 (for variable posted dates see table below)

Retired policies: Effective February 2021

To make it easier for providers to find the new policies and revisions, the Medical Policy Administration department is posting the following searchable lists of new, revised, clarified and retired policies.

The following tables of contents are organized by policy type and alphabetically by policy title. The entries in each table are also color coded to help identify new, revised, clarified and retired policies. Clicking on a title in any of the tables of contents will take you to a summary of the new or revised policy.

A full draft version of each policy is available **only by request, to ordering participating clinician providers, one month prior to the effective date of the policy**. To request draft policies, contact Medical Policy Administration at ebr@bcbsma.com.

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NEW MEDICAL POLICIES:

None

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Genetic Testing AIM Specialty Health - Effective May 10, 2021

[Molecular Testing of Solid and Hematologic Tumors and Malignancies](#)

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[Quantitative Assay for Measurement of HER2 Total Protein Expression and HER2 Dimers](#)

[Radioactive Seed Localization of Nonpalpable Breast Lesions](#)

NEW MEDICAL POLICIES					
New Medical Policy Title	Policy Number	Policy Summary	Effective Date	Products Affected	Policy Type
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

REVISED MEDICAL POLICIES					
Medical Policy Title	Policy Number	Policy Change Summary	Effective Date	Products Affected	Policy Type
Outpatient Cognitive Rehabilitation	660	Policy updated to include coverage for cognitive rehabilitation for cognitive impairment resulting from COVID-19 in the outpatient setting in accordance with state mandate Chapter 260 of the Acts of 2020 – Patients First Act.	January 1, 2021	Commercial Medicare	Rehabilitation Neurology

Wireless Capsule Endoscopy to Diagnose Disorders of the Small Bowel, Esophagus, and Colon	185	Added lower GI bleeding and major risks for colonoscopy or moderate sedation and incomplete colonoscopy to investigational policy statement.	May 1, 2021	Commercial Medicare	Gastro-enterology
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Genetic Testing

Effective for dates of service on or after **May 10, 2021**, the following updates will apply to the AIM Genetic Testing Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines. You may access and download a copy of the current guidelines [here](#). For questions related to the guidelines, please contact AIM via email at aim.guidelines@aimspecialtyhealth.com.

AIM Guideline	Contains updates to the following:	Effective Date	Products Affected	Policy Type
Molecular Testing of Solid and Hematologic Tumors and Malignancies	<p>Breast Cancer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Criteria was clarified for pre-menopausal women who are axillary-node negative ▪ Criteria was clarified for post-menopausal women who are axillary-node negative or have no more than 3 positive lymph nodes ▪ Criteria was clarified for men who are axillary-node negative or have no more than 3 positive lymph nodes ▪ Criteria was added: Patient has undergone surgery and full pathological staging <p>Tumor size >0.5 cm to ≤1.0 cm plus unfavorable histological features defined as Nottingham grade 2-3 OR nuclear grade 3.</p>	May 10, 2021	Commercial	Genetic Testing Oncology

CLARIFICATIONS TO MEDICAL POLICIES					
Medical Policy Title	Policy Number	Policy Change Summary	Posted Date	Products Affected	Policy Type
Balloon Dilation of the Eustachian Tube	018	Medically necessary and investigational policy statements clarified based on expert opinion.	February 1, 2021	Commercial	Oto-laryngology
Evaluation of Biomarkers for Alzheimer Disease	581	Edits made to the second policy statement; intent of policy statements unchanged. Title changed to "Evaluation of Biomarkers for Alzheimer Disease."	February 1, 2021	Commercial Medicare	Neurology
Private Duty Nursing	159	It was announced in January 2021 that the Clinical UM criteria on Private Duty Nursing is being moved to medical policy. To clarify, we are transitioning the UM criteria on PDN to InterQual guidelines.	April 1, 2021	Commercial	Nursing

RETIRED MEDICAL POLICIES

Medical Policy Title	Policy Number	Policy Change Summary	Effective Date	Products Affected	Policy Type
Corneal Endothelial Microscopy-Specular Microscopy	050	Policy is retired.	February 1, 2021	Commercial Medicare	Ophthalmology
Quantitative Assay for Measurement of HER2 Total Protein Expression and HER2 Dimers	397	Policy is retired. HERmark Breast Cancer Assay was discontinued by the manufacturer in September 2020.	February 1, 2021	Commercial Medicare	Oncology
Radioactive Seed Localization of Nonpalpable Breast Lesions	469	Policy is retired.	February 1, 2021	Commercial Medicare	Oncology

New 2021 Category III CPT Codes

All category III CPT Codes, including new 2020 codes, are **non-covered** unless they are explicitly described as “medically necessary” in a BCBSMA medical policy. To search for a particular code, click the following link: https://www.bluecrossma.com/common/en_US/medical_policies/medcat.htm and type the code in the search box on the page. Consult the coverage statement of any associated medical policy. ***If there is no associated policy, the code is non-covered.***