

August 2021 Medical Policy Announcements

Posted: August 2021

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

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

Retired policies: Effective August 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.

Table of Contents

NEW MEDICAL POLICIES:

None

Table of Contents

REVISED MEDICAL POLICIES:

[Surgical and Non-CPAP Treatment of Snoring and Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome](#)
[Trigger Point and Tender Point Injections](#)

Table of Contents

CLARIFICATIONS TO MEDICAL POLICIES:

[Medical Technology Assessment Noncovered Services](#)
[Transcatheter Pulmonary Valve Implantation](#)

Table of Contents

RETIRED MEDICAL POLICIES:

[Ultrafiltration in Decompensated Heart Failure](#)

Table of Contents

NEW PHARMACY MEDICAL POLICIES:

None

Table of Contents

REVISED PHARMACY MEDICAL POLICIES:

None

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
Surgical and Non-CPAP Treatment of Snoring and Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome	130	New investigational indications described for non-CPAP Medical Treatment of OSA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Daytime Tongue Stimulation	November 1, 2021	Commercial Medicare	Pulmonology Otolaryngology

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Daytime sleep study (PAP-NAP) ▪ Nasal Expiratory Positive Airway Pressure ▪ eXciteOSA; and ▪ NightBalance Sleep Position Trainer. Title changed.			
Trigger Point and Tender Point Injections	604	Diagnoses codes list added. New diagnoses-to-CPT codes edit implemented. Policy criteria unchanged.	September 1, 2021	Commercial	Orthopedics Rehabilitation Medicine Rheumatology

CLARIFICATIONS TO MEDICAL POLICIES

Medical Policy Title	Policy Number	Policy Change Summary	Posted Date	Products Affected	Policy Type
Medical Technology Assessment Noncovered Services	400	The following tests were added to the non-covered services list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AVISE® Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) diagnostic test to assess risk for APS and thrombosis ▪ AVISE® Vasculitis-AAV (ANCA-associated vasculitis) diagnostic test for differential diagnosis of AAV ▪ AVISE® Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) prognostic panel to assess potential risk for thrombosis, cardiovascular events, lupus nephritis and neuropsychiatric lupus ▪ AVISE® PC4d biomarker associated with thrombosis in systemic lupus erythematosus ▪ AVISE® Anti-Carbamylated Protein Antibodies (Anti-CarP) prognostic test to identify rheumatoid arthritis patients with increased risk for erosive joint damage ▪ AVISE® Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) monitoring for assessment of SLE disease activity 	August 1, 2021	Commercial Medicare	Rheumatology

Transcatheter Pulmonary Valve Implantation	403	Policy statements clarified to specify FDA-approved devices.	August 1, 2021	Commercial Medicare	Cardiology Pulmonology
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RETIRED MEDICAL POLICIES

Medical Policy Title	Policy Number	Policy Change Summary	Effective Date	Products Affected	Policy Type
Ultrafiltration in Decompensated Heart Failure	542	Policy is retired.	August 1, 2021	Commercial Medicare	Cardiology

NEW PHARMACY MEDICAL POLICIES

Medical Policy Title	Policy Number	Policy Change Summary	Effective date
None	N/A	N/A	N/A

REVISED PHARMACY MEDICAL POLICIES

Medical Policy Title	Policy Number	Policy Change Summary	Effective date
None	N/A	N/A	N/A

New 2021 Category III CPT Codes

All category III CPT Codes, including new 2021 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.***