



**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

October 27 th 2020	12-2 pm	Conference call only. Please email ebr@bcbsma.com for more information.
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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); Peter Lakin, R.Ph, (Pharmacy Operations); Thomas Kowalski, R.Ph, (Clinical Pharmacy)

Invited Physician Guest(s): Representatives from the Massachusetts Society of Gastroenterology; Massachusetts Society of Organ Transplantation

Policies with Upcoming Coverage Updates	
Transcatheter Arterial Chemoembolization to Treat Primary or Metastatic Liver Malignancies (634)	Effective 12/1/2020: New investigational indications described for TACE as part of combination therapy (with radiofrequency ablation) for resectable or unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma.

Policies with Coverage Updates in the Past 12 Months	
AIM guideline: Advanced Vascular Imaging (930)	Effective August 16, 2020: Aneurysm of the abdominal aorta or iliac arteries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added new indication for asymptomatic enlargement by imaging • Clarified surveillance intervals for stable aneurysms as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treated with endografts, annually ○ Treated with open surgical repair, every 5 years Stenosis or occlusion of the abdominal aorta or branch vessels, not otherwise specified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added surveillance indication and interval for surgical bypass grafts
Dificid (700)	Effective April 1, 2020: Updated to remove Age edit with approval of expanded age to the label.
AIM guideline: Abdomen and Pelvic Imaging (930)	Effective February 9, 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign body (Pediatric only), Gastrointestinal bleeding, Henoch-Schonlein purpura, Hematoma or hemorrhage – intracranial or extracranial, Perianal fistula/abscess (fistula in ano), Ascites, Biliary tract dilatation or obstruction, Cholecystitis, Cholelithiasis, Focal liver lesion, Hepatomegaly, Jaundice, Azotemia, Adrenal mass, indeterminate, Hematuria, Renal mass, Urinary tract calculi, Adrenal hemorrhage, Adrenal mass, Lymphadenopathy, Splenic hematoma, Undescended testicle (cryptorchidism) • Abdominal and/or pelvic pain

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined pelvic pain with abdominal pain criteria in new “abdominal and/or pelvic pain” indication • Required ultrasound or colonoscopy for select adult patients based on clinical scenario • Ultrasound-first approach for pediatric abdominal and pelvic pain • Added requirement to exclude DVT prior to abdominopelvic imaging • Added new indications for diagnosis, management, and surveillance of splenic incidentalomas following the ACR White Paper (previously reviewed against “tumor, not otherwise specified”) • Separated criteria for solid and cystic pancreatic masses • Defined follow up intervals for cystic pancreatic masses • Added criteria for MR elastography • Limited requirement for upper endoscopy to patients with relevant symptoms • New requirement for fecal calprotectin or CRP to differentiate IBS from IBD • Incorporated Intussusception (pediatric only), and Ischemic bowel • Moved this indication to Oncologic Imaging Guideline
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Policies with No Coverage Updates

1. Allogeneic Pancreas Transplant ([328](#))
2. Analysis of Human DNA in Stool Samples as a Technique for Colorectal Cancer Screening ([557](#))
3. Biofeedback as a Treatment of Fecal Incontinence or Constipation ([308](#))
4. Chromoendoscopy as an Adjunct to Colonoscopy ([904](#))
5. Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy ([618](#))
6. Cryosurgical Ablation of Primary or Metastatic Liver Tumors ([633](#))
7. Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography - ECRP - with Laser or Electrohydraulic Lithotripsy ([209](#))
8. Erythropoietin, Recombinant Human, Epoetin Alpha (Epoegen® & Procrit®), Darbepoetin Alpha (Aranesp®) ([262](#))
9. Esophageal pH Monitoring ([069](#))
10. Extracorporeal Photopheresis ([248](#))
11. Fecal Analysis in the Diagnosis of Intestinal Dysbiosis ([556](#))
12. Fecal Calprotectin Testing ([329](#))
13. Fecal Microbiota Transplantation ([682](#))
14. Gastric Electrical Stimulation ([636](#))
15. Heart-Lung Transplantation ([269](#))
16. Home Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) ([296](#))
17. Hyperbaric Oxygen Pressurization (HBO) ([653](#))
18. Immune cell Function Assay in Solid Organ transplantation ([182](#))
19. Immune Modulating Drugs ([004](#))
20. In Vivo Analysis of Colorectal Polyps ([521](#))
21. Ingestible pH and Pressure Capsule ([045](#))
22. Interferons Alpha and Gamma ([052](#))
23. Islet Transplantation ([324](#))
24. Isolated Small Bowel Transplant ([631](#))
25. Liver Transplant and Combined Liver-Kidney Transplant ([198](#))
26. Lung and Lobar Lung Transplantation ([015](#))
27. Medical and Surgical Management of Obesity including Anorexiant ([379](#))
28. Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC) ([154](#))
29. Noninvasive Techniques for the Evaluation and Monitoring of Patients with Chronic Liver Disease ([921](#))
30. Noninvasive Vascular Studies –Duplex Scans ([691](#))
31. Nutrient/Nutritional Panel Testing ([745](#))
32. Oncologic Applications of Photodynamic Therapy, Including Barrett’s Esophagus ([454](#))
33. Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy for Treatment of Esophageal Achalasia ([451](#))

34. Plasma Exchange ([466](#))
35. Plugs for Fistula Repair ([528](#))
36. Proton Pump Inhibitors ([030](#))
37. Renal (Kidney) Transplantation ([196](#))
38. Serological Diagnosis of Celiac Disease ([138](#))
39. Serum Antibodies for the Diagnosis of Inflammatory Bowel Disease ([551](#))
40. Special Foods: Special Infant Formula, Enteral Formula, Ketogenic Diet for Seizures and Formula Infusion Pumps ([304](#))
41. Surgical and Transesophageal Endoscopic Procedures to Treat Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease ([920](#))
42. Small Bowel-Liver and Multivisceral Transplant ([632](#))
43. Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery (TEMS) ([200](#))
44. Transanal Radiofrequency Treatment of Fecal Incontinence ([309](#))
45. Vagus Nerve Blocking Therapy for Treatment of Obesity ([644](#))
46. Wireless Capsule Endoscopy as a Diagnostic Technique in Disorders of the Small Bowel, Esophagus, and Colon ([185](#))
47. Whole Body Computed Tomography Scan as a Screening Test ([447](#))
48. Medical Technology Assessment Investigational (Non-Covered) Services List ([400](#))

Reference Policies	
Outpatient Prior Authorization Code List (072)	New policy outlining procedure codes that require prior authorization when performed in the outpatient setting.
AIM Specialty Health Guidelines	AIM Advanced Imaging of the Heart and CPT and HCPCS Codes (971) AIM Advanced Imaging of the Heart (972) AIM Oncologic Imaging CPT, HCPCS and Diagnoses Codes (929)

Specialty	Date	Time
Neurology and Neurosurgery	January 28 th , 2020	12 –2 PM
Hematology and Oncology	February 25 th , 2020	9–11 AM
Allergy and ENT/Otolaryngology	Monday March 23 th , 2020	12 –2 PM
Cardiology and Pulmonology	April 28 th , 2020	12 –2 PM
Pediatrics and Endocrinology	May 26 th , 2020	12 –2 PM
Orthopedics, Rehabilitation Medicine and Rheumatology	June 30 th , 2020	12 –2 PM
Psychiatry and Ophthalmology	July 28 th , 2020	12 –2 PM
Urology and Obstetrics/Gynecology	September 29 th , 2020	12 –2 PM
Gastroenterology, Nutrition and Organ Transplantation	October 27 th , 2020	12 –2 PM
Plastic Surgery, Dermatology and Podiatry	November 17 th , 2020	12 –2 PM

For questions: ebr@bcbsma.com