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Infertility Treatment Services Medical Policy for University of Vermont Medical Center and Central Vermont Medical Center Employer Groups

File Name: Infertility *Services*

File Code: 4.01.VT202

Origination: 01/2014

Last Review: 09/2020

Next Review: 09/2021

Effective Date: 04/01/2021 (Benefit Update Only for Code S4035) Retroactive 01/01/20201

Description/Summary

The following coverage policy applies to University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMCC) and Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC) employer groups only.

Infertility is the condition of an individual who is unable to conceive or produce conception. This may be related to female factors (i.e., pelvic adhesions, ovarian dysfunction, endometriosis, prior tubal ligation, etc.), male factors (i.e., abnormalities in sperm production, function or transport, prior vasectomy, etc.), a combination of both male and female factors, and unknown causes.

Definitions

Artificial means of conception- This includes any means of attempting pregnancy that does not involve normal heterosexual coitus (sexual intercourse).

Artificial Insemination (AI) - The simplest of "artificial means of conception." AI is a procedure when viable sperm (from a female's partner or donor) is mechanically injected into the vagina, cervix or uterus for the purpose of producing a pregnancy.

Gamete Intra-fallopian Transfer (GIFT) - Is a procedure in which unfertilized eggs and sperm are placed together in the woman's fallopian tubes, with fertilization taking place in the tube instead of a laboratory dish.

In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) - In vitro fertilization (IVF) is a method of assisted reproduction that involves combining an egg with sperm in a laboratory dish. If the egg fertilizes and begins cell division, the resulting embryo is transferred into the woman's uterus where it will hopefully implant in the uterine lining and further develop. IVF bypasses the fallopian tubes and is usually the treatment choice for women who have badly damaged or absent tubes.

Zygote Intra-fallopian Transfer (ZIFT) - In ZIFT an egg is fertilized in the laboratory and the zygote is transferred to the fallopian tube at the pronuclear stage before cell division takes place. The eggs are retrieved and fertilized on one day and the embryo is transferred the following day.

Policy

Coding Information

[Click the links below for attachments, coding tables & instructions.](#)

[Attachment I- CPT®/ HCPCS coding table & Instructions](#)

Services listed below are only provided by the University of Vermont Medical Center providers. Coverage is subjected to the provisions and limitations specified in the plan documents for UVMHC and CVMC.

Diagnostic testing and evaluation for infertility are not subject to the provisions of this policy.

Services may be eligible for benefits as outlined in the remainder of this policy and in accordance with the criteria below.

All of the following criteria must be met for consideration of coverage:

1. Infertility diagnosis has been established.
2. Female less than 44 years of age at time of service
 - a. (exception: ≤ 49 years for drugs and/or donor gamete)
3. All services must be conducted in accordance with guidelines established by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM).

The member must also meet one of the following conditions:

1. Failure to achieve a successful pregnancy after 12 months of regular unprotected heterosexual coitus by a couple who would reasonably be expected to conceive; **or six months for a woman over age 35.**
2. For women without a male partner, failure to achieve a successful pregnancy after six (6) trials of medically supervised artificial insemination; **paid privately by the member.** (*Women with documented tubal disease and men with severe male factor infertility may receive a waiver for these requirements related to IVF*)
3. With medical director review, a medically diagnosed condition which establishes the inability to conceive; i.e.
 - Husband/partner has had vasectomy, this will qualify couple regardless of woman's infertility status; **or**
 - If vasectomy reversal and six months unprotected intercourse, would meet under

- male infertility; or
- If couple has had a child previously through IUI or IVF after diagnosis of infertility, there is no waiting period to be approved for additional infertility benefits.

The following services are eligible when the above criteria are met and you have seen a University of Vermont Medical Center reproductive endocrinology or infertility specialist:

- Artificial Insemination with donor sperm (AI);
- Assisted Hatching;
- Cryopreservation; oocyte(s);
- Intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI);
- Intrauterine Insemination (IUI);
- In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), including donor oocyte fertilization, up to 4 cycles;
- Pharmaceuticals associated with a covered service;
- Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) for single cell disorders;
- Ovulation induction with or without IUI *for unexplained infertility, male factor infertility or ovulatory*;
- Oocyte and sperm storage;
- Oocyte stimulation and retrieval.

When a service is considered a benefit exclusion and therefore not covered

- Vasovasostomy, vasovasorrhaphy
- Services when there is no established diagnosis of infertility. Donor or surrogate medical care, expenses and specimens.
- Gamete Intra-fallopian Transfer (GIFT)
- Zygote Intra-fallopian Transfer (ZIFT)
- Out of Network services. Services outlined in this policy must be rendered at The University of Vermont Medical Center

Reference Resources:

1. Practice Committee of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine Fertility and Sterility (2008). *Definitions of Infertility and Recurrent Pregnancy Loss*. 90, Suppl: 3, S60.
2. Practice Committee of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine Fertility and Sterility. (2006). *Guidelines on Number of Embryos Transferred*. 86, Suppl: 4, S51.

Document Precedence

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont (BCBSVT) Medical Policies are developed to provide clinical guidance and are based on research of current medical literature and review of common medical practices in the treatment and diagnosis of disease. The applicable group/individual contract and member certificate language, or employer's benefit plan if an ASO group, determines benefits that are in effect at the time of service. Since medical

practices and knowledge are constantly evolving, BCBSVT reserves the right to review and revise its medical policies periodically. To the extent that there may be any conflict between medical policy and contract/employer benefit plan language, the member's contract/employer benefit plan language takes precedence.

Audit Information

BCBSVT reserves the right to conduct audits on any provider and/or facility to ensure compliance with the guidelines stated in the medical policy. If an audit identifies instances of non-compliance with this medical policy, BCBSVT reserves the right to recoup all non-compliant payments.

Administrative and Contractual Guidance

Benefit Determination Guidance

Infertility benefits are limited to a lifetime maximum of \$15,000.00. Any member responsibility relative to eligible services, such as coinsurance, does not apply to the benefit maximum.

Prior approval is required and benefits are subject to all terms, limitations and conditions of the subscriber contract.

Incomplete authorization requests may result in a delay of decision pending submission of missing information. To be considered complete, see policy guidelines above.

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 Benefit Plan Brochure. It is important to verify the member's benefits prior to providing the service to determine if benefits are available or if there is a specific exclusion in the member's benefit.

Coverage varies according to the member's group or individual contract. Not all groups are required to follow the Vermont legislative mandates. Member Contract language takes precedence over medical policy when there is a conflict.

If the member receives benefits through an Administrative Services Only (ASO) group, benefits may vary or not apply. To verify benefit information, please refer to the member's employer benefit plan documents or contact the customer service department. Language in the employer benefit plan documents takes precedence over medical policy when there is a conflict.

Policy Implementation/Update information

01/2014	New policy
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02/2016	Age requirement changed. Coverage for ovulation induction added to eligible section. Disclaimer regarding the waiver option for certain conditions added. Donor specimens excluded.
07/2017	Updated policy to reflect policy applies to University of Vermont Medical Center and Central Vermont Medical Center, minor language changes and the following coding changes: Moved CPT® Code 55400 from requiring prior approval to benefit exclusion, removed CPT® code 58976 from requiring prior approval to benefit exception, added CPT® Code 0357T, deleted CPT® code 0059T, added HCPCS S4013 and S4014 as a benefit exception.
10/2017	Updated coding table to reflect bundled HCPCS codes S4027 & S4037.
07/2019	Reviewed no changes to policy statements.
01/2020	Removed codes 55530, 55535, 55540, 55550 from table only- Codes continue to require prior approval.
09/2020	Added code 89354 to coding table to require prior approval
01/2021	Deleted code 0058T effective 01/01/2021
03/2021	Added code S4035 (retroactive 01/01/2021)

Eligible providers

Qualified healthcare professionals practicing within the scope of their license(s).

Approved by BCBSVT Medical Directors Date Approved

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Chief Medical Officer

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Senior Medical Director

Attachment I CPT®/ HCPCS coding table & Instructions

Code Type	Number	Description
The following codes will be considered medically necessary when applicable criteria have been met & Prior Approval has been obtained.		
CPT®	58321	Artificial insemination; intra-cervical
CPT®	58322	Artificial insemination; intra-uterine
CPT®	58323	Sperm washing for artificial insemination
CPT®	58672	Laparoscopy, surgical; with fimbrioplasty

CPT®	58673	Laparoscopy, surgical; with salpingostomy (salpingoneostomy)
CPT®	58760	Fimbrioplasty
CPT®	58770	Salpingostomy
CPT®	58970	Follicle puncture for oocyte retrieval, any method
CPT®	58974	Embryo transfer, intrauterine
CPT®	76948	Ultrasonic guidance for aspiration of ova, imaging supervision and interpretation
CPT®	89250	Culture of oocyte(s)/embryo(s), less than 4 days;
CPT®	89251	Culture of oocyte(s)/embryo(s), less than 4 days; with c-culture of oocyte(s)/ embryo(s)
CPT®	89253	Assisted embryo hatching, microtechniques (any method)
CPT®	89254	Oocyte identification from follicular fluid
CPT®	89255	Preparation of embryo for transfer (any method)
CPT®	89257	Sperm identification from aspiration (other than seminal fluid)
CPT®	89258	Cryopreservation; embryo(s)
CPT®	89259	Cryopreservation; sperm
CPT®	89260	Sperm isolation; simple prep (eg, sperm wash and swim-up) for insemination or diagnosis with semen analysis
CPT®	89261	Sperm isolation; complex prep (eg, Percoll gradient, albumin gradient) for insemination or diagnosis with semen analysis
CPT®	89268	Insemination of oocytes
CPT®	89280	Assisted oocyte fertilization, microtechnique; less than or equal to 10 oocytes
CPT®	89281	Assisted oocyte fertilization, microtechnique; greater than 10 oocytes
CPT®	89290	Biopsy, oocyte polar body or embryo blastomere, microtechnique (for pre- implantation genetic diagnosis); less than or equal to 5 embryos
CPT®	89291	Biopsy, oocyte polar body or embryo blastomere, microtechnique (for pre- implantation genetic diagnosis); greater than 5 embryos
CPT®	89337	Cryopreservation, mature oocyte(s)
CPT®	89342	Storage (per year); embryo(s)
CPT®	89343	Storage (per year); sperm/semen

CPT®	89352	Thawing of cryopreserved; embryo(s)
CPT®	89353	Thawing of cryopreserved; sperm/semen, each aliquot
CPT®	89354	Thawing of cryopreserved; reproductive tissue, testicular/ovarian
HCPCS	J0725	Injection, chorionic gonadotropin, per 1,000 USP units
HCPCS	J3355	Injection, urofollitropin, 75 IU
HCPCS	S0122	Injection, menotropins, 75 IU
HCPCS	S0126	Injection, follitropin alfa, 75 IU
HCPCS	S0128	Injection, follitropin beta, 75 IU
The following codes will be considered medically necessary when applicable criteria have been met & Prior approval has been obtained. Use individual bundled codes listed below for University of Vermont Medical Center Members & Central Vermont Medical Members as applicable.		
Code Type	Number	Description
HCPCS	S4011	In vitro fertilization; including but not limited to identification and incubation of mature oocytes, fertilization of sperm, incubation of embryo(s), and subsequent visualization for determinations of development.
HCPCS	S4027	Storage of previously frozen embryos
HCPCS	S4035 Retroactive 01/01/2021	Stimulated intrauterine insemination (IUI), case rate
HCPCS	S4037	Cryopreserved embryo transfer, case rate
The Following Codes will be Considered Benefit Exclusions and Therefore Non-Covered.		
CPT®	55400	Vasovasostomy, vasovasorrhaphy
CPT®	58976	Gamete, zygote or embryo intrafallopian transfer, any method
HCPCS	S4013	Complete cycle, gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT)
HCPCS	S4014	Complete cycle, zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT)