

2024 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan - Standard and Basic Option

Section 3. How You Get Care

Page 23

- **Organ/tissue transplants – Prior approval is required** for both the procedure and the facility. Contact us at the customer service phone number listed on the back of your ID card before obtaining services. We will request the medical evidence we need to make our coverage determination. We will consider whether the facility is approved for the procedure and whether you meet the facility’s criteria.

Some **organ transplant procedures** listed in Section 5(b) must be performed in a facility with a Medicare-Approved Transplant Program for the type of transplant anticipated. Transplants involving more than one organ must be performed in a facility that offers a Medicare-Approved Transplant Program for each organ transplanted. Contact your local Plan for Medicare’s approved transplant programs.

If Medicare does not offer an approved program for a certain type of organ transplant procedure, this requirement does not apply and you may use any covered facility that performs the procedure. If Medicare offers an approved program for an anticipated organ transplant, but your facility is not approved by Medicare for the procedure, please contact your Local Plan at the customer service phone number listed on the back of your ID card.

Some blood or marrow stem cell transplants listed in Section 5(b) must be performed in a facility with a transplant program accredited by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT), or in a facility designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Transplants or as a Cancer Research Facility. Other transplant procedures listed in Section 5(b) must be performed at a FACT-accredited facility. We described these types of facilities earlier in this section.

Not every transplant program provides transplant services for every type of transplant procedure or condition listed, or is designated or accredited for every covered transplant. Benefits are not provided for a covered transplant procedure unless the facility is specifically designated or accredited to perform that procedure. Before scheduling a transplant, call your Local Plan at the customer service phone number listed on the back of your ID card for assistance in locating an eligible facility and requesting prior approval for transplant services.

- **Clinical trials for certain blood or marrow stem cell transplants** – In Section 5(b) we provide the list of conditions covered **only** in clinical trials. Contact us at the customer service phone number on the back of your ID card for information or to request prior approval before obtaining services. We will request the medical evidence we need to make our coverage determination.

Even though we may state benefits are available for a specific type of clinical trial, you may not be eligible for inclusion in these trials or there may not be any trials available in a Blue Distinction Center for Transplants to treat your condition. If your physician has recommended you receive a transplant or that you participate in a transplant clinical trial, we encourage you to contact the Case Management Department at your Local Plan.

Note: For the purposes of the blood or marrow stem cell clinical trial transplants covered under this Plan, a clinical trial is a research study whose protocol has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the FACT-accredited facility, Blue Distinction Center for Transplants, or Cancer Research Facility where the procedure is to be performed.

- **Transplant travel** – We reimburse costs for transportation (air, rail, bus, and/or taxi) and lodging if you live 50 miles or more from the facility, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per transplant for the member and companions. If the transplant recipient is age 21 or younger, we pay up to \$10,000 for eligible travel costs for the member and companions. Reimbursement is subject to IRS regulations.

Go to page [22](#). Go to page [24](#).