HEMATOPOIETIC CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR MISCELLANEOUS SOLID TUMORS IN ADULTS

Non-Discrimination Statement and Multi-Language Interpreter Services information are located at the end of this document.

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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HEMATOPOIETIC CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR MISCELLANEOUS SOLID TUMORS IN ADULTS (cont.)

Description:
Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation (HSCT) in Solid Tumors in Adults:
HCT is an established treatment for certain hematologic malignancies; however, its use in solid tumors in adults continues to be largely experimental. Initial enthusiasm for the use of autologous HCT for solid tumors has waned with the realization that dose intensification often fails to improve survival, even in tumors with a linear-dose response to chemotherapy. With the advent of nonmyeloablative allogeneic transplant, interest has shifted to exploring the generation of alloreactivity to metastatic solid tumors via a graft-versus-tumor effect of donor-derived T cells.

Miscellaneous Solid Tumors in Adults:
This policy collectively addresses other solid tumors of adults for which HCT has been investigated, including lung cancer; malignant melanoma; tumors of the gastrointestinal tract (include colon, rectum, pancreas, stomach, esophagus, gallbladder, and bile duct); male and female genitourinary systems (e.g., renal cell carcinoma, cervical carcinoma, cancer of the uterus, fallopian tubes, and prostate gland); tumors of the head and neck; soft tissue sarcoma; thyroid tumors; tumors of the thymus; and tumors of unknown primary origin.

Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation (HCT):
Hematopoietic stem cells form blood and immune cells. HCT is a procedure in which hematopoietic stem cells are infused into a recipient with deficient bone marrow function. Bone marrow stem cells may be obtained from the transplant recipient (autologous HCT) or a donor (allogeneic HCT). They can be harvested from bone marrow, peripheral blood, or umbilical cord blood and placenta shortly after a delivery. HCT may also be referred to as bone marrow transplant (BMT) or stem cell transplantation (SCT).

High-Dose Chemotherapy (HDC):
HDC is the administration of myelotoxic agents at doses sufficient to cause bone marrow failure. Myeloablative chemotherapy eradicates cancerous cells from the blood and bone marrow and inhibits the immune response against the donor bone marrow. HDC may be given with or without total body radiation.

Nonmyeloablative Chemotherapy With Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation (HCT):
Nonmyeloablative or reduced-intensity conditioning (RIC) is the administration of a lower dose of chemotherapy that is sufficient to eradicate the hematopoietic cells but does not completely destroy the bone marrow. RIC regimens attempt to reduce adverse effects secondary to bone marrow toxicity and allow for relatively prompt hematopoietic recovery. Nonmyeloablative chemotherapy may also be referred to as RIC, “mini transplant” or “transplant lite”.

Donor Types:
- Allogeneic: From a third-party donor
- Autologous: From an individual’s own bone marrow and/or circulating blood
HEMATOPOIETIC CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR MISCELLANEOUS SOLID TUMORS IN ADULTS (cont.)

Criteria:

All stem cell transplants will be reviewed by the medical director(s) and/or clinical advisor(s).

For Germ Cell Tumors, see BCBSAZ Medical Coverage Guideline #O762, “Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation in the Treatment of Germ Cell Tumors”.

- Autologous or allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant for the following malignancies in adults is considered experimental or investigational¹ 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.

Malignancies include:

- Bile duct cancer
- Cervical cancer
- Colon cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Fallopian tube cancer
- Gall bladder cancer
- Lung cancer, any histology
- Malignant melanoma
- Nasopharyngeal cancer
- Neuroendocrine tumors
- Rectal cancer
- Pancreas cancer
- Paranasal sinus cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Renal cell cancer
- Soft tissue sarcomas
- Stomach cancer
- Thymus tumors
- Thyroid tumors
- Tumors of unknown primary origin
- Uterine cancer

¹ Although specific transplantation procedures may be considered experimental or investigational and therefore not eligible for coverage under standard medical benefits, these procedures may be eligible for coverage based upon Arizona Revised Statutes § 20-2326 concerning Cancer Clinical Trials.
HEMATOPOIETIC CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR MISCELLANEOUS SOLID TUMORS IN ADULTS (cont.)

Resources:

Literature reviewed 02/20/18. 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.

Resources prior to 01/07/14 may be requested from the BCBSAZ Medical Policy and Technology Research Department.

HEMATOPOIETIC CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR MISCELLANEOUS SOLID TUMORS IN ADULTS (cont.)

Non-Discrimination Statement:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ) complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. BCBSAZ provides appropriate free aids and services, such as qualified interpreters and written information in other formats, to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us. BCBSAZ also provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages. If you need these services, call (602) 864-4884 for Spanish and (877) 475-4799 for all other languages and other aids and services.

If you believe that BCBSAZ has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex, you can file a grievance with: BCBSAZ’s Civil Rights Coordinator, Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, P.O. Box 13466, Phoenix, AZ 85002-3466, (602) 864-2288, TTY/TDD (602) 864-4823, crc@azblue.com. You can file a grievance in person or by mail or email. If you need help filing a grievance BCBSAZ’s Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201, 1–800–368–1019, 800–537–7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/index.html

Multi-Language Interpreter Services:

Spanish: Si usted, o alguien a quien usted está ayudando, tiene preguntas acerca de Blue Cross Blue Shield de Arizona, tiene derecho a obtener ayuda e información en su idioma sin costo alguno. Para hablar con un intérprete, llame al 602-864-4884.

Navajo: Díí kwe’é atah niiłhii Blue Cross Blue Shield’de Arizona haada yilt’éego bina’díłlíkído gó e dóodago Háída bii já aniyeedílgi ti’áadoó lé’é yina’dííldíkído bee haz’áaní hóół díí t’áa hazaad’ehi háká a’doowolgo bee haz’á doo báqah ilingóó. Atá’ halné’ìíígi koj’ bích’i’ hodíilíníí 877-475-4799.

Chinese: 如果您，或您正在协助的对象，有关于插入项目的名称 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona 方面的问题，您有权利免费以您的母语得到帮助和讯息。洽询一位翻译员，请拨电话 在此插入数字 877-475-4799。

Vietnamese: Nếu quý vị, hay người mà quý vị đang giúp đỡ, có câu hỏi về Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona quý vị sẽ có quyền được giúp và có thể thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của mình miễn phí. Để nói chuyện với một thông dịch viên, xin gọi 877-475-4799.

Arabic: إن كنت نديك أو أدى شخص تساعدته أسئلة بخصوص Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona الذي الحق في الحصول على المساعدة والمعلومات الضرورية بلغتك من دون أي تكلفة. للتحدث مع متبرع اتصل ب. 877-475-4799.
HEMATOPOIETIC CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR MISCELLANEOUS SOLID TUMORS IN ADULTS (cont.)

Multi-Language Interpreter Services:

Tagalog: Kung ikaw, o ang iyong tinituunan, ay maa magakatunayan tungkol sa Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, may karapatan ka na makakuha ng tulong at impormasyon sa iyong wika ng walang gastos. Upang makausap ang isang tagasalin, tumawag sa 877-475-4799.

Korean: 만약 귀하 또는 귀하가 돕고 있는 어떤 사람이 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona에 관해서 질문이 있다면 귀하의 도움과 정보를 귀하의 언어로 비용 부담없이 얻을 수 있는 권리가 있습니다. 그렇게 통해서 이야기하기 위해서는 877-475-4799로 전화하십시오.

French: Si vous, ou quelqu’un que vous êtes en train d’aider, a des questions à propos de Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, vous avez le droit d’obtenir de l’aide et l’information dans votre langue à aucun coût. Pour parler à un interprète, appelez 877-475-4799.

German: Falls Sie oder jemand, dem Sie helfen, Fragen zum Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona haben, haben Sie das Recht, kostenlose Hilfe und Informationen in Ihrer Sprache zu erhalten. Um mit einem Dolmetscher zu sprechen, rufen Sie bitte die Nummer 877-475-4799 an.

Russian: Если у вас или лица, которому вы помогаете, имеются вопросы по поводу Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, то вы имеете право на бесплатное получение помощи и информации на вашем языке. Для разговора с переводчиком позвоните по телефону 877-475-4799.

Japanese: ご本人様、またはお客様の身の回りの方でも、Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizonaについてご質問がございましたら、ご希望の言語でサポートを受けたり、情報を入手したりすることができます。料金はかかりません。通訳とお話される場合、877-475-4799までお電話ください。

Farsi: 
آگر شما یا کسی که شما به آنکه می‌کنید، سوال در مورد اطلاعاتی به زبان خود را به موسوم رایگان درون‌نیمایه 877-475-4799 مطرح نمایید.

Assyrian: 

Serbo-Croatian: Ukoliko Vi ili neko kome Vi pomažete ima pitanje o Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, imate pravo da bespletno dobijete pomoć i informacije na Vašem jeziku. Da biste razgovarali sa prevodiocem, nazovite 877-475-4799.

Thai: คุณสามารถโทรติดต่อกับบริการแปลภาษาของ Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona ดำเนินการได้ไม่มีค่าใช้จ่าย ที่ номер 877-475-4799