BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS

Corporate Medical Policy

File name: Blood and Blood Products
File code: UM.BIOPROD.01
Origination: 2003
Last Review: 10/2011
Next Review: 9/2012
Effective Date: 1/01/2012

Document Precedence

BCBSVT Medical Policies are developed to provide guidance for members and providers regarding coverage in accordance with all terms, conditions and limitations of the subscriber contract. Benefit determinations are based in all cases on the applicable contract language. To the extent that there may be any conflict between Medical Policy and contract language, the contract language takes precedence.

Medical Policy

Description

Whole blood and blood components (red cells, plasma, platelets, and leukocytes) are used in the treatment of a wide variety of conditions.

Blood derivatives are factors extracted from whole blood and blood components. Blood derivatives are also used to treat a wide variety of conditions. Some examples of blood derivatives are as follows:

1. Albumin
2. Gamma Globulin
3. Factors VIII and IX (clotting factors)
4. Rho (D) immune globulins (RhoGAM)
5. Prothrombin

Transfusion services are those services necessary to test donor blood and administer transfusions.

Allogenic blood is from another donor; autologous is blood the patient donates for his/her own use.

Policy

BCBSVT will provide coverage for transfusion services of whole blood, blood components, and blood derivatives when ordered by the member’s physician under circumstances where the transfusion of blood or blood products is an accepted medical practice and is therefore considered medically necessary.*

* BCBSVT may request medical records for retrospective determination of medical necessity.
Use of autologous blood-derived preparations (i.e., platelet-rich plasma, autologous blood injections, autologous platelet rich plasma gel, bone marrow plasma injections) is considered **investigational** for all indications including, but not limited to, use in the following situations:

- Treatment of acute or chronic wounds including nonhealing ulcers, dehiscent wounds, bone healing;
- Adjunctive use in surgical procedures;
- Primary use (injection) for other conditions such as epicondylitis (i.e., tennis elbow), plantar fasciitis, or Dupuytren’s contracture and other tendinopathies;
- As a component of prolotherapy (The goal of prolotherapy is to promote tissue repair or growth by prompting release of growth factors, such as cytokines, or by increasing the effectiveness of existing circulating growth factors. The mechanism of action is not well understood but may involve local irritation and/or cell lysis. Prolotherapy in any form is considered investigational.)

**Administrative and Contractual Guidance**

**Benefit Determination Guidance**

Benefits are subject to all terms, limitations and conditions of the subscriber contract.

Federal Employee Program (FEP) members may have different benefits that apply. For further information please contact FEP customer service or refer to the FEP Service Plan Brochure.

The Plan will not provide coverage for:
- Storage of whole blood, blood components or blood derivatives.
- Testing of blood the patient donates for his or her own use (even if the blood is used),
- Whole blood, blood components or blood derivatives when it is not included as part of the transfusion service.

Charges for transfusion services (excluding storage) for blood derivatives are eligible for coverage as supplies or laboratory services. Charges for blood derivatives, which are classified as formulary drugs (i.e., hemophilia factors), are eligible for coverage as prescription drugs.

If the autologous blood is not used by the donor and becomes part of the blood bank supply, the cost of testing should be passed on to the ultimate recipient as an allogenic transfusion.

**Eligible Providers**

Inpatient Facilities
Outpatient Facilities

**Related Policies**

N/A

**Policy Implementation/Update information**

08/2004 Updated to reflect allow Rev Code 0390; clarified language, supersedes all prior versions.
08/2005 Updated language to match certificate language for exclusions.
Scientific Background and Reference Resources

The literature on prolotherapy consists of small randomized trials on a variety of pain syndromes, with inconsistent results. The body of scientific evidence does not permit conclusions concerning the effect of prolotherapy on health outcomes for chronic neck or back pain, tendinopathies of the upper or lower limbs, osteoarthritic pain, or other musculoskeletal pain conditions.

References:

## Attachment I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered Codes</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPT 36430</td>
<td></td>
<td>Transfusion, blood or blood components</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36440</td>
<td></td>
<td>Push transfusion, blood, 2 yrs or younger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36540</td>
<td></td>
<td>Exchange transfusion, blood, newborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36455</td>
<td></td>
<td>Exchange transfusion, blood, other than newborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36460</td>
<td></td>
<td>Transfusion, intrauterine, fetal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Codes</td>
<td>0387</td>
<td>Blood and blood components-other derivatives (cryoprecipitate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0389</td>
<td>Blood and blood components-other blood and blood components</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0390</td>
<td>Administration, processing, and storage for blood and blood components-general classification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0391</td>
<td>Administration, processing, and storage for blood and blood components-administration (e.g. transfusion)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Non-covered Codes (provider liability)

| Revenue Codes | 0380* | Blood and blood components-general classification |
|               | 0381* | Blood and blood components-packed red cells |
|               | 0382* | Blood and blood components-whole blood |
|               | 0383* | Blood and blood components-plasma |
|               | 0384* | Blood and blood components-platelets |
|               | 0385* | Blood and blood components-leukocytes |
|               | 0386* | Blood and blood components-other blood components |

*Blood products described by these codes should be billed under laboratory or supply charges

| Revenue Codes | 0392 | Administration, processing, and storage for blood and blood components-processing and storage |
|               | 0399 | Administration, processing, and storage for blood and blood components-other blood handling |

### Non-covered codes-investigational (provider liability)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS</th>
<th>M0076</th>
<th>Prolotherapy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td>0232T</td>
<td>Injection(s), platelet rich plasma, any site, including image guidance, harvesting and preparation when performed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86999</td>
<td>Unlisted transfusion procedure (will be denied as investigational when used in conjunction with platelet rich plasma injections)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>