INTRAPERITONEAL CHEMOTHERAPY, CYTOREDUCTION

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

This Medical Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide BCBSAZ complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

The section identified as “Description” defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as “Criteria” defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

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Description:

Peritoneal carcinomatosis is a condition in which multiple carcinomas develop simultaneously, usually after dissemination from a primary source. Aggressive therapy combining cytoreductive surgery with perioperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy has been used in an attempt to prolong survival. Cytoreduction involves exploration of the liver, diaphragm, stomach, abdomen, pelvic recesses and bowel and removal of all visible tumor deposits. Cytoreductive surgery may be followed intraoperatively by the infusion of hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy in an effort to address remaining microscopic disease. Temperature probes, along with inflow and outflow catheters, are placed in the abdominal cavity and the skin is temporarily closed during the 1-2 hour chemotherapy perfusion. This procedure is referred to as hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC). Other methods of intraperitoneal chemotherapy include early postoperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy (EPIC).
INTRAPERITONEAL CHEMOTHERAPY, CYTOREDUCTION (cont.)

Description: (cont.)

Cytoreduction and perioperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy has been used to treat malignant peritoneal mesothelioma and pseudomyxoma peritonei, a rare form of metastatic peritoneal carcinomatosis that also originates from cells within the appendix or ovary and appears unresponsive to systemic chemotherapy. Cytoreduction and perioperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy has been investigated in the treatment of peritoneal carcinomatosis of gastrointestinal origin, typically colorectal.

Criteria:

- Cytoreduction and perioperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy is considered medically necessary with documentation of ANY of the following:
  1. Diffuse malignant peritoneal mesothelioma
  2. Pseudomyxoma peritonei

- Cytoreduction and perioperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy for all other indications not previously listed or if above criteria not met, is considered experimental or investigational based upon:
  1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
  2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
  3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
  4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.

These indications include, but are not limited to:

- Goblet cell tumors of the appendix
- Ovarian cancer
- Peritoneal carcinomatosis from colorectal cancer
- Peritoneal carcinomatosis from endometrial cancer
- Peritoneal carcinomatosis from gastric cancer
INTRAPERITONEAL CHEMOTHERAPY, CYTOREDUCTION (cont.)

Resources:

Literature reviewed 08/16/16. We do not include marketing materials, poster boards and non-published literature in our review.

The BCBS Association Medical Policy Reference Manual (MPRM) policy is included in our guideline review. References cited in the MPRM policy are not duplicated on this guideline.


